

# THE OBSERVER

A BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLICATION

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Recent Highlights

P'AN KU

THE STUDENT LITERARY & ART MAGAZINE



ON STANDS NOW!

DUB AUTO SHOW  
MIAMI BEACH



Over 16,000 DUB fans were present for the 2007 DUB Custom Auto Show & Concert, held in Miami Beach on June 17. The auto show displayed some of the latest customized luxury, exotic, sport compacts, 4x4, and SUVs, as well as music from hip-hop artists Lil Scrappy, T-Pain, Lloyd, Stack\$, Notch, and Richboy. Autographs and photo opportunities abounded with the artists as well as special guests throughout the day.

For information on the next stop, or for details on the Miami event, check out their website at [dubmagazine.com](http://dubmagazine.com).

STARDUST



COMING THIS SUMMER  
FROM PARAMOUNT

GEN ART MIAMI FASHION



Held in the Moore Building in the Miami Design District, Attendees checked out the best fashion Miami had to offer all in one gorgeous 4-story space.

Guests had the opportunity to purchase the latest and greatest wares at up over 40 of the hottest womenswear, menswear, accessory designers and boutiques during this four hour shopping spree. Fashion presentation highlighted looks from the participating designers Fabrice Tardieu (Bogosse), Anick Vorbe, Ama-ya Swimwear and Twinstones, and more.

For more information and a schedule of future events, visit [genart.com](http://genart.com).

2008 ELECTION PREVIEW  
COMING THIS FALL TO THE OBSERVER



## Board appoints Armstrong as new president of BCC

Candidate J. David Armstrong to replace former President Calderon and Interim Holcombe

BY BUZZ LAMB  
STAFF WRITER

For the sixth time since Broward Community College began in 1959, a new president will be at the helm. J. David Armstrong, Jr. was selected by the BCC Board of District Trustees at a special meeting on Wednesday, May 16 and will assume that role on Jul 9 pending Board ratification of his contract.

Armstrong is currently the Chancellor of the Florida Community College system, a position that he has held since Sept. 2002. His career in community colleges began 20 years ago at Pensacola Community College where he worked in public affairs and government relations. Armstrong said his passion for the teaching and the learning process has been renewed in the past two years because of his role in the area of "student success" initiatives.

"When I got the call from Levi Williams (BCC Board of Trustees Chair) telling me I had been selected as the new president I was elated," he said. "It is a great honor because I believe BCC is one of the finest community colleges in the nation." Armstrong said that first and foremost for him is to make sure that BCC stays focused on its top priority which is preparing students for an AA degree and preparing them to trans-

fer on to other universities.

Armstrong said that he was impressed when he traveled around the BCC campuses by the true commitment to quality education and excellence by the faculty and support staff. "The core part of what we do is teaching and learning thru classroom instruction," he said. "I want to see us get out into the high schools to try to help those students realize that BCC is a great option for them to prepare them for a good job and a great education," he said.

Armstrong said that in today's world it takes more than a high school diploma to be able to have a real opportunity to succeed. "Another example of what I want BCC to do is to reach out and partner with the business and industry community in Broward County. We need to know if we are offering the programs that are needed in our hospitals, our banks, in our information technology companies and others," he said.

According to Armstrong, one of the continuing challenges a community college faces is raising money for scholarships for low income and needy students. "Our college enjoys great support from people in the community and from the BCC Foundation," he said. "I recently participated in a golf tournament that was sponsored by the Foundation and I was impressed by the support that was



FILE PHOTO

J. David Armstrong, Jr. is BCC's sixth president.

shown by the community."

Armstrong said that he supports the idea of offering four-year degrees at BCC in limited areas where there is a clear need

for bachelor's degrees and a clear demand in the workforce that is

■ NEW PRESIDENT  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### CHOOSING A LEADER: THE PRESIDENTIAL CHRONICLES



• "College holds up Contract ratification" (Issue: Oct. 9, 2006)

• UFF members (United Faculty of Florida), BCC faculty, and students unite in protest against Board of Trustees in response to delayed negotiations (Issue: Oct. 23, 2006)



• President Calderon resigns, citing philosophic differences between himself and several members of the Board of Trustees (Issue: Nov. 6, 2006)

• Dr. Willis Holcombe, former president of BCC, is appointed as interim by the Board of Trustees to take over until the search for a new president is complete (Issue: Nov. 27, 2006)

• Thanksgiving Day: Faculty Contracts are renewed (Issue: Jan. 16, 2007)



• Interim President Holcombe shares his views on the disagreements between the Board of Trustees and Dr. Calderon. (Issue: Jan. 29, 2007)

• Holcombe states that "the whole problem from the beginning was the miscommunication between the Board and the [faculty] union about the contract..." (Issue: Jan. 29, 2007)



• The Board of Trustees accepts applications for the presidency. Candidates are screened down until mid-March. (Issue: Feb. 12, 2007)

• 36 applications were received from various institutions and colleges, both in and out of Florida. (Issue: Feb. 26, 2007)



• In a few weeks, the list of candidates is trimmed from the initial 36, to 22, soon cut to 8, then halved again to the remaining four best qualified applicants.

• The final four candidates present videos of their stances and history on BCC's website. (Issue: Apr. 16, 2007)

• Comments are collected from BCC faculty and students for consideration in decision



OCTOBER  
2006

NOVEMBER  
2006

JANUARY  
2007

FEBRUARY  
2007

MARCH  
2007

APRIL  
2007



# Book Bag Feeling Light ?

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You can quickly and easily pick up everything you need to succeed this semester.



*Stuff*

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- A major credit card.  
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BREAKING NEWS



Orlando Fraticelli, the new president of SGA on South Campus, was inaugurated June 22.



Candice James, newly elected Vice-President of SGA on South Campus.



Congratulations to Seahawks' pitcher Mat Latos (Margate/Coconut Creek H.S.), who signed with the San Diego Padres for \$1.25 million.

Latos was an 11th round selection in the 2006 Major League Baseball draft. The right-hander started 12 of 13 games for the 'Hawks and posted a 10-3 record this season.

# Armstrong to lead future of BCC

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

being met. “Obviously we have a significant need for additional qualified teachers in our K-12 system. It would be a great opportunity to give access to a bachelor’s degree to our students,” he said. Armstrong said that the diversity of the student body at BCC would be beneficial to add to the diversity of the teaching staff in K-12 throughout the county. “I looked at the cross-section of the student body at BCC and there are 151 different nationalities represented at BCC,” he said. “It’s a beautiful blend of what Broward County actually looks like.”

Armstrong said the switch from Chancellor to BCC President is an upward move for him as far as his career is concerned. “To me this is advancement I always wanted to get back to a college campus,” he said. Armstrong said he thoroughly enjoys being on a campus and interacting with the faculty and students. Armstrong said in his college days he was a writer for the college newspaper and later on was an adviser to the college newspaper. “It was one of the best times of my

life,” he said.

Armstrong said students and faculty should expect to see him in the classroom. “I probably won’t be teaching a full-time class but I love being in the classroom. I love helping students succeed in finding their passion and career objectives and I love interacting with the faculty as well,” he said.

Armstrong got married three days after he was selected for the President’s position. His wife, Antonia, resided in Washington, D.C. along with her nine-year-old son Georg (they call him G.J.), so the move to Broward County will be two-fold. The logistics of moving two households into one from two locations will be a daunting task.

“We took our son over to Harbordale Elementary public school a couple of weeks ago and he went to the last couple of days of schools there,” he said. Armstrong said G.J.’s passion is soccer and he has already joined a team and had a few scrimmages and practices with the team. “He is excited as he can be about the school and the team,” he said.

Armstrong said he loves to go boating and fishing and he is an avid tennis player. “All the things you do with a nine-



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS/JLNPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

The Board of Trustees holds a meeting to narrow down the list of presidential candidates.

year-old boy are taking up a lot of my time as well. Playing soccer, riding bicycles and doing outdoor activities... we are looking forward to doing all those activities in Broward County,” he said.

Armstrong said looking down the road he would like to measure the success of the college by reaching out and getting more people enrolled in programs which address the needs of the community. Five years from now he sees himself still at BCC. “I plan on retiring from this job,” he said. “I don’t have any other aspirations. I expect it will take several years for a successful CEO to achieve long-term sustainable goals.

We will have some major successes in the early years but the measure of our efforts will be the success of our students over the long term,” he said.

Armstrong said the he will bring his years of experience working in Tallahassee with him to BCC. “I have had the privilege of working with 28 community colleges across the state. The fact is, each one of those colleges has things that they are doing which are all successful. I have seen things that I would like to explore implementing at BCC. I plan on working with the BCC faculty and administration to see if there might be a good fit at our college,” he said.



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FIU Business

Uncommon Thinkers



# Jeremias a fresh voice for latin music



PHOTOS BY JOHNNY LOUIS/JLNPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Recording artist Jeremias talks about his new album out in early August.

BY ANDRES LOPEZ  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Passionate, driven and talented are just some of the adjectives that can be used to describe Jeremias, a singer-songwriter of Venezuelan decent who is the oldest of three siblings. A number of people will say that talent is something that is innate, while others will argue just the opposite; for Jeremias one can say that talent for composing and singing has always been there since a young age. At the age of eight-years-old when most kids are playing video games this eight-year-old was already composing songs. Having a lawyer for a mother and a psychologist for a father (it may not be the instant formula that most people may think is what makes a successful musician,) but for this artist of



such popular hits like “Uno y uno es igual a tres,” “Tiempo,” and “Sin despedirte” that combination was just perfect to create the plethora of depth he offers in his songs as well as in his expression of what he loves most, music. He recalls that his mom always appreciated his talent since he was a child and noticed that his love for music was ability that came natural for him. His father was always there to encourage him to do what he loved when he grew up. As for his fathers’ influence on him he said “my father taught me the instrumental aspect of music, by teaching me how to play the guitar, piano and harp” that was something that helped him develop further as a musician.

Recently Jeremias was in Miami for the Latin Billboard Music Awards as well as to be part of the Heineken Green Ribbon Initiative. Heineken, this years’ official beer of the Billboard Latin Music Conference and Awards along with Jeremias chose the beneficiary of this years’ Green Ribbon Initiative to be the ASCAP Foundation, in which Heineken made a donation on behalf of Jeremias and everyone who wore a green

ribbon. “I am thrilled to work with Heineken on this project which helps out new musicians” are his feelings about working with Heineken. This foundation which was founded in 1975 and provides aspiring musicians opportunities to develop their craft by having development programs, songwriting workshops, grants, scholarships, as well as community outreach programs are just some of the many ways in which they contribute to society. Part of the many festivities that Jeremias attended during the 2007 Billboard Latin Music Conference and Awards was the Heineken and “Ocean Drive en Espanol;” exclusive after-party that was hosted by salsa singer Victor Manuelle at The Setail Hotel in Miami Beach, Fl. located on 2001 Collins Ave. at 20 St.

Guitar or piano are the tools of choice when it comes time to



compose songs, as for his preference to which of these two he uses the most he said “I love the guitar,” he adds “a song can take me an hour or even months to make, and some times some songs are never done because for whatever reason they don’t come out.” Often he has taken that instrument to parties

and gatherings to give his friends and family a taste of his emotions through the expression of music.

“Music is universal, whether people understand the words or not they feel the music” are the words he uses to express how he feels about music world-wide. As for how he describes himself, he prefers to not give himself labels as to who he is because “I prefer to be myself and not limit myself to other possibilities.”

His favorite day, color, and month are: Friday, blue, and Dec. Perhaps are some of the clues to this intellectual and emotional singer-songwriter who has a “curiosity to understand the mind” and lives his life by what his gut tells him. Maybe what has led him to think the way he does is because “I have a vital curiosity to understand things, and that leads me to explore paths and allow me to make errors. And those errors are what give me a clearer perspective as to who I really am.”

After months of working on his new album titled “Un Dia Mas En El Gran Circo” which is due out early Aug., hard work is once again showing its consequences or as he said “Am not superstitious, I believe that what happens is just a consequence of the hard work I put in.” The first single will be “Tu,” which is currently already playing on the



radio nationwide. When asked the difference between this new album and the previous he said, “I’ve been able to express more things that I wasn’t able to put out in the previous album.”

For this busy artist relaxing and enjoying life are a few keys to being happy. Swimming, exercising and going to the beach are some of the methods he uses to relax in this hectic place we all call, life. To him “Its an adventure to know that when you wake up each morning you know that what you’ll do is something that you look forward to doing ... I believe that one of my biggest accomplishments until now is, having found a path. Too often people take paths that are not in conjunction with what makes them happy.”

His outlook on life is, “I try not to postpone happiness, because sometimes we spend too much time working and leaving off happiness just for the weekend. I believe that today is very important.”

## MORE INFO

Jeremias’ Website:  
<[www.jeremiasweb.com](http://www.jeremiasweb.com)>

Billboard:  
<[www.billboard.com](http://www.billboard.com)>

ASCAP Foundation:  
<[www.ascapfoundation.com](http://www.ascapfoundation.com)>

# Summer concerts are at your fingertips

BY ANTHONY PERRUCCI  
NORTH BUREAU CHIEF

The best thing about summer isn’t the extra hours of daylight, oppressive humidity, or ever-present threat of hurricanes sending us 75 years back in time for two weeks. No, the best part of summer is concert season. For this is the time of year that all sorts of bands and artists, from big to small and all points in between, hit the road and play at amphitheaters, football stadiums, and dark, smelly hole-in-the-wall bars.

Granted, some of this summer’s big draws have already been priced out of the means of most college students (yes, The Police, I’m looking squarely at you) but don’t fret. There’s plenty of time,

plenty of music, and a few excellent places to catch a show.

If you’re in downtown Ft. Lauderdale, the premier venue is Revolution! A combination indoor/outdoor venue located at 200 W. Broward Boulevard. The venue will play host to a number of shows in the coming weeks and months, with the chief draw likely to be the night of July 23, when ska-punk stalwarts Less than Jake and Reel Big Fish co-headline, along with special guests Against All Authority.

The Culture Room, on the southwest corner of Oakland Park Boulevard and US-1, is a smaller venue than Revolution, but plays host to a number of local bands as well as larger touring acts. Unwritten Law is slated for June

19.

The largest rock show of the summer, though, looks to be the Vans Warped Tour, which is now in its thirteenth year. Being held again in Miami’s Bicentennial Park, the day-long Jul. 21 show will feature acts such as Bad Religion, Coheed and Cambria, Killswitch Engage, New Found Glory, and the always-good-live Toasters.

Other promising local shows include former Smiths frontman Morrissey, at Mizner Park Amphitheater on Jul. 14, Mary J. Blige at the Hard Rock in Hollywood on Jul. 19, and, for fans of the show, the American Idols Live tour will roll into the BankAtlantic Center on Jul 6.





# Friends that make for a Summer Hot Rod

BY ANDRES LOPEZ  
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Living a life with humor and surrounded by excellent friends is a statement that could be the philosophy to living a fulfilling life or it too could be on the “wish” list of anybody who happens to encounter a genie, but for Andy Samberg, Akiva Schaffer, Jorma Taccone, Danny McBride and Bill Hader it is a statement that needed of no genie to make it a reality. So ... what is it that all of these people have in common besides being good friends? Well, the answer is longer than what a sentence can hold.

For starters, they all seem to have some tie to the show that has been on television for the past few decades called “Saturday Night Live,” which has had a plethora of alumni to have come out of it, including: Will Ferrell,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT

Andy Samberg



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC

Danny McBride

Jimmy Fallon and Eddie Murphy just to name a few. Another common characteristic they all hold is that they all have humor to be a default in their genetic make-up, further proof of it is the fact that Samberg, Schaffer and Taccone have known each other since they were in junior high and were also part of the comedic group called “The Lonely Island” in which they would make short films of different scenarios they would find to be amusing. Some the most memorable digital shorts that this trio have created for Saturday Night Live are “Lazy Sunday” and most recent “D\*\*k in a box” which included multi platinum selling artist Justin Timberlake. The digital short with Justin Timberlake became so popular that it made <<http://www.youtube.com/s>> list of all-time most watched video with over 20 million views and paved the way for Samberg to join

Timberlake on-stage at the world famous Madison Square Garden arena in New York this past Feb. to perform the song live in front of more than 18,000 screaming fans.

And most importantly they are all part of the film called “Hot Rod,” which is due out this August 3rd. It is a film that has Andy Samberg, a graduate of New York University as the lead actor, in which he portrays the role of a man who wants to be like his dad, a stuntman who was the test-rider for Evel Knievel and with the help of some good friends makes an attempt to make his dream a reality along with lots of humor that surrounds his life. His friends join him as his stunt crew and help him prepare for the opportunity of a lifetime, breaking a world record jump and along. Akiva Schaffer, who is one of the writers for “Saturday Night Live,” and was the director of this film says that filming this production “took 42 days because we had to get back to do the “Saturday Night Live” show, working with this cast was great especially since we all had great chemistry.” Taccone, who plays the role of one of Sambergs’ friends in the film, says that “Akiva was an amazing director in this film especially since half of directing is about managing time ... in this film we are telling a story, and I hope that people root for the underdog.” McBride, who attended the North Carolina School of the Arts and obtained



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT

Jorma Taccone

a Bachelors in Fine Arts in filmmaking says that “some of the things in the film were improvised and came out better than what was on script.” Hader, of “Saturday Night Live” who is best known for his Al Pacino impressions gives insight to the film making process by saying that “being on set is different than being in the studio because many things happen in one week when you prepare for a show that is done live as opposed to being able to many takes.”

Well, as for how the overall consensus of how the filming of this movie came about it could be summed up in the quote by Samberg, “The script was a fit for us because it was super funny and it worked with our schedule.” The ensemble cast also includes

seasoned actors like Sissy Spacek “North Country,” Ian McShane “Deadwood,” Chris Parnell “Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgandy,” and Isla Fisher “Wedding Crashers.” Having the support of the creator and executive producer of “Saturday Night Live,” Lorne Michaels, who produced this project along with John Goldwn, a producer at Paramount Pictures, who with Will Ferrell, Executive Producer of this film made this project have the essence of what a successful comedy movie is all about. “Hot Rod,” is a film that is sure to entertain audiences of all ages this Summer beginning August 3rd in theatres nationwide.

For additional information on this film check out <[www.hotrod-movie.com](http://www.hotrod-movie.com)>.

## The Multicultural Café presents five-year anniversary celebration

BY EARLE SIMPSON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Friday, June 1, 2007, the Multicultural Café celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the South Campus Cafeteria building, and what a magnificently and tightly organized celebration it was!

The event started at 4:00 PM with its cultural exchange which included chit-chat, getting to know you and finger foods followed by the surfing of the MCC’s website.

The evening’s activities would soon be interrupted by rain but the guests poured in despite the rain and by 5:00 PM the Café’s hall was full to overflow and all the guests showered with the beauty of a well planned celebration. Among the guests and those who would speak were Dr. Shouan Pan, South Campus Provost; Dr. Debbie Sloan, Dean of Student Affairs; Dr. Hank Martel, Dean of Academic Affairs; Dr. Peggy Green, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator; Dr. Chris Mahadeo, Professor of Biology, BCC South Campus; Mrs. Deanne Martel,

EAP Professor; Mr. Yinka Tella, MCCafe North Campus Coordinator and Maria Hincapie, MCCafe Central Campus Coordinator.

In acknowledging the importance of the MCC, Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Debbie Sloan said, “It is a great medium in the acculturation process. It gives the students a sense of belonging. I am thrilled at how this program has grown.” Mrs. Deanne Martel rendered the same sentiment in this way, “The silver box has really snowed into something that is truly important. I hope that the MCC goes on for many years to come.” But Dr. Chris Mahadeo expressed no hope. For him, it was a foregone conclusion. “This is an excellent program and I know that in the years to come it will grow in leaps and bounds.” He said, to much applaud.

Each of the other speakers gave strong approval and great admiration for what the MCC has done so far and cheered it on to what it hopes to do in the future. The program certainly has a lot planned for the future but for right then it was going to be fes-



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS/JLNPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Peruvian Dancers celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Café.

tival time: Dancers reveling and gyrating to the sounds of Indian, Turkish, Columbian, Peruvian and African music took the celebrants merrily into the festive mood of the event. As the dancers made their way up and down the middle of the hall, they caressed the spirits of the guests up the plateau to which the MCC has ascended. It was indeed a very high point and everyone experienced it. Even little children were eager to participate in what was now an idea whose time had come:

Young Pianists enthusiastically joined the celebration with their keyboards. The celebration was high and for a moment no one wanted to vacate that high moment. It was indeed a very well organized celebration.

The celebration’s organization was spearheaded by the hard working and tireless Denise Brown who was ably and amply assisted by Renalto Lopez. Throughout the evening and before that, Denise could be seen effectively directing and influ-

encing each turn of the event. But the success of the event is not the only thing about the MCC for which Denise is responsible; she is also responsible for the success of the MCC itself and although she did not found nor start the MCC, much of its life’s existence is owed to her.

According to its October/November 2006 newsletter, “the MCC (then the MLC) was initially an informal group of students who met at the South Campus Cafeteria to discuss various Multi-cultural facts, issues and concerns.” However, the group was formally organized in 2002 and under the sterling direction of Denise Brown has blossomed into what we have come to know and appreciate today as the Multicultural Café.

The MCC lists its motto as “Enjoy the fun of learning a language and its culture,” and therefore, for those who would love to learn another language and culture in a fun way, please see the MCC’s website at <<http://www.broward.edu/locations/south/sliffe/mlcafe>> or email the Cafe at [mlcafesouth@broward.edu](mailto:mlcafesouth@broward.edu).



## BCC Tennis champion

BY OMAR TORRIJOS  
STAFF WRITER

Congratulations to Natasa Zoricic for winning the tennis singles NJCAA National Championship in Tucson, AZ.

Zoricic helped BCC earn the eighth place in the nation among 30 participant teams after going 4-0 in the main draw.

Although Zoricic began the season with a 3-2 record, the freshman won her last 13 matches and finished with an overall record of 16-2. These earned her a No. 2 seed and a bye to the second round of the tournament after being ranked No. 12 in the NJCAA during the year.

For the first round, Zoricic was among the top six seeded players to receive a bye. In the second round Zoricic defeated Julianne Cananea from Prima Community College [Arizona] in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-0. In the quarterfinals, Zoricic defeated Manuella Viana from North Central Texas College 6-3, 6-2. In the semifinals, Zoricic was on a roll and took advantage of her momentum by routing Natalie Araya from Texas' Lee College 6-2 and 6-1. In the finals, Natasa defeated Ashley Irvin from Texas' Tyler Junior College in a tightly contested match, which was a nail biter. Zoricic overcame a tough first set loss and rolled through the second set. In the third set, Natasa went "mano a mano" with Irvin and got the

key break that set the final score of 6-7 [3,] 6-0 and 7-5.

Zoricic is a freshman who came from Borovo, Croatia in Jan. with the desire of joining a junior school with a good possibility of winning before moving on to a four year university. BCC had won last year's national championship and so Zoricic decided to be a part of the Seahawks.



PHOTO BY JOHNNY LOUIS/JLNPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

**Natasa Zoricic practicing at BCC's Central Campus.**

## Big move for Earnhardt, Jr.

BY BRUNO NICCOLI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dale Earnhardt, Jr. announced on May 10 that he will be leaving Dale Earnhardt Inc., (DEI) at the end of the 2007 NASCAR season. The announcement came as a shock to NASCAR fans, especially because DEI was created by his father, the legendary Dale Earnhardt, Sr.

During the press conference, Earnhardt, Jr. stated that "This decision was based solely on my driving career, not my personal thoughts on DEI." His desire to drive a more competitive car, and with that, finally winning the Nextel championship, are clearly the foremost reasons for his sudden departure. However, there were other factors in Dale's decision. The desire to have more control over the racing team and difficulties reaching a contract that would satisfy both parties also played a significant roll in Earnhardt, Jr.'s decision.

DEI had its ownership transferred to Teresa Earnhardt after the death of Earnhardt, Sr., during the last lap of the 2002 Daytona 500. The business relationship between Earnhardt, Jr. and his father's widow has been complicated ever since she took over DEI. Without many options available, Earnhardt, Jr. made the decision that will benefit him much more than DEI.

The biggest downside for Earnhardt, Jr.'s fans is the fact

that he won't be able to race under the 8 car anymore. According to NASCAR rules, the number of a racing car belongs to the team, not the driver. It is very unlikely he will receive permission from DEI to take his number to his new team. The option of racing under his father's famous No. 3 has also been declined, as he told Darrell Waltrip from Fox Sports. "In a perfect world, I would like to do that at the end of my career."

Earnhardt, Jr. gave his sister Kelley Earnhardt the authority to handle negotiations for his new contract. The reactions from team owners came right after the press conference was over, and so far, with the exception of Hendrick Motorsports, all teams have showed interest in signing him.

NASCAR is by far the most sponsorship dominated sport in the country, and Earnhardt, Jr., is currently the most popular racer, having won the award for NASCAR Most Popular Racer for the past four years. It is not hard to do the equation: a lot of money from sponsorship, in addition to being the most popular driver equals the deal of a lifetime for any team owner. To acquire Earnhardt, Jr. doesn't just stand as getting a new driver, but also automatically acquiring the biggest fan base in NASCAR history.

Earnhardt, Jr. is already the highest paid driver in the Nextel series, and his new contract could make him one of the most well paid athletes in the world with the likes of Tiger Woods and LeBron James.



PHOTO BY MAJ. WILLIAM THURMOND

**Dale Earnhardt Jr. famous #8 car**

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# God is not the solution.

BY EKATERINA KOSTIOUKHINA  
BCC STUDENT

This article is in response to the article published in the last edition of the Observer: “Schools without God and Payer = Chaos” by Rosemarie Cole.

Religion is not the solution to violence; neither is it the way to become a happy, moral and law-abiding individual. If it were, then all religious people will be good and sin-free, and our country’s 20 million non-believers would fill our prisons. This is clearly not the case. How many thousands of innocent people have died because of religion inspired massacres? To start with 9/11, the Crusades, American colonization, and many more. A belief in and fear of a god does not guarantee morality and ethics, and in many cases it is the main motive to commit murder and “justice” in the name of that god.

Now let’s suppose that schools would opt to adopt religion as part of their rules and teachings. Which will they choose? Christianity, Catholicism, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam or the new emerging pastafarianism? Our community is a mixture of personalities and ideologies, and this prosperous country works because it is in our constitution to respect the ideas and beliefs of individuals without necessarily having to agree with them.

I am not attacking religion, but I do not support the idea of imposing it on the public. People should be free to choose what to believe and what to think concerning life and death. But this freedom has to fit with society’s rules and should not cause harm to others.

Everyone makes choices. If you choose to embrace religion to make your life better, there are churches that accept people with open arms. If you decide that a hike in the woods and meditation will fulfill your spirit, you are free to do so. On the other hand, if you think that killing a few innocent people will relieve your anger or fulfill your religious zeal, that is wrong because it induces suffering and goes against our society’s ethics.

The lack of religious indoctrination in schools does not mean that atheism governs or that the belief in a higher entity is prohibited. The lack of religiousness in schools means that the government respects our individual religions and personal beliefs. The constitution guarantees that our government and its laws must be neutral when it comes to religion. This shall not be violated by imposing the religion of the majority on our children, but by cultivating ethics and interpersonal skills, so that the future citizens would be able to fit into society in a productive manner.

# To succeed or not to succeed

BY ROSEMARIE COLE  
BCC STUDENT

One could presume that every college chancellor and school board member is very proud when a past or present student from their institution becomes successful, influential, and most importantly a significant contributor to our community: whether it is in the arts, entertainment, business or field of education. As I watch the incoming president David Armstrong address the board on the Internet; it became clear from his speech that he would like to assimilate some exceptional students from Broward Community College into our communities’ workforce. He spoke with reassuring confidence that they will be well prepared. There is not a shred of doubt that both faculty and students alike will agree to that.

We want our communities to thrive economically, socially and spiritually and education is one of the few vehicles that will aid us in our journey. However, I was disappointed to find out that theology (the study of the truths related to God) is not taught in colleges. It’s to my great concern that students who are pursued a degree in theology don’t have specific academia, that relates to

Christianity. I expect that these institutions of higher learning would accommodate education for all. It’s true that that theology is offered in Bible Schools and Catholic Universities. Nevertheless, it would be to the students’ advantage if it becomes available in our local public colleges.

The principal reason that I came across about this matter is the separation of church and state. I will always ask the question though,” Can there be one without the other?”

The church is a group of believers following Jesus Christ; they have been regenerated and their names are written in the Book of life.

The meaning of state that would best fit this situation is the governmental activity or the political directions, and control exercised over the actions of its inhabitants in a community.

Therefore, it will take a governing body of persons in a state to oversee this activity. They can come from every people groups possible. It is a fact that members of the church is in government and vice versa.

The answer to my question is no.

Based on the word of God in Rom. 13, the church is encour-

aged to display good character such as: patience, humility, kindness, faithfulness and self control just to name a few. As they obey the laws of the land and those who rule over us, whether good or bad. There is only one essential issue to consider and that is making the decision based on good conscience to obey God, instead of a bad leader whose convictions care nothing about God’s law. If that bad leader cultivates a situation that could cause you to sin against God, then simply don’t partake in it. This point above in itself is self-evident.

When the students are trained in our local colleges, as they enter the market place, looking for a job. The employers will not only be impress with skills, but also with character. It concerns me greatly that the manual (i.e. The Bible) that produce the core values to live by is neglected.

I have never seen an ad in the papers that reads like this:

A & Z Industries  
Help wanted in the sales department  
Need unreliable, unfaithful and lazy worker, must spend at least one year in jail.  
In addition, the ability to deceive and lie is a plus.

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CORRECTIONS

In our April 30, 2007 issue, *The Observer* incorrectly credited a photo as “First Lady of Colombia.” The caption should have said “First Lady of Panama.”

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. The writer’s name and phone number must be included and the letter signed. Unsigned letters will not be accepted, but requests for anonymity may be honored at the editor’s discretion. Letters must be typed and not exceed 300 words. *The Observer* upholds the right to edit for style or length or to reject publications of letters deemed inappropriate.

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Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of BCC students, staff, faculty and administration.

# HOW MANY TEAMS CAN A PERSON LOVE?



## My one and only

BY MARTIN BATER  
SPORTS EDITOR

Sports Bigamy is a serious offense in sports, and South Florida is one of the major offenders in the country.

I was at a Mets-Marlins game at Dolphin Stadium a couple of weeks ago, and of the 35,000 people in the stands, I am sure 10 to 20 thousand of them would be doing 25 to life if sports bigamy was a felony.

Sports bigamy is defined as rooting for two teams in the same sport. If they are in two different leagues, it's just a misdemeanor. If they are in the same league, it's like dating two girls at the same time; you don't really get caught until they face each other. If they are in the same division then there is something really wrong with you, grow a backbone and pick one for God's sake.

Ever since I was little, my dad instilled the love of sports in me. I grew up in Argentina as a soccer fan rooting for Boca Juniors, a team that between 1993 and 1998 wandered through the standings and lost incredible leads every once in a while. Watching other teams perform much better was painful experience. I almost considered switching my sole allegiance to San Lorenzo, but my dad wouldn't allow it. He instilled in me one of the cardinal rules in sports: you never leave your team for a better one; you support it in the good times and the bad times, no matter what.

In 1998, Boca started winning. In the following nine years, Boca won 11 international competitions and 7 Argentinean leagues, beating teams like Real Madrid and A.C.

Milan.

Now, we are the most victories team in the world and since then have earned respect from here to Japan, and you know what? It feels pretty damn good.

I was there when my favorite team struggled. When it lost repeatedly, I was still there to support it, which is why when it started winning it felt that much better.

Personally, when I achieve something easily, it feels good. Now, when I achieve something that was really challenging, there is that rush and satisfaction that can't be described. Rooting for an almost flawless team feels good, but rooting one that you saw struggle and then come through is more satisfying and fun.

Now, if your team is out of the playoffs, there is nothing wrong with sympathizing with one of the remaining teams. You can feel good for a team like the Golden State Warriors or the scrappy Detroit Tigers.

Life isn't easy, you can't just leave it during college and then re-join it at graduation time, you have to go through the grind that comes with exhilarating highs and disappointing lows. Sports are like life, if your team loses after a devastating error, you are still there the next day supporting it and hoping it recovers soon.

Ever since Belal confessed his bigamist ways, the Brewers lost 13 of their next 17 games. That's what happens when you root for two teams at a time, sports karma punishes in very subtle ways.

## I'm a sports bigamist

BY BELAL JABER  
STAFF WRITER

I like two teams. So what? I was born in Milwaukee,

Wisconsin. But I have lived in South Florida for over 16 years now. So since I currently reside in South Florida, I root for the Florida Marlins. They're one of my favorite baseball teams. Yes, you heard me, one of my favorite teams. I like the Milwaukee Brewers as well and root for them too.

Look, the Brewers haven't had a winning record since 1992 and haven't won their division since 1982. The truth is the Milwaukee Brewers have been awful for a long time. This season, the Brewers are the best team in baseball. I haven't had a reason to cheer for them for a while. But now I do.

The Marlins have won two World Series in the last 10 years. I've cheered for the Marlins. I frequently go to Marlins home games. I even refer to the Marlins as my team. Inherently, I have two favorite teams but it doesn't make me a sports bigamist; it means I have two favorite teams. That's it.

There is no "sports law" that states or says that I am obligated to root for one team and one team only. Just because I live in one city and move to another city, doesn't mean I can't cheer both teams on.

In addition to rooting for two teams, I also feel that if one of my favorite teams is doing poor-

ly, as the Brewers did for over a decade, I am entitled to not cheer for that team during their losing period. I am not jumping on or off a bandwagon. It has nothing to do with anything like that at all.

I like when my team is playing well. If they are playing poorly, I simply choose to temporarily dislike them. And at any moment, I can stop disliking them and like them again. There is nothing wrong with that. Again, the decision to root for two teams is strictly up to me, and who I choose to root against is also up to me and me alone.

The real sports bigamists are those who indulge in fantasy sports. If you are a die hard New York Yankee fan, and you play in a fantasy baseball league, and your team has David Ortiz of the Boston Red Sox as its designated hitter, and Ortiz hits a game winning grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning against the Yankees, and you cheer for him because he just got you fantasy points, then you are a true sports bigamist.

I'm not like that. I'm not pretending to be an owner of a make-believe baseball team and cheer for players on all different teams for the sake of some fantasy points. In fantasy leagues is where repeated acts of sports bigamy are taking place.

But I know what you're wondering. Who do I root for when both of my favorite teams are playing against each other? The answer is easy: I root for both teams! It's a no lose situation, and in the end, I'm the real winner.