

THE OBSERVER

A BROWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLICATION

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MARCH 24, 2008

A BUSY MONTH FOR THE COLLEGE

FEDERAL AGENCIES JOINED TOGETHER FOR A CAREER FAIR.

HEATHER DULMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Federal Law Enforcement agencies joined forces to create a inaugural Job Fair.



PHOTO BY BRUNO NICCOLI.

The Federal Law Enforcement Agencies came to recruit eager applicants that were looking to find a career. The event was

March 15, and it was located at the South West Broward Library and at the College Gymnasium on South Campus.

At first, 10 agencies were invited then it expanded to include 20 agencies. Posters and flyers regarding the event were hung at different colleges. Kathleen Cybaluk FBI Special Agent Recruiter contacted Carl Edgecombe BCC Job Developer/ Placement Specialist, to have a job fair at BCC.

"Broward Community College is centrally located and it has a lot of parking. I worked with Carl before when he was working at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and I wanted someone who knew what they were doing. I do not want to go to a school where I am not going to have support," Cymbaluk said.

"It's a unique opportunity to have all of the agencies together in one room. Including Secret Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)," said James Johnson, Special Agent Recruiter.

Planned in July, the event did not get full approval until October and had many people willing to take time

REVEREND AL SHARPTON GAVE A SPEECH ABOUT CURRENT ISSUES.

JESSICA BEANS
CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

One could say that the South Campus auditorium was the staging place for perhaps the best kept secret of the year. Many lucky post-spring breakers who knew about this secret were able to partake in a once in a lifetime event. That event was a most-welcomed guest speaker, Reverend Al Sharpton. The happening was to be a discussion and question-answer session on "civic responsibility." Sharpton's no-holds-barred approach to social injustices of any kind was a compliment to the issues he addressed. Sharpton is known to many for his motivational speaking, maybe a human rights protest once and a while, and probably for being somewhat controversial. However he is also the founder and head of the National Action Network (NAN), an organization that's sole purpose is to fight struggles of people facing injustices.

The event began with opening remarks from Dr. Hank Martel, Dean of Academic Affairs at South Campus. A highly enthusiastic audience was eager to hear from the Reverend. Kevin Blackmon, representative of the

Black Student Union and the Student Government Association, who was in part responsible for the event, gave a wholehearted overture to the



PHOTO BY BRUNO NICCOLI.

magnitude of the occasion. Just before it was time to hear from the guest of honor, Reverend William Richardson III introduced the man of the hour. A

BOTH CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Bye-Bye BCC and Hello Broward College

PLANS TO RENAME BCC TO BROWARD COLLEGE ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY, DUE TO THE ADDITION OF BACHLOR DEGREES.

BUZZ LAMB
STAFF WRITER

At the February Board of Trustees meeting on South Campus BCC President, J. David Armstrong Jr. announced to the Board that BCC has been approved by the Florida Department of Education to offer a limited amount of baccalaureate degrees in education.

Prior to the Board meeting, Armstrong asked Faculty Senate President, Catherine Leisek, to poll faculty and staff members regarding the possibility of changing the name of the college to reflect its new status. The results were overwhelmingly favorable so Armstrong asked the Board members if he should

pursue a name-change for the college which would reflect its elevated status.

According to BCC Archives and Special Collections Librarian, Andrew Dutka, since its inception as the Junior College of Broward County in 1960, the institution has undergone two name changes. In 1969 the college was renamed Broward Junior College and in the mid-'70s to the present time it has been known as Broward Community College.

Armstrong told the Board that only the legislature can change the name of our college because it is established

in statute and state officials would only consider a name change if it met with the general consensus

of the Board. All Board members indicated they



A new college name will cause other changes, such as a new logo, that could cost a lot of money on an already highly cut budget.

THE PRESIDENT INDICATED THAT HE WAS IN FAVOR OF RE-NAMING THE COLLEGE BECAUSE IT WOULD HELP THE STUDENTS IN THE FUTURE...

were in favor of seeking legislative approval for the transformation.

The President indicated that

he was in favor of re-naming the college because it would help the students in the future who would receive a bachelor's degree from the college and then take that degree to a graduate school (or an employer) and face the possibility of confusion as to how a "community college" granted a legitimate bachelor's degree when traditionally "community colleges" have only granted associate's degrees.

Armstrong cautioned that state law is clear; the institution must remain a "community college" by mission even if the legislature approves a name change. "Our open-door policy and a diverse educational program offering will

continue to distinguish us from a traditional state college," he said.

Armstrong said other community colleges have facilitated similar name changes by simply dropping "Community" from their name. "Broward College would retain our identity and name recognition that has been built up over the years," he said.

The question of cost was brought up by Trustee Paul Tanner. It is common knowledge that BCC has recently gone through a re-branding program which included the development of an updated logo for the college. According to Jillian Printz,

CHANGE
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For the love of sole

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Writers of Spring Festival

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North



Entertainment

Find out what is going on with the Hard Rock

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The Health Fair and Blood drive at Central

OLGA BUITRAGO
STAFF WRITER

No matter how old or how young a person is, being and staying healthy is an important issue in a person's life. How we take care of our health and body will reflect not only in our outside appearance but on the inside as well.

On March 26 the Healthy Student Living Services will host a Health Fair and Blood Drive at Central Campus open to all

“...A ONE-STOP
CENTER OF
INFORMATION AND
RESOURCES...”
- JAMES LEWIS

BCC students, faculty and staff members. The Health Fair will run from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in front of Building 10 and the Blood Drive will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the same day.

James Lewis, Coordinator of Student Life Central Campus, said, “The purpose of the fair is to give students greater awareness and understanding on health related topics.”

During the fair there will be free pregnancy and free HIV/AIDS testing. The pregnancy screening will be conducted by Hope

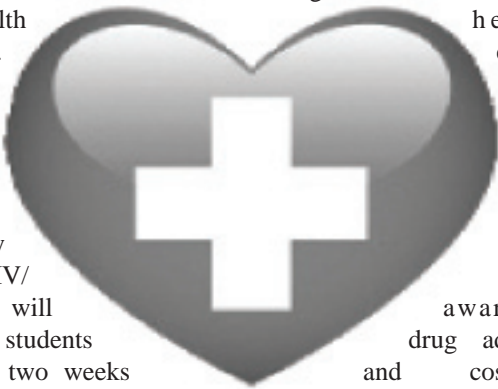
Women's Center and the HIV/AIDS testing will be conducted by the Broward County Health Department. The results for the pregnancy test will be given immediately and the HIV/AIDS results will be mail to the students approximately two weeks after the test.

“A vast array of knowledge will be available at the fair. There are several topics for every

student,” said Lewis. Some of the topics that are going to be cover during the fair are: healthy eating, cancer awareness, drug addiction and cosmetics. Also, there will be a Hip Hop show perform by Body Mechanics and tablets with give-a-ways for students.

The organizations that will be participating in the fair are: Jamba Juice, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Hope Women's Center, Broward Dental Research, Broward Right to Life, Hope Outreach Center, Planned Parenthood, Florida Blood Bank, Broward County Health Department, Mental Health Association, Dr. Ted Berger and more.

“The fair is a one-stop center of information and resources for our students, faculty and staff,” said Lewis. For more information about the health fair, call (954) 201-4881 or email James Lewis at jlewis5@broward.edu.



Mardi Gras kicks off spring break

IGOR MELLO
STAFF WRITER

As the anxiety piled on students seeing that they were simply just one day away from disappearing into spring break, the Student Program Association (SPADES) figured to take advantage as they hosted their first ever BCC Mardi Gras event.

“Our whole theory was to have one last event before spring break for students to enjoy the free food, the entertainment,” said James Lewis, the Coordinator of Student Life.

BCC Mardi Gras took place at Central Campus on Feb. 27 between 12-2 p.m. Due to the awful weather the event was not able to be held outside of the Building 19 patio and it was moved inside in Building 19.

There wouldn't be a Mardi Gras party without exotic dancers, as they kicked off the party with Caribbean music showcased by a Caribbean dancer . As the dancer continuously danced with her maracas, two additional Brazilian carnival dancers entered the building as they began dancing

to the samba tunes, distributing decorative masks and beads for the curious students.

“There were Brazilian dancers. It was a festival type of thing, that's how it is in New Orleans,” said Sal Lutwig, who is the Student Program Assistant. “We contacted William Penthouse, who provides us with most of the entertainment we do. He brought out the dancers last semester as well for our Hispanic heritage month.”

Now that the party had beads, masks and dancers, there was only one thing missing; Cajun food. Popeye's catered the event offering a variety of chicken, coleslaw, mashed potatoes, biscuits and Cajun rice.

“We feel as if it was a fun event for the students to interact, have fun and eat,” said Djeanemma Francoeur, who is a member of SPADES and organized the event.

As the hungry students ate, the dancers formed a Congo line to interact with the students. Although this was the first Mardi Gras party that took place at the campus, SPADES is looking to make it an annual event.



Brazilian dancers dance in Mardi Gras gear in Building 19.

PHOTO BY IGOR MELLO

“We will actually be making our calendar for future events this summer, we are surveying right now to see how successful it was and if it was a success then we will continue it and expand it”

For more information on please visit broward.edu/student upcoming student life events life.



Brazilian dancers getting the crowd pumped.

PHOTO BY IGOR MELLO



The barely clad dancer was not afraid to shake it for the crowd.

PHOTO BY IGOR MELLO

No cultural boundaries for Denise Brown

W. EARLE SIMPSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"When I retire from BCC, I'd love for people to think that there was somebody here that has considered their differences," said Denise Brown, ESL/International Counselor at the BCC South Campus.

"I feel a sense of pride whenever I have to deal with the many students of different ethnicities," said Brown. "I am proud to be able to see beyond the differences of each student, and when I retire, if they could just say that Denise Rodriguez Brown was considerate of their differences, that would be enough for me."

Sinking back into her chair as she passionately echoed this sentiment, Brown, a native of the beautiful and lush mountainous northern Argentinean city, Salta, reflected on her accomplishments at BCC. "My passion was always being in the classroom. My first job here was teaching English and Spanish through the Continuing Education Program. Later I became an ESL Advisor and then in 2000 I moved into the wide open door of international advising," she recounted.

That move suited Brown well. She believes her studies in languages such as English, French,

Italian and Portuguese prepared her for this job. "I wanted to be the International Advisor, so I had taken courses in Italian, French and Portuguese. I think I earned the position because I was able to understand the languages," she opined.

Brown's love for other cultures and languages lead her to commence her study of English and its culture. Brown's determination and the encouraging words of "no pain no gain" from her father, motivated her pursuit into the National University of Tucuman, (Universidad Nacional de Tucuman), where she earned her TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) degree.

Brown taught other English classes in her community and on television during and after her graduation. "I got very engaged with English and so I felt like I should live in a country where I could use it," she said. That dream became a reality when Brown landed in Florida in 1990 as a F1 student at Florida International University (FIU) where she earned her masters degree. Immediately after her graduation from FIU, she was offered and accepted a job at BCC in 1994.

Today, Denise Brown is known for Multi-Cultural Café (MCC), (formerly 'Multilanguage Café').

"Denise Brown and the MCC are one," said Renato Cortez, current Coordinator of the MCC. "In a way she is the mother of the MCC, and I think she will always be," he affirmed.

In 2000, as ESL Advisor, Brown was placed in charge of the Silver Box Club, which was

languages she does, Brown was made advisor of the International students. "Denise Brown is definitely a great professional and someone who is devoted to helping the students," commented Cortez. "She is organized, courteous and polite and she has taught me principles and values,

accomplishment there," she said. "I am hoping, and I foresee that corner expanding everyday by people who really enjoy interaction of different cultures and who want to join the effort that could one day see that small office become an institution."

In her quest to perfect her capacity to serve at her best Brown is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in psychology. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and their 6-year old daughter. "She is the joy of our life. He is a country man from the mountains of Jamaica. I am also a country girl, and somehow we love to get together and talk about the mountains, the trees, the forests, the rivers and our similar experiences," she said. "We love spending time as a family, which includes our dog with which I regularly go walking, jogging and running my 5Ks. I also like reading."

Brown offered this, "When I do something I have to be passionate about it; otherwise I won't do it. If I am not passionate about it, then it would be a waste of my time and that of the people around me. We have the chance to walk on the same steps only once and so I try to do whatever I do to the best of my ability and with a lot of passion."



Denise Brown, advisor of international students

PHOTO BY W. EARLE SIMPSON

an informal group of students who met at the South Campus cafeteria to discuss multi-cultural facts, issues and concerns. Brown got the inspiration of the concept that she called 'The MultiLanguage Café' from one of the meetings.

The MultiLanguage Café provides support to students seeking to adjust to the culture of BCC, the USA as well as cultures and languages of countries of the student's choice. Speaking all the

she has inspired me to reach my dreams," echoed student worker Juan Carlos Quimbay.

Brown is still an Adviser to International students but she no longer is in charge of the MCC. However, she gives it some attention when required. She is proud of its accomplishments and still has high hopes for it. "I believe that having the name of the MCC assigned to one corner of the BCC house is my greatest

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Writes of Spring Festival

BRUNO NICCOLI
SPORTS EDITOR

The North Campus English Department and the BCC North Regional Library held another edition of the Writes of Spring festival.

With student attendance and participation increasing every year, the festival has definitely become a major event on the campus.

Funded by the Otto M. Burkhardt Trust and the BCC Foundation, Writes of Spring was held on March 18 and 19, at the North Regional Library.

Poet David Plumb was the first speaker of the festival. Plumb read selections from his works and from other famous poets.

Dr. Barbara Nightingale, senior professor of English and Honors Institute/Phi Theta Kappa coordinator for South Campus, spoke about the poetic landscapes in Florida. Nightingale's poems have appeared in over 150 journals and she has five poetry books published.

Lynne Thorner, also a professor at BCC, had "Red

Green: Environmentally Focused Films" as the theme for her speech. Thorner is the creator of the entertainment film seminar "Reel Talk," that was adapted to work with this year's rendition of Writes of Spring.

"Botanical Interventions:



Ruth Ozeki speaks to a full crowd at Writes of Spring. PHOTO BY BRUNO NICCOLI

Environmental Art and Community Empowerment" was the title for Oliver Kellhamer's presentation. Kellhamer works with the regeneration of plants and he spoke about how to engage the environmental crisis in a positive way.

Dr. Monica Ramirez, Dean of Academic Affairs on North Campus, presented her research on America's geological terrain in a presentation entitled "Trips to Colorado: Visit the Place Where Dinosaurs Roamed the Front Range."

Myrna Meeroff brought the

musical section of the festival. The Argentinean artist is a horn player currently performing with the Florida Classical Orchestra.

The main event of the festival was the speech by author Ruth Ozeki. Ozeki's book "All over Creation" is the current selection for the campus reading. The story about potato farms in Idaho combined with the struggles of the main character, Yummy, turned this novel into an acclaimed best seller. The environmental ideas showed in the story fitted perfectly with the "green" concept that has gained great importance over the past few years.

BCC had their chance to share their work with the public. The entries for the festival were awarded during the second day. The contestants received awards in three categories: writing, art and photography.

The festival ended with the movie "An Inconvenient Truth" by former vice-president Al Gore. The theme of the movie fitted perfectly with the entire concept of the Writes of Spring festival: Environmental awareness.

Board of Trustees

LAST BOARD MEETING IS THE CHANCE FOR STUDENTS TO BRING CONCERNS

BUZZ LAMB
STAFF WRITER

North Campus students will have their final opportunity this year to meet face to face with the Board of Trustees on March 26 in Building 46, Room 152.

The Board has already attended student forums on Central and South, keeping with the tradition of visiting each campus, and the trip to North marks the end of the Board visitations for 2008.

In the weeks prior to the upcoming meeting, the Student Government Association (SGA) on North Campus asked students to complete a questionnaire regarding their concerns, complaints or compliments.

According to Monica Eulo, SGA President on North, as of last Wednesday 576 surveys have been collected and more are expected.

Eulo indicated that the major concerns this year are publicity and communication, course

scheduling, on-line extension of drop/add and energy efficiency.

The program, coordinated by Mareta Sizemore, Director of Student Life and Ashley Turner, begins at 11:30 and a lunch is being provided to all attendees. Students participating in the presentation to the Board will be Monica Eulo, SGA President; Sarah Murr, SGA Vice President; Sorty Meja, SGA Director of Public relations; Silva Rotela, SGA Senator; Patricio Gonzalea, SGA Senator and Paola Mariselli, SGA Senator.

Immediately following the Student Forum the Board of Trustees will conduct their regular monthly meeting.

This will be the last regular Board meeting held on any of the campuses during this calendar year.

All students, faculty and administration personnel are invited to attend.

For more information call SGA at 954-201-2345.

DECA returns victoriously

DAVIDSON TAYLOR
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Broward Community College's North Campus students return once again from statewide college DECA business competition in Orlando with notable victories.

Nearly 20 BCC North DECA students went to Orlando Feb. 28 to March 2 to compete in the 43 annual Florida Delta Epsilon Chi Career Development Conference. Delta Epsilon Chi is the college division of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA), which helps prepare students in marketing, management and entrepreneurship in business, finance, hospitality and marketing sales and service.

Two BCC North students came in first place in their competitive events, and nine others scored second and third place wins in a total of seven events.

Overall, BCC North students captured 25 finalist spots in more than a dozen events. The chapter also received the four-star state college DECA Chapter Activities Award for its compilation and design of photos

and reports about the chapter's achievements and charity efforts in the past year. It was the chapter's second win in a row in that category.

"We did great," said Paul Ricker, BCC North DECA adviser and state DECA Board of Directors member.

This year's BCC North competitors were some of the most successful ever, he added. "Their performances were outstanding."

First-time competitor and BCC North DECA Treasurer Minni Vainio brought home



First Place Minni Vainio PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVIDSON TAYLOR

first place in restaurant and food service marketing/management and college DECA veteran

Youbel Montesino won first place for financial services marketing/management.

The chapter's second place winners were Catherine Budnik for design presentation; chapter President Amal Khoury and Vice President Yuliya Sirontinskaya for business ethics; and Saad Parwani for sales representative.

Third place winners were Megan Small for design presentation, chapter Parliamentarian Zak Larkins for entrepreneurship, Vainio for sales management meeting, James Painter for sales representative and chapter Student Life Liaison Patricio Gonzalez for restaurant and food service marketing/management.

All state DECA competition winners and finalists will be eligible to compete in this year's Delta Epsilon Chi's 47 International Career Development Conference, April 12-15, in Atlanta.

More than 2,000 college students are expected to compete, participate in learning activities and workshops and network with the hundreds of business and industry people who serve as judges for the various competitive events. A career fair and market place also will be held at the event.

Ricker said he once again expects great results from BCC North DECA at the international conference.

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The safest day in Broward

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out of their day to see what the agencies had to offer.

Carmen Rivera from San Juan, Puerto Rico came to Florida three weeks ago. Her niece who attends BCC informed Rivera about the Job Fair. "I came here to be re-employed with the Federal Government. I was a Human Service Specialist GS9-2. A year ago they started downsizing back in Puerto Rico," said Rivera.

There are requirements to be in any agency. They are: polygraph tests, truthfulness of an applicant's application from 18 years and up, health and physical exams. If an applicant does not pass any tests then they cannot do any of the programs in the agencies. Applicants have to be marijuana-free for at least three years and clean at least 10 years for other drug usage. There are many benefits for Federal employment; an agent gets job stability, tuition reimbursement, insurance and much more. The only thing is that they are on call for 24 hours and they transfer about 3 to 5 times throughout their career.

A United States Secret Agent Recruiter (USSS) said, "The student applying can have an AA degree and yes they can be working on their BA and apply 6 months prior to graduation. The hiring process may take up to one or two years. We are doing our best to expedite the process and lately we have hired Special Agents and Uniformed Division Officers in less than one year. We have many requirements and people do give up. However, if you really want this job, nothing should overwhelm your desires."

Anna Aguiire, who attended the job fair, graduated from Nova in 2006. "I saw the advertisement on the street. The event was very informative. It's hard to get into the career of Criminal Justice," she said.

There are paid internships in Washington D.C. for juniors and graduate students during the summer from June- August. Applicants that want to get

experience can go to www.fbijobs.gov. The interns will learn about the FBI and have FBI access. The applicant has to pass the requirements such as a polygraph test and truthfulness of the application. Applicants must apply this fall for the following summer.

"You don't have to do the internship, but it helps you. It depends on your degree and the kind of work experience you

have to have a criminal justice degree to work for the agencies; however, they are looking for all different majors such as Computer Science, Engineering, Physical Science, International Relations, Law, Finance and Accounting. They are also looking for any one with three years in military experience and any Bachelors degree if an applicant is fluent with other languages.

The hiring process varies from

year to year. Generally, about 800 a year are hired in the country and there is a huge need for women to be in the agency. There are openings for all minorities to apply. The salary range is about \$40 - \$50 thousand, depending on the level of the agent.

"This event is good for BCC. Many students have degrees that they're doing certificate courses in. This is an opportunity for them for the hiring process. For the younger BCC student who is just starting out, they can come in and prepare themselves for the future. Agencies are looking to hire across the board. Johnson said to me, I am looking for people in every single one of these areas that this college offers," said Edgecombe.

"To pursue employment with law enforcement you just need one kind of a Bachelors degree. I started out as a journalism major at UF in 1986. It is ironic that I picked journalism because any kind of action you take arresting someone you have to make lots of reports. In a backwards way my major in journalism assisted me in my law enforcement career," said Terence J. Manweiler, Senior Special Agent from ICE.

William Dovale, an alumnus from BCC who is planning to graduate this year from FIU, who is majoring in international relations and economics said, "I've always been interested in law enforcement. I used to be in the Navy. A job in law enforcement is another way to serve my country."

"The job market right now is in turmoil," said Edgecombe. "Next year, we can be looking at 40 agencies. They are looking to replace people that are retiring. They are looking to expand the agencies. They need support staff now. This is an excellent time to get into the career. Once you are in, you are there for life."



The first gathering before the fair

PHOTO BY BRUNO NICCOLI

have to get some kind of entry-level job...It is a chance of a lifetime to work for the FBI if you really want to do this job that is the price you have to pay," said Cymbaluk.

Kenny Charris, a freshman at Florida Community College said, "I have been pursuing this since I was in the Marines. I got the experience. It's always a good opportunity to start early."

For the Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, applicants must commit 20 years of service. The applicant can get in before they are 37 years old. When the agent turns 57 years old, they have to retire. Usually a retiree would go on to other fields and some explore the field of education.

"The agency sharpens your intuition and your street smarts. The best option is to keep you out of trouble. Once you step into the federal government, you are not only belonging to yourself, you belong to the federal government. Somewhere along the line you can shop, go to church or be at a stop light they might check up on you," said Rivera.

There is a misconception about Federal Law Enforcement Agencies. People think they

Al Sharpton speech

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gregarious applause and standing ovation welcomed Al Sharpton as he made his way to the podium. Having a reputation as an impressively strong public speaker and motivator, Sharpton's opening remarks were commanding.

Sharpton's powerful delivery of words kept the avid listeners on their toes. He started off by stressing the importance of not just speaking to a crowd, but engaging and involving them as well. "To me dialogue is more important than lecturing." It was remarks such as those that enhanced the audience's appreciation of his presence. Being no slouch at speaking to college students, Sharpton has an innate ability to connect with any age group and is in essence in-touch with the community.

The Reverend proceeded to demonstrate what he felt were vital issues facing the Democratic Party and their voters. For instance, the possibilities of a delegate re-vote in the states of Florida and Michigan was unacceptable to him. Sharpton ran in the previous presidential election and faced a similar injustice. According to Sharpton his experience in the presidential elections was "less-than-fair." His opposition with the current presidential election proceedings is just part of the fuel to his fire. His motives are to act now, encourage voters to step up, and stop the "shenanigans" that are taking place within the Democratic National Committee.

Sharpton gave powerful examples of why we should not sit back and not act on these injustices. His examples included the lack of government involvement and action with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, the war in Iraq, and now the current Florida delegate fiasco. As Sharpton further addressed the Democratic National Committee (DNC), he referred to these very concerns as "voter rights issues." Issues such as delegates having the majority of control within DNC were only part of the problem. Sharpton specifically addressed that the idea of a redo was not initiated until after Senator Barack Obama took the Democratic lead in the election. In slightly humorous fashion the reverend put his point across in a different way, "...When the

New York Giants played in the Super Bowl, they didn't move the goal posts, they didn't change the yardage late in the game..." That example would insinuate the changing of the rules within the DNC, and one could say that it was nicely put.

As the Reverend proceeded, his following statements would in fact coincide with the previous topic. It was clear that one of Sharpton's biggest concerns is the preservation of America, its economy, and most importantly its people. To touch on that he turned his attention once again to the current government, "sixty-six thousand lost jobs in America... and they wonder if we're in a recession?" To demonstrate his point, Sharpton struck the issues closest to home, "...rising gas prices...most people can't even fill up their tank...lost jobs..." The solution was clear for Sharpton. "Securing America, saving jobs, and pulling out of Iraq." Sharpton received a round of applause for pointing out that America is in Iraq, spending billions of dollars monthly and yet there is not enough money left for the schools and their faculty members.

Throughout the event, there was no shortage of momentum whatsoever. As Sharpton spoke his passion and enthusiasm permeated the auditorium walls and was genuinely felt with students and faculty. In a signature style, Sharpton delivered his message his way and with no nonsense. Sharpton concluded by speaking directly to the students and answering any questions they had. When that time came the students were a little timid, but eventually the questions streamed out. The Reverend was asked about issues such as current affairs, the government, and even advice for future upcoming activists. He gladly addressed every question with a bold, to-the-point manner.

Each question and concern brought forth to Sharpton was directly answered. Each point was addressed without hesitation. His speech and presence exceeded the expectations of students and teachers. So whether you agree with Al Sharpton's politics and beliefs or not, the public doesn't lie, his performance was greatly received and was, in short, a success.



The F.B.I. had one of the most visited stands

PHOTO BY BRUNO NICCOLI



Al Sharpton being interviewed by radio and TV stations after his speech.

PHOTO BY BRUNO NICCOLI

Cost for name change could affect college budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

approximately \$50,000 was spent for a study over a four month period culminating at the end of April of 2006. The initiative was an attempt to elevate the image of BCC and how the college was perceived by the community it serves, specifically to increase enrollment.

Printz said if the name change is approved by the legislature and by the BCC Board of Trustees the administration plans to integrate the name change in the most cost effective manner possible. "We will not throw out anything we have currently. For instance, our stationary, we will use our stationary until we get so low that we need to re-print, then we will make the change," she said. "We

won't change any of the bronze plaques on any of the buildings either because those are date sensitive so we wouldn't change them," she added. "If the cost of this change is \$1,000 I'll eat my hat," she chuckled.

Printz said that in her opinion, if the name is changed to Broward College, the logo would not have to be re-designed. "The way it is designed, you really have to look closely at it to notice the two 'C's, so I think it could really remain the same, which would save us a lot of money," she said. "I don't see any graphic hurdles that we have to leap to get where we need to be if the Board decides to change the name of the college."

Coincidentally, unrelated to the name change issue, Printz said the college is currently putting out Requests for Quotes (RFQ) for a college-wide signage initiative. "Fortunately that is occurring

"WITH BUDGET CUTS COMING...WE'VE HAD TWO THIS YEAR AND WE'LL PROBABLY HAVE A THIRD, AND A CUT FOR NEXT YEAR...AND THAT MAY NOT BE IT, THIS IS NOT A PARTICULARLY GOOD TIME TO BE SUPPORTING A NAME CHANGE BUT, IF WE NEED TO, WE NEED TO."
-BILL PENNELL BCC CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

over the next couple of months so by the time we get the answer back (on the RFQ) we will know whether or not the name change will take place," she said.

Representative Ellyn Bogdanoff (R, District 91) has

submitted the name change proposal to the legislature as part of HB 1409. According to the website www.myfloridahouse.com the bill was filed by Bogdanoff on March 3 and on March 7 the bill was transferred to the Schools & Learning Council. If it is approved it will become effective July 1, 2008.

BCC Chief Financial Officer Bill Pennell said that as far as he knows no one has sat down and laid out the costs associated with the name change. "The money for the change would have to come out of the college's budget in different areas. If we have to make changes in major assets some of

the money could be realized in PECO (Public Education Capital Outlay) dollars," he said. "Those are remodeling dollars we get from the state."

Pennell said other revenues for the name change would come out of the regular college budget. "As I said before, all of those things have not been figured out at this time. I do know that this would be an integration process, not an immediate change. Like all things in life, if you're going to make a change you're going to have to pay for it," he said.

"With budget cuts coming... we've had two this year and we'll probably have a third, and a cut for next year...and that may not be it, this is not a particularly good time to be supporting a name change but, if we need to, we need to," Pennell added.

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Cool jeans from L.L. Cool J

L.L. COOL J TEAMS UP WITH MACY'S TO KICK OFF HIS NEW CLOTHING LINE.

JERILYN DE LOS RIOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Hip hop legend LL Cool J arrived at the Macy's in Aventura on March 1, for the South Florida launch of his new self named clothing line Todd Smith.

Smith is the latest high profile celebrity to be added to the wide range of talents and brands to be offered at Macys. Others to be noted include Usher with his fragrance line, Jessica Simpson with her female products of purses, shoes and clothing, as well as Sean Combs with his very well known line of clothing, Sean John.

The visit by Smith brought more than 200 adoring fans; it brought a sense of affordable style to the South Florida scene. The Todd Smith line has been in the works for a little over five years.

Smith said he wanted to produce a line that was stylish, comfortable and affordable... some thing that hard working



L.L. Cool J posing with a fan.

PHOTO BY JERILYN DE LOS RIOS

families can afford.

“There’s a special feeling that you get... when you complete a project and present it to the world,” said Smith.

He has presented the world with a line whose symbol is bravery and fearlessness He wants consumers to feel comfortable in his line, and has no doubts that

they will.

During his visit and launch of his men’s clothing line, Smith reassured the ladies that there time is soon to come; the women’s line is still in the works. He went on to explain that they are still testing certain materials and want the women to feel as comfortable in the line as the men feel in their stylish jeans and foil designed shirts.

To check out the clothing line you can visit Macy’s in Aventura, or stop by toddsmithny.com.

With the women’s line being released around April, a new CD on its way, and live concerts at Universal Studios for Mardi Gras, there is no doubt that Smith,

“Is doin’ it, doin’ it, and doin’ it well.”

‘...SOMETHING HARD
WORKING FAMILIES
CAN AFFORD.’

-L.L. COOL J.

Circuit Exercise

CIRCUIT IS A NEW WAY TO WORK OUT.

KENIA LIZAMA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Circuit training has been traditionally used as an effective way to develop both strength and cardiovascular fitness simultaneously, as mentioned in the book Designing Resistance Training Programs by Fleck SJ and Kraemer WJ.

As defined by Curves, “circuit training is a short burst of resistance exercise using moderate weights and frequent repetitions, followed quickly by another burst of exercise targeting a different muscle group

Circuit classes are popular in gyms and with non-athletes because of the variety they offer over continuous exercises, such as running and cycling. However, circuit training is not a form of exercise but it relates to how an exercise session is structured. A circuit session consists of a series of exercises or stations performed in succession with minimal rest intervals in between.

Completing a variety of resistance exercises and high intensity cardiovascular exercises in quick succession can improve both strength and endurance. For individuals short on time, three to four brief 30-45 minute sessions per week is an effective way to develop all-round fitness.

Circuit training classes consist of about 8-12 stations. These are usually completed for 30-90 seconds with 30-90 seconds rest between each station.

However, choose only one at a time. A total of one to three circuits are typical with two to three minutes rest between each circuit, as recommended by personal trainer Will Gilyard from Gold’s Gym in Miami Lakes, Fl.

Gilyard says that this type of training can be versatile and it moves quickly because you’re going from one exercise to another instead of doing continuous cardio or straight set training with weights.

“The person exercising can do all strength circuits, all cardio circuits or a mixture of the two for a challenging, calorie-burning workout. What makes this workout effective is that it tones the body and melts off the fat because of the pace it’s done at”, said Gilyard.

Since the exerciser switches between muscle groups, no rest is needed between exercises. This gets the heart rate up, which usually doesn’t happen during resistance exercise. Sometimes, to increase heart rate further, aerobics are sprinkled between the resistance exercises Gilyard advises.

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Hundreds of dollars spent for the love of the sole

IGOR MELLO
STAFF WRITER

In 1985, a young rookie from the Chicago Bulls, Michael Jordan agreed to endorse a new line of Nike shoes known as the Air Jordan. Since then Nike and the brand Jordan has not looked back. In fact, the support for these companies is shown all over the school's campus.

According to sophomore Frisnel Simprevil buying Jordan sneakers is "an investment." Simprevil has been in the sneaker game for eight years and owns over 150 pairs of sneakers, only wearing about 50 of them. Due to kids skipping school to buy these sneakers, Jordans are now normally released on a Saturday. On a normal release day, Simprevil camps out at the mall from 2 a.m. until the store opens, which tends to be around 9 a.m.

On Jan. 25, the Jordan brand released a one-of-a-kind, titanium and university blue design of the Air Jordan XXIII. This exclusive shoe was released at the top 23 cities in the nation; each store only received 23 pairs and was sold at the retail price of \$230.

Simprevil was determined to add this sneaker to his arsenal of

Jordans as he camped out on Jan. 21 until its release on Jan. 25 at Shoe Gallery in Miami.

"It was a very limited shoe; it's the craziest design ever," said the sleepless Simprevil who has once spent \$700 on a pair of Air Jordan I, which was only released in China. "The shoes are really light and comfortable. I haven't tried mine yet."

According to sophomore, Kunal Bhathija, he plans to pay \$1,000 for this rare shoe. Bhathija, who owns a little over 90 pairs usually shops online and has once dished out \$700 for a pair of Heineken Nike SB Dunks.

"My shoe game is crazy, nuts, ill, a lot of people have a lot of quantity but I feel as if I have a lot of quality, each one of my 90 pairs is worth over \$200 each," said Bhathija who hasn't worn 20 of his 90 pair of sneakers.

Bhathija occasionally attends sneaker conventions and has once traveled to Seattle, WA for a pair of exclusive Seattle Sole Collector Air Max 95's, which he claims to be very blessed for acquiring them.

"I do it for me. I got love for



The collection of Jordan sneakers

PHOTO BY: IGOR MELLO

the game. I got love for sneakers. I love the history behind it, just everything about it," said Bhathija. "I go and show my face at certain sneaker events, I got love for the game and the people show love back but I'm not involved in any groups, I do it for me."

According to sophomore, Woody Antoine, he owns almost 200 pairs of sneakers; about 90 of them Jordans and 100 of them are Nikes. He keeps them anywhere from his bedroom, bed, closet and underneath his computer desk.

"Right now I could have had a car, a very nice car, but I chose to pick up my shoe game instead," said Antoine who has spent \$500

on the Jordan Defining Moments Package.

Antoine does not buy shoes through the Internet. In fact, his strategy is to camp out the evening before the release day after the mall closes.

"I've spent the night outside the mall knowing I have a felony," said Antoine. "It was the craziest thing I've ever done. I spent enough nights out there to probably know that I do not want to be a bum."

Antoine claims that he has found many ways to earn money for his shoes such as "hustling dudes in basketball," racing his car, drawing for people and by

working his regular job.

"I've been in this game for at least six to seven years now and over the years I've picked up a few friends along the way. They kind of like my audacity of staying outside and doing whatever I have to do to get what I got to get," said Antoine.

The men on the campus aren't the only ones collecting sneakers; females have drawn in to the fad as well.

"Basically, I just like the fashion of it. I don't really follow anybody I just like it," said sophomore Jackie Anthony.

Anthony, influenced by her brother in New York, has only been in the sneaker game for three years owning 43 pairs of sneakers, 23 of them are Jordans. Anthony claims she is not into the sneaker game as "hard" as she was in the past. Anthony tends to purchase sneakers that are not in her size and "flip" them for a profit.

"Basically I waited in line for the black and green 13's (Air Jordan). I stood in line for three hours and I knew they didn't have it in my size so I waited in line and got them so I could flip them," said Anthony.

Some do it for the love of the game, some do it for Michael Jordan, some do it for the style and some do it for the hype, but one thing is clear the sneaker trend is definitely taking the world, and BCC by storm.

Faculty Union Still Frustrated Over Contract

BUZZ LAMB
STAFF WRITER

As soon as the faculty gets the final wording of the revised contract there will be a vote to ratify or deny. The protracted bargaining efforts of the administration and the faculty have been going on for nearly a year. Negotiations with the BCC Chapter of the United Faculty of Florida (UFF/BCC) and BCC Administration began in April of 2007 and 14 negotiating sessions were held during the time period between April 12 and September 17.

The BCC Board of Trustees declared an impasse in mid-December and requested a Special Magistrate to intervene in an attempt to resolve what appeared to be an insurmountable situation. Dr. Edna Chun, VP Human Resources & Equity, said that the budget cuts mandated by the legislature have made this a very difficult year for the negotiations.

"The Board of Trustees met on March 12 and looked at the language that the Special Magistrate had and they looked at the language that we wanted and in some cases they didn't like any of it and in some cases they liked some of it so they kind of came in between," lamented Debbie

Nycz, UFF/BCC President.

Nycz said the Board also approved the increased healthcare out-of-pocket co-pay and benefit adjustments that were recommended by the college's health care task-force and she added that there is supposed to be an open enrollment period before the changes go into effect. "Unfortunately, we don't have anything in writing in the contract or in policy concerning a health care task force," Nycz said.

J. David Armstrong, Jr., President of BCC has indicated that he wants to continue a task-force and has asked Nycz to submit names of faculty members willing to serve in that capacity. According to Dr. Chun, the Board stated that the President currently has the authority to seat a health care task force and they felt it would not need to be stated in policy or in the contract since it already exists. According to Chun, Trustee Paul Tanner rationalized the Board's position by saying that possibly in future years there might be a national health care program so the Board wanted to maintain flexibility to adapt to change.

Nycz said she feels one of the most egregious issues in the contract has to do with seniority. "We wanted the seniority rule

to be written into departmental decision making, not just in a random manner. In the past, when someone transferred into a different department their seniority level reverted to just before the new hires, one step up from the very, very bottom," she said. Nycz said most of the departments in the college now realize that this is an unfair practice and are making adjustments accordingly, but added that there is no definitive policy in place.

Dr. Chun said that there are two places in the current contract which define seniority. "We actually agreed with the special magistrate and UFF on that point. He said we should have a universal definition of seniority in the contract. Our solution is to adopt a definition that is consistent with those two existing definitions," she said. Chun said that the college would prefer not to get involved in departmental governance. "They [departments] have the right to make those decisions."

According to Nycz, at their February 27, 2008 meeting the Board of Trustees passed a one time across-the-board base-building salary hike of \$1,000 for full-time faculty. Nycz said she anticipates the contract will be ratified by the faculty because

the college recently distributed the increase the Board approved. "Since they have already given us our raise, I don't really see the faculty voting it [the contract] down because then they [the faculty] would have to give all of the money back and I don't see them doing that" she said.

According to Dr. Chun, not only did the college agree to the \$1,000 increase but, as a concession to UFF, they added a salary increase of two percent across-the-board retroactive to July 1, 2007 as well. Their original stance called for no adjustment to the salary schedule. "Once the Board approved the salary increases, we wanted to move as quickly as possible to make sure that our faculty had what they needed," she said.

Chun went on to say that Candice Hunter, Maria Andre, Pauline Anderson and Shirley Hoefer unselfishly came back into the downtown office during Spring Break to calculate the raises retroactively so that the money would be in the paychecks on March 14. "If it wasn't for the tireless effort of those four ladies we could not have gotten this done so quickly. We owe them a great deal of thanks," she said. "We were very anxious to get people paid because this process has been so long. That was our

preeminent concern"

Chun said that the two negotiating teams would try to finalize the implementation of the remaining issues which are at impasse at a meeting planned for Friday (March 21). Results of that meeting were not available at press time. "It's not done yet, but most of the major items have been addressed," Chun said prior to the meeting.

According to an e-mail sent by UFF chief negotiator, Daniel Rieger, if the faculty approves the contract then all of the items tentatively agreed upon by the administration and UFF/BCC, along with the Special Magistrate's recommendations (that were accepted by both parties) and the two items imposed by the Board will become part of the contract. If the faculty votes to reject the contract then only the two items imposed by the Board will become part of the contract for the remainder of the 2007-2008 year.

With sweeping budget cuts by the Florida Legislature affecting the educational system the worst, next year's negotiations could become more contentious. And guess what...negotiations for the next contract will begin again in April and the ink will hardly be dry on the old one.

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Marley and Me filmed on Hollywood Beach

GINA FERRO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The weather could not be better to portray Florida's tropical climate. The sun is shining through the palm trees and the wind blowing just enough to sway their branches above the boardwalk. Scenes from the family comedy, *Marley and Me*, starring Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston, Alan Arkin and Eric Dane, were being filmed at Nicks Bar and Grill on Hollywood Beach on March 12. The restaurant has been used in other films like "*Body Heat*," and "*It's All About the Benjamins*." "We are always corporative and willing to help when approached about filming at our location," says Robert Ferro, co-owner.

Extras swarmed the area for their shot at being a part of the movie as early as 6 a.m. Although they only serve as a delightful backdrop, and paid \$100 a day and free lunch, the chance to be seen in a major film is rewarding enough. "It's cool just to be around and see how things are done on a real set," said Nicole Otero, an extra and huge

Wilson fan. During breaks, Eric Dane, of the hit television series, "*Grey's Anatomy*," was friendly and willing to snap photos with excited fans.

Directed by David Frankel, the movie is adapted from a memoir by John Grogan, who tells of life with his neurotic dog, Marley. The film is about a couple that wants to have children so they get a dog first to adjust, but he proves to be a nuisance making them wonder if they could handle the task of being parents. When the children actually come,

the story becomes heartwarming as Marley loves them and is an important part of their growing family.

Scenes for "*Marley and Me*" will be filmed throughout South Florida throughout May 28, 2008. For additional information on how to become an extra in the film, contact Casting Director Lori Wyman, 305-354-3901.

EXTRAS
SWARMED THE
AREA FOR THEIR
SHOT AT BEING
A PART OF THE
MOVIE AS EARLY
AS 6 A.M.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHERNTRAVELNEWS.COM
A view of Hollywood Beach after its recent renovations.

Viva Las Vegas via the HardRock Casino

THE SEMINOLE HARDROCK HOTEL AND CASINO GETS NEW VEGAS STYLE SLOTS.

JERILYN DE LOS RIOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Jan. 29 at 11:30 a.m. the Seminole Hard Rock Casino opened its doors to a new type of stranger.

Earlier this year, on Jan. 7, an approval by the U.S. Department of the Interior made way for the ordering of 15,000 Vegas style slots. With the first shipment of 1,000 Vegas style slots arriving in time for the spring break holiday.

The machines will be dispersed through the 145,000 square foot casino, including both the new high limit gaming room and the smoking area.

"Jan. 29 will be a historic day for the Seminole Tribe," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

non- "This is good for our players, good for the Seminole Tribe and good for the State of Florida."

While driving down the turnpike, there are billboards that the casino has implemented to enlighten and make you aware, that our new friends, the Vegas style slots, are to only be played by patrons of 21 years of age.

Last year

Governor Christ signed a compact agreement with the Seminole tribe of south Florida not allowing players of ages 20 and minor to participate in the Class III Slots.

This is not to be confused with the idea that 18 year olds can no longer play slots.

The younger generations of risk takers are still allowed to

come in and play the Bingo Slot machines in which they have always enjoyed. In addition 18 year olds are more than welcome to also play poker.

What is the difference between the two styles of slots? According to Gary Bitner, the Seminole Hard Rock Spokesperson, "The basic

"THIS IS GOOD FOR OUR PLAYERS, GOOD FOR THE SEMINOLE TRIBE AND GOOD FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA."
- MITCHELL CYPRESS, VICE-PRESIDENT OF SEMINOLE TRIBE FLORIDA

After getting in contact with a Seminole Hard Rock Spokesperson Gary Bitner, he explained that in the later part of



HEATHER COOPER AND
ANTHONY SEDLEY
LAYOUT EDITOR AND STAFF
WRITER

For those living in South Florida, there are a lot of places to go during holidays like St. Patrick's Day, but sometimes for even the most connected local those places grow boring. For cases like that, here are some places to check out during a night out on the town.

The Field Irish Pub and Eatery

The Irish are stereotypically known for their strong drinks and musical jigs, but in the case of The Field, it is that and so much more. It is an Irish pub and eatery for those who like dark mood lighting, unique décor, delicious ethnic food and good music.

Located on the north side of Griffin Road in Dania Beach, The Field is an easy to find place, although parking maybe another issue. On the weekends, it is hard to find an empty table because of not only the food and drinks, but also of the local band called, Celtic Bridge. People can enjoy a hearty meal of shepherd's pie, Gaelic steak, or drunken chicken and enjoy traditional Irish ballads.

Fortunately, this pub doesn't just provided entertainment on the weekends. On Tues. the pub features Joe Dougherty & Padraic Keane. Rod Stewart impressionists perform every Wednesday in a show called the

Hot Rod Show, and on Thursday through Saturday the Celtic Bridge performs. Along with good music, the eatery offers the usual and more authentic drinks that will not run up the bill.

The pub has five dining rooms along with a n

various whiskey The pub has a relaxing atm

outside covered patio area where a guest can enjoy their own swing upon request. Other popular dishes on the menu are their famous Irish potato soup, Irish sausage rolls, bangers and mash, and the corn beef and cabbage. Of course Guinness is overstocked and available, but the pub also offers other authentic beers such as Harp and

service that singles out to dr or those on a fa enjoy.

Ye Olde and R



PHOTO BY ANTHONY SEDLEY.

Step up r

D'ANDRA MCINTOSH
STAFF WRITER

The sequel to the 2006 summer hit, "*Step Up 2: The Streets*" delivers intense dancing far outdoing its predecessor (though that's not really saying much).

Newcomer Briana Evigan stars as Andie West, a new student at the prestigious Maryland School of the Arts (MSA). Andie struggles to fit in while still trying to be herself, do her own thing and follow her dream of dancing with an underground Baltimore street crew.

Catching the eye of the school's hottest hip-hop dancer, you're

Chase Hoffm star w to br his m come form talent to c Baltim rawest dancin Streets her f 410, older direct must everyo "It's n you're

YE old Falcon Pub and Restaurant is a British pub made specifically for the beer enthusiast. They serve on tap over 30 different beers and over a 130 domestic and imported in the bottle. Beside a surplus of beer and

over double its size and created a menu to match. Popular dishes are the fish and chips platter and the Scottish meat pie. Some of the many authentic beers they offer are Franziskaner, Spaten Oktoberfest and Yuengling. Even thought the pub now has new ownership, the quality and experience of the Falcon pub hasn't changed. The food is still amazing and that atmosphere is just as inviting. The Ye Olde Falcon Pub & Restaurant is a great place to go with friends.

Playwright Irish Pub and Eatery

Written into the books as one of South Beach's most popular, and only authentic pub, the Playwright Irish Pub and Restaurant has no problem standing out among the sea of trendy bars and modern clubs. Inside you can't help but notice the stained glass inserts on the rich wooden bar. This restaurant's menu features the traditional Irish foods such as corned beef and cabbage, and fish and chips. Aside from its great looks, you can catch sports from the United Kingdom at this bar. On any popular night, expect Playwright to be crowded, especially for sporting events such as soccer matches featuring Manchester United or Arsenal. When these clubs are playing, all the televisions in the pub will be tuned into the match and you can hear the crowd singing the team's song in unison.

good food, the pub also has plenty of entertainment. Every Mon. the pub host a karaoke night, and they have the NFL Ticket on DirecTV, so the important game is never missed. The Falcon Pub, located on University Drive in Davie, started out as a simple bar in 1989, and since then has grown

Falcon Pub restaurant



that will, ironically, affect us all. Down the responsibly making decisions hatch!

NEW WATER



PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYWRIGHTIRISHPUB.COM

St. Patrick's Day to become a national holiday?

JERILYN DE LOS RIOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Making St. Patrick's Day a national holiday has been the current goal of the Guinness Beer Corporation.

The idea is for Guinness to receive a million signatures so they can present the petition to Congress lobbying for St. Patrick's Day to be a legal national holiday. The campaign is called Proposition 3-17.

The Guinness corporation has handled the petition in a mature and professional manner. The

site proposition317.com/stpats.html, has only allowed people who are 21 and over to sign the petition. The petition was also available at liquor stores and bars.

Guinness could not provide any further information on Proposition 3-17, due to their social responsibility code, in which they state, "We do not supply merchandise, marketing materials, literature, or company and brand information for any of our adult beverage products to private individuals or parties where there may be potential underage consumers as with college and university institution attendees."

Here's to you Guinness, for responsibly making decisions



From Alpha to Caliente

THE MIAMI HEAT'S SEASON HAS A NUMBER OF FUN THEMED GAMES.

ANDRES LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Every year for daylight saving time, we are told to move our clocks an hour ahead and thus we are able to appreciate a little more sunshine out of the day. It appears that this season the Miami Heat are also hoping for a little sunshine of their own and have decided to take steps to make that a reality. One of the most notable moves the Miami Heat made recently was to bring in new talent to their line up. It is with that same trend of creating new opportunities for fans to enjoy, that the Heat was able to bring in

large crowds to see a season full of theme nights that made thousands roar while watching the game. This season there have been nights that have ranged from Military Heroes' Night and Dare Program Night all the way to Caribbean Night and Latin Night. Most recently the Heat had one of their most exciting themed nights yet. They held, on two separate occasions, what they call Latin Night in which the entire night had the vibe that made the tropical juices flow with an invigorating immersion of passion. It was obvious to see such passion being displayed throughout the night, especially as the Miami Heat dancers danced to the contagious beat of Shakira's "My Hips Don't Lie," showcasing the dance moves that have made

them the fan favorite among thousands who helped them get crowned in 2007 as the NBA's favorite dance team according to NBA.com. During this outing, fans felt the enormous sound speakers of various styles of

called Greek Night. At this game fans who purchase group tickets in Uptown, will receive the group discounted price of \$25 dollars a ticket and it will include a pre-game social that starts at 6:30 p.m. and contains free



PHOTO BY DENIS BANCROFT

Heat dancers spicing things up.

Latin music such as Merengue and Regueton. The Heat have designated a special area for fans to get the most of these fun fill nights, and that area is called Uptown. In Uptown all sorts of great magical things seem to unexpectedly happen. Some of these great things are the occasional appearances of The Hoop Troop and Heat Dancers during which they have been known to handout all kinds of giveaways. Now if the cliché is true, the Heat's past season history is a good indicator of what the future will bring. It should be a pleasurable experience to see the next theme night and what will happen to all those who attend. At 7:30 p.m. in the American Airlines Arena on April 11th, the Heat face the Memphis Grizzlies at home on what is being

food available to those who wear the specific wrist band that will identify them as part of the attendees for Greek Night. Along with free food, the residents of Uptown will be entertained by a live dj and have the opportunity to compete in contests at the social. It is being called a Greek Night for the many sororities and fraternities housed at South Florida Colleges. Those in attendance are encouraged to wear their Greek jerseys to that Friday night game. The Heat have even set up something that continues the fun, which is the deal that 10% of the of the proceeds of the amount that is a purchased from a group will be donated to a charity in honor of the organization. So..it seems that on April 11th many will be saying Opa to a good time!

Tickets can be purchased directly through Group Sales Representatives Adam Ramos at 786-777-4289.

needs to step down

Collins (Robert man), a rising who's looking break out of old, the two together to a crew of ed misfits compete in more's biggest, t street- ing battle, "The s". Going against ormer crew, the and Chase's brother/dance or, Andie prove to one that ot where e from.



PHOTO COURTESY KOMOV.COM

It's where you're at." The movie, though filled with an indisputably talented cast, is a walking, talking and dancing cliché. The tale of an outsider trying to fit in, asking for one last chance to prove their worth has been used over and over again that it no longer really tugs at those heart-strings and brings out sympathy. The film is a perfect indicator of how

a good trailer can make a mediocre movie seem so much cooler. The soundtrack, however, was both sweet, fun and a must-download. The dancing is break-dancing at its most modern and best and showcases how far and how young and diverse the genre has become. But it would really be the only reason to see the movie. There is no witty script or heart-wrenching romance, but there is gritty and vaguely memorable hip-hop dancing to make this movie enjoyable .

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I G B O E F M S P D C A I B Y
Y X O G W U E O V T S R R D T
P H E O D E H O N L K J I I F
C E G G S C Y T T I B Y T T I
G A Z G I Z G N I D G N I W F

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bye-bye
Choo-choo
Chop-chop
Dum-dum


Fifty-fifty
Gee-gee
Go-go
Itty-bitty

Mumbo-jumbo
Riprap
See-saw
Tidbit

Tip-top
Wingding
Zig-zag

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Bling.

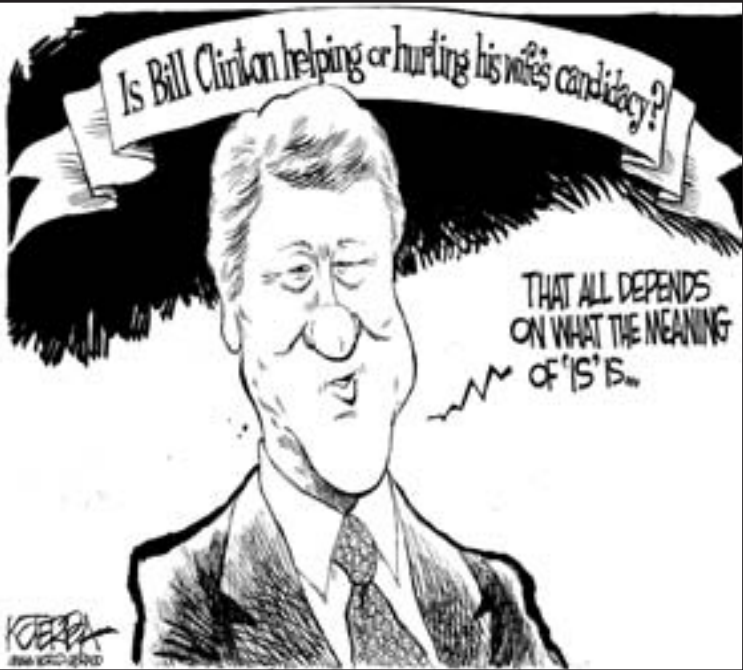


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Super Crossword

A PLUS

- ACROSS

1 Buddy

4 Verne hero

8 Cantata composer

12 Goo

17 "— corny as Kansas ..."

19 Orenburg's river

20 Literary pseudonym

21 Like Schoenberg's music

22 Like Felix Unger?

25 Act like Holmes

26 "— Card" ('90 film)

27 Comic Orson

28 Bungle

30 Sweater letter

31 On the nose

34 Skinny novelist?

39 Get on

40 Rocker Tom

41 Curly coif

42 "Saving Private Ryan" extras

45 Mollo or Magnani

47 Reggae's Peter

49 Offer an apple?

52 Pinnacle

54 Dawns, to Donne
- 56 Coarse flour

58 "— on My Pillow" ('58 song)

60 Stiller's partner

62 Tread the boards

63 Man from Munich

65 Ponderosa, for one

68 Mrs. Zeus

71 Mineral suffix

72 Sgt., e.g.

73 Gamble

75 Extremely encouraging individual?

79 Kitten's comment

80 Sharpton and

81 Hockey great

82 A sweeping success?

83 Calliope's sister

85 '66 Tommy Roe tune

88 Merino male

90 Shiva worshiper

93 Throw forcefully

94 "The Ramayana" heroine

97 Actress Samantha

100 Jury member

101 Economize
- 103 Calligraphy supply

105 Land in the sea

106 Longing

107 Jets, Mets, or Nets

109 Release

111 Hideaway

114 Dishonest anchorman?

118 New Jersey's Pine —

121 Port: abbr.

122 Director Lupino

123 "Dies —"

125 Be of use

127 Bring to light

130 Corrupt college official?

135 Acid's opposite

136 Bronte heroine

137 Ice-cream thickener

138 Writer Hunter

139 June birthstone

140 Paper quantity

141 Stink

142 Prior to, to Prior
- DOWN

1 BB-gun sound

2 "That's —" ('53 tune)

3 Paint ingredient

4 Lots of laughs

5 Part of NATO

6 Hayes of westerns

7 Crafter's need

8 Publisher Cerf

9 Ginger —

10 Security grp.

11 Couldn't stand

12 Canonized Mlle.

13 King's "Salem's —"

14 Motionless

15 "— Man" ('78 song)

16 Singer John

18 Farm sight

21 Directionless

23 Native Peruvian

24 Yarn

29 Singer Chris

32 Soho streetcar

33 Carson's successor

35 Particle

36 AMEX rival

37 Scacchi of "The Player"

38 Seascape painter

40 Cisco's chum

42 Pin

43 The — Capades

44 Einstein's chair?

46 New Deal

agcy.

48 Convent wear

50 Dentist's fee?

51 Vestige

53 Geologic division

55 Cook veggies

57 Make chair legs

59 Chilly powder?

61 Social worker?

64 Swerve

66 Word with pork or karate

67 Toast start

69 Dietary abbr.

70 TV's "Hearts —"

73 Big party

74 Cary of "The Princess Bride"

76 Bit of a beach?

77 Leisuredly, to Leoncavallo

78 Team scream

84 Palm oil?

86 Lloyd Webber musical

87 Principle

89 Booker T.'s group

91 Billy — Williams

92 Fancy planter

95 Slope

96 Cain's victim

98 — breve

99 Bring up

102 Gauguin setting

104 Feminist Gloria

108 Pie ingredient?

110 Greek sandwich

112 Neighbor of Turkey

113 Variety show

114 Tight

115 Actress Berry

116 Slezak or Alexander

117 Consumer advocate

118 Stocking shade

119 Credulous

120 Indian instrument

124 Way over yonder

126 Director Adrian

128 Roller-coaster unit

129 Under the weather

131 Hook's mate

132 Southern constellation

133 Scottish refusal

134 Annoy
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 17 | | | 18 | | 19 | | | | 20 | | | | | 21 | | | | |
| 22 | | | | 23 | | | | | 24 | | | | | 25 | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | | | 27 | | | | | 28 | 29 | | | | 30 | |
| | 31 | | | | 32 | 33 | | | 34 | | 35 | 36 | | | | 37 | 38 | |
| | | | | 39 | | | | | 40 | | | | | 41 | | | | |
| 42 | 43 | 44 | | | 45 | | 46 | | | 47 | | 48 | | 49 | | | 50 | 51 |
| 52 | | | 53 | | 54 | | | | 55 | | 56 | | 57 | | 58 | | | 59 |
| 60 | | | | 61 | | | 62 | | | | | 63 | | 64 | | | | |
| | | 65 | | | 66 | 67 | | 68 | | 69 | 70 | | 71 | | | | 72 | |
| 73 | 74 | | | 75 | | | 76 | | | | 77 | | | | 78 | | 79 | |
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| 85 | | | 86 | 87 | | | | | | 88 | | 89 | | | 90 | | 91 | 92 |
| 93 | | | | | | 94 | | 95 | 96 | | 97 | | | 98 | 99 | | 100 | |
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| 127 | | | | | | | | | 130 | 131 | 132 | | | | 133 | 134 | | |
| 135 | | | | | | | | | 136 | | | | 137 | | | | 138 | |
| 139 | | | | | | | | | 140 | | | | | 141 | | | | 142 |
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Miami Heat places all hopes in the draft

ANTHONY SEDLEY
STAFF WRITER

Can the Miami Heat get a do over for the season?

Their hopes of reaching the postseason this year were shot down months before the All-Star break, and with head coach and team President Pat Riley taking time away from his coaching duties to set out and scout the top NCAA college basketball these past few weeks, the only real murmur that seems to be surrounding this franchise is, “who will the Heat take with their first pick in the NBA draft?”

In past weeks Riley left the team for a few days and traveled to State College, Penn., to see Indiana prospect Eric Gordon. The 6-foot-4 freshman shooting guard, is projected by many sports analysts to be taken in the NBA lottery behind Kansas State Michael Beasley, and Memphis guard Derrick Rose.

“Help is on the way,” Heat guard Dwyane Wade said in an ESPN interview.

The help better be very, very good. With superstar Wade done for the season the Heat is desperately searching for answers.

The Heat has the best chance at getting the number one pick overall in the NBA lottery with just 12 wins. The lottery, which

usually takes place in the fourth week of May, consists of the 14 of 30 teams who failed to make the playoffs. The teams with the least amount of wins get a higher chance at securing the number










one pick in the June 26 draft.

Beasley, also a freshman planning on leaving early, is considered by many ESPN and NCAA analysts, to be the best player to be entering the draft this June. Starting at the forward position, the 6-foot-10 Beasley has averaged 26.5 points per game, 12.4 rebounds per game and shooting around 400 percent from beyond the three-point arch. In late February, Beasley had 44 points and three rebounds in a six point loss to Baylor.

If Miami chooses to draft Beasley, where does this leave current Heat forward Udonis Haslem? Does the Heat organization kick Haslem to the curb, or do they keep the man from the 2006 championship team as a mentor for the young Beasley?

What if Miami decides to go the other route and draft Gordon? What then happens to the injury prone Wade? Gordon and Wade both play the number two point guard position on the floor, but it is almost guaranteed that the Heat would let their star player go free for an unproven 20-year-old rookie.

Whichever way the ping pong balls will bounce in late May, the Heat is determined to right this ship and direct it towards another NBA Championship.

		Michael Beasley 6'10 235lbs Forward - Kansas State - Freshman 26.5 ppg, 12.4 rpg, .389 3point%, 1.2apg
		Eric Gordon, 6'4 215lbs Guard - Indiana - Freshman 21.3 ppg, 3.3rpg, .347 3point%, 2.5apg
		Derrick Rose 6'3 205lbs Guard - Memphis - Freshman 13.9 ppg, 4.2 rpg, .337 3point%, 4.5apg
		O.J. Mayo 6'5 200lbs Guard - USC - Freshman 20.8 ppg, 4.6 rpg, .408 3point%, 3.3apg
		Kevin Love 6'10 271lbs Center - UCLA - Freshman 17.1 ppg, 10.6 rpg, 1.1bpg, 1.9 apg

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Grab your brackets March Madness is here

IGOR MELLO
STAFF WRITER

Let the madness begin! It's March and that can only mean one thing; grab your pencils and start filling out your brackets because the NCCA tournament is now upon us. 31 teams have punched their tickets to the big dance through an automatic bid and there were only 34 at-large bids remaining to complete the field of 65.

North Carolina (32-2) led by the gutsy forward Tyler Hansbrough, won the ACC Tournament and thus was awarded the number one overall seed as they were placed in the East region, as they will play in Raleigh, NC. The Tar Heels have managed to win it all 11 out of the last 16 times they have won the ACC tournament.

The East region is also highlighted by second seeded Tennessee (29-4), third seeded Louisville (24-8) and fourth seed

Washington State (24-8). Among those powerhouses, this region also include Cinderella teams such as Butler, which merely lost three games this entire season and George Mason who defied all the critics again and captured another Colonial Athletic Association title. The Patriots pulled off one of the greatest upsets in the NCAA Tournament as they advanced all the way to the Final Four.

The Memphis Tigers (33-1) led by freshmen guard Derrick Rose won its third consecutive Conference USA Tournament,

number three seed Stanford (26-7), who were also runner up in the Pac 10. University of Miami also showcased in the South region as the seventh seed. This is the Hurricanes sixth appearance and the first trip to the big dance since 2002.

Kansas (31-3) earned the number one seed in the Midwest region by defeating Texas in the Big 12 tournament. The Jayhawks, are paired with number two seed Georgetown and number three seed Wisconsin, who won the Big 10 conference. The Cinderellas in this region include Gonzaga, Southern Cal (led by freshmen O.J. Mayo) and Kansas State (led by another freshmen Michael Beasley, who has been rumored to be the number one pick in the NBA Draft this year).

The number one seed in the West region was awarded to the Pac 10 champions UCLA (31-3). The Bruins appear to be in the toughest bracket as they are paired with second seed Duke, an upstart third seed Xavier and fourth seed Connecticut. Other teams to watch for in this

region are West Virginia led by the nation's hottest player Joe that advanced to the final last year; Ohio State and Florida



North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough (center)

Alexander. Another team on an unprecedented run is Georgia.

The Bulldogs were last in the SEC with a 17-16 overall record and only 4-12 in the conference. Remarkably, Georgia won four consecutive games, including two in one day as the city of Atlanta was damaged by severe thunderstorms including a possible tornado that ripped through the Georgia Dome on March 14. Georgia captured its first ever SEC tournament since 1983.

Due to Georgia crashing into the big dance, the two schools

were snubbed out of the dance. This marks the first time since 1980 that the finalists from the previous year failed to reach the tournament the next year.

Among the bubbles that were burst were Virginia Tech (19-13), Arizona State (19-12) and Syracuse (19-13). Kentucky, Baylor, Kansas State and St. Josephs are among the last four teams that sneaked in to the big dance.

The Final Four will be held in San Antonio, TX and ironically on April 5 and not in the month of March.



Joey Dorsey showing the trophy

earning the number one seed in the South region. The Tigers are surrounded by number two seed Texas (28-6), which finished second overall in the Big 12, and

Florida Panthers finally hunting for playoffs

ANTHONY SEDLEY
STAFF WRITER

Hey! Florida Panthers, knock it off! Or else we might need to start paying some attention to you.

The Florida Panthers are in playoff contention.

Yes, the Florida Panthers. The South Florida professional hockey team everyone seems to ignore has a good shot at making it into NHL postseason this year. Anchored by stellar play in the net by goalie Craig Anderson, the Panthers are riding a seven game winning streak.

Anderson replaced the usual starting goalie, Tomas Vokoun, after he started having trouble keeping the pucks out of the Panthers net. After shutting out the Boston Bruins and New York Islanders earlier this month,

Anderson stopped 25 of 27 shots against the Pittsburgh Penguins on March 6. "I think a lot of the credit has to go to Craig Anderson because when we started this streak, he basically won a couple of games by himself," Vokoun said, in an interview with the Miami Herald, "Both games we won 1-0. He played unbelievably both games. Playing well or not, we won those games, and it kind of jump-started the whole team."

Hopefully those wins created a big enough jump start to continue the current winning streak and end the season on a high note, making the playoffs. Something the Panthers haven't done since 2000.


With a big win against the Atlanta Thrashers last Sunday, the Panthers are gaining ground on

the flopping Philadelphia Flyers who are losing grasp on the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Panthers are two points behind the slumping Flyers with 78 points. The Panthers are

also behind two teams fighting for the final playoff spot. The Buffalo Sabres also have 79 points and the Washington Capitals have 78 points. The Panthers and Capitals, who happen to be

division rivals, play each other two more times before the season ends. Whichever team wins these two games will most likely be the deciding factors for which team makes it into the postseason.

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Tomas Vokoun deflects a shot

Seahawks basketball wins conference title

IGOR MELLO
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2004, the Seahawks Men's Hoops team has been crowned the champions of the Southern Conference as they defeated Miami-Dade College on the road in Kendall 69-65. Sophomore's Tony Dennison and Miklos Szabo led the team with 20 points while Szabo cleaned the boards with 18 rebounds.

The Coach Robert Starkman, who is in his seventh season as the Head Coach of the Men's team, has won his third conference title (third in six years) and punched his ticket to the FCCAA State Basketball Tournament. Although

the team finished off the season 23-8, they were seeded seventh out of the tournament's eight teams.

"We have a pretty talented team," said the Hungarian forward/center Szabo, who led the nation in rebounding with over 15 boards per game. "It has surprised me that we lost eight games."

The Seahawks tipped off their campaign at the State Tournament in Mariana, FL March 5 as they overcame an eight-point halftime deficit, three ties and nine lead changes to sneak past fourth ranked Polk CC and advance to the semifinals 78-73.

Dennison led the pack with a

game-high 25 points, followed by Devon Peterson with 21 points and Szabo with three vital blocks.

"We're talented and unselfish. We play together, there's a lot of teams out there that can score but we have a lot of talent," said guard Dennison.

The humble Seahawks were one game away from the FCCAA Final as they reached the final four.

Unfortunately they were outmatched by the second ranked Okaloosa Walton College, which has only lost 3 times this season, 95-74.

While the team shot 46

percent and Peterson had a career game with 33 points, they shot poor from the three-point line at 25 percent and from the free-throw stripes shooting a lousy 50 percent.

"Don't forget these kids are going to be moving on to the next level, so my job is to make sure they get it done in the classroom and here, the harder they work, the harder they'll become," said Coach Starkman.

There is no doubt that Coach Starkman's preaching has made an aspect to where the sophomores have decided to transfer to as Dennison and Szabo have both committed to Hofstra University.

Hofstra, an NCAA Division I university, is the largest private school on Long Island, NY.

"I learned to go out there and be a man because sooner or later all of this is going to end and education is most important," said Dennison, who will be going to his hometown Long Island, NY after attending high school there.

Although the Seahawks were one game away from reaching the tournament final, they should have five returning freshmen including center Greg Laffin, Or Shaltiel, Eric Rodriguez, Jamaal Bryant and Devon Peterson who put up 33 points in his last game as a freshmen.

Lady Hoops sneak their way in to States

IGOR MELLO
STAFF WRITER

A roller coaster 12-17 season that included a 2-12 start to the season, a six-game losing streak, a five-game winning streak and six games decided by merely six points or less gave the Lady Seahawks Basketball team the last spot in the FCCAA State Tournament in Mariana, FL.

Conference tiebreaker game at the central campus gym.

"It is tough to beat a team three times, the girls never gave up, even after being down early in the game," said Head Coach Scott Hermansen who orchestrated the turnaround for the squad this season. "They started hitting some shots, and kept their three point shooters from shooting, that was the difference."

"Our little girl (Sierra DeJesus) came in and played very well and hit a key three," said freshman guard Jordan Hamilton who scored 12 points in the tiebreaker game. "She played as hard as she could today."

Although the ladies played most of their home games on North Campus this season, they have managed to be undefeated in all of their five games in George E. Mayer Gymnasium at Central Campus. The players feel superstitious towards this home-court advantage.

"We are so superstitious right now, we never lost in this court, the rims are real friendly to us here and not everybody else, I guess they (opposing teams) might be cursed here," said Jadotte after their play-in game at home against PBCC.

"This builds our confidence way high for States."

The players feel confident on

The Lady Seahawks Cinderella season unfortunately came up short in Mariana, FL as they lost their opening game to Seminole CC 92-52. The ladies allowed over 90 points for only the third time this season and for the first time since Dec. 7. Cherizol led the team with 14 points and eight rebounds.

The ladies fell behind early as they only managed to put up 22 point in the first half and shot under 30 percent. At the end of the game they were outscored



The Hoops team gathers before the game.

PHOTO BY IGOR MELLO

"It was very important for us to make it to states, there were a lot of sophomores who didn't get the chance last year," said sophomore guard/foward Jessica Jadotte.

In order for the ladies to advance to the States they outlasted PBCC for the third time this season 73-56 in a Southern

The squad fell into a deficit early in the game, but as the game progressed the ladies gained momentum and didn't look back. The bench players helped the starters put the game out of reach in the second half, including a courageous effort from the 5-foot freshmen guard Sierra DeJesus.

Four out of the five starters scored in double digits including Tierra Allen who scored 21 points as well as Jessica Auguste's 17 points.

"We came out and showed out," said sophomore guard Auguste who normally averages a little over ten points per game.



Jordan Hamilton set for another point.

PHOTO BY IGOR MELLO

their way to States as they faced Seminole CC March 6 in the first round for the second time this season, losing to them on the road the first time 89-52.

"We have a good chance, we usually struggle against tall teams, but now we are playing against a smaller team so we should come out of there," said sophomore forward Arlande Cherizol who leads the nation in rebounding.

21-6 from points off of turnovers as they turned the ball over 23 times and were out rebounded 60-44 on the glass.

Although this is the end of the 07-08 season for the Lady Seahawks, things look promising for the ladies as they should have six returning freshmen next season, including guards Tierra Allen, Jordan Hamilton, and Sierra DeJesus.



Seahawks defensive formation.

PHOTO BY IGOR MELLO

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Does your money trust in God, or do you?



JERILYN DE LOS RIOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In God We Trust. This is the official national motto of the United States and our very own state of Florida.

The birth of this motto on our currency was largely promoted by many devout Christians submitting a request. This is due largely to the increased religious sentiment which existed during the American Civil War. In that time, around 1861, Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase received many appeals throughout the country, urging that the United States recognize God on United States coins.

As of November 2005, Michael Newdow, possibly America's best known atheist, has a new target in his personal war against God.

Newdow is known for his attempt to change the Pledge of Allegiance, by taking out the line "one nation, under God..." When he fought for this issue within his home state of California, a federal judge in Sacramento gave a ruling that the reciting of the pledge of allegiance in public schools is unconstitutional.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton, affirms that, "The

pledge's reference to one nation "under God" violates school children's right to be free from a coercive requirement to affirm God."

Newdow wants to win over the currency battle, and fight that In God We Trust should be removed from U.S. currency.

I believe this is a blatant disrespect to our nation, and to the many patriotic, citizens that have fought for our nation to incorporate the motto onto our currency.

A few unhappy people who are trying to make a political statement by trying to hurt and divide a nation that stands under God is only proving our nation's strength to stand for their beliefs.

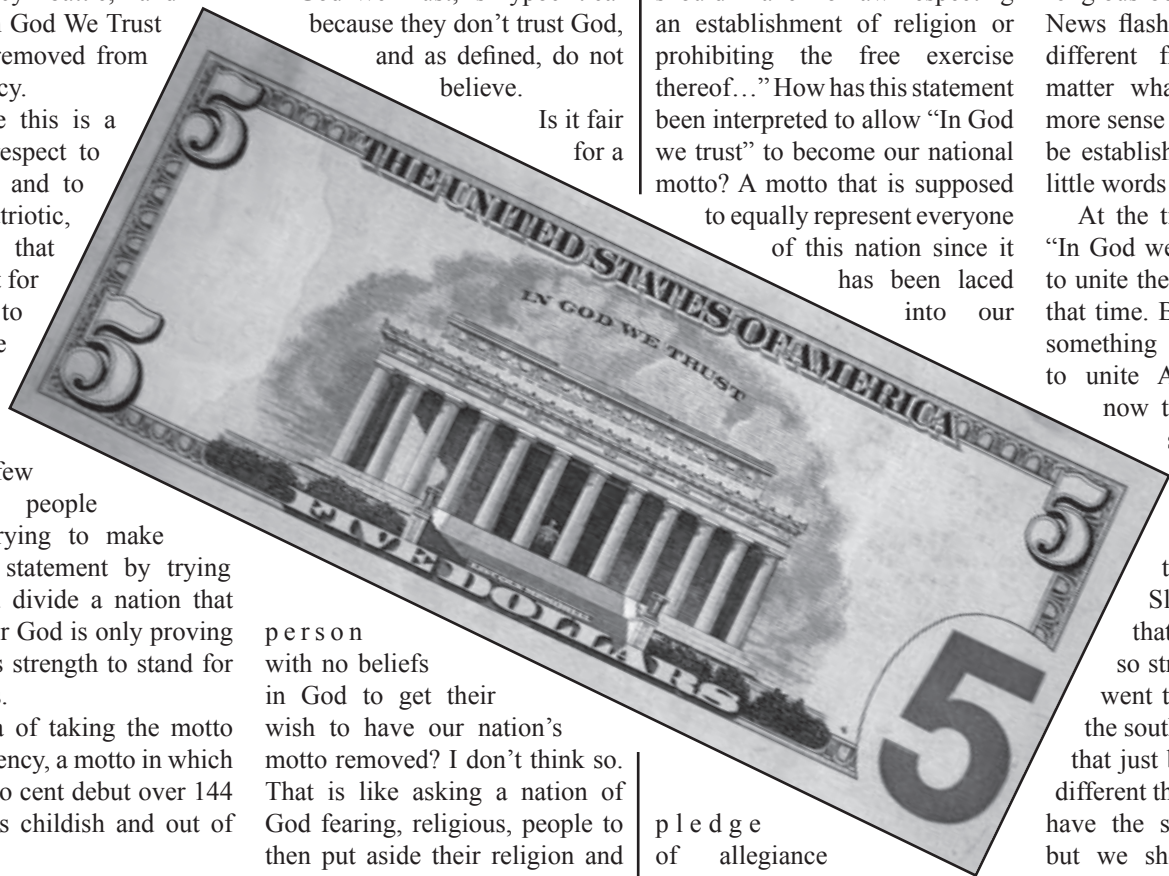
The idea of taking the motto off our currency, a motto in which made its two cent debut over 144 years ago is childish and out of hand.

By definition according to the American Heritage Dictionary;

an atheist is a noun meaning one who disbelieves or denies the existence of God or gods.

Atheist don't believe in God therefore many argue that having to handle money with our motto, In God We Trust, is hypocritical because they don't trust God, and as defined, do not believe.

Is it fair for a



person with no beliefs in God to get their wish to have our nation's motto removed? I don't think so. That is like asking a nation of God fearing, religious, people to then put aside their religion and deny themselves of their Lord to satisfy a group of individuals who may have lost their selves along the way in life.

For our nation to expunge In God We Trust from our currency would be in terms erasing a piece of history.

If the atheists want to erase anything they should erase their hate. Accept the fact that if they can't trust in any one or anything in life, they can trust in God or a god of their choice.

If you can't trust in God then who can you trust?

MY TWO CENTS: GOVERNMENT AND GOD DON'T MIX WELL



ANGELA OSBORNE
OPINION EDITOR

The First Amendment of the Constitution, the supreme law of our country states "Congress should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." How has this statement been interpreted to allow "In God we trust" to become our national motto? A motto that is supposed to equally represent everyone of this nation since it has been laced into our

living in a country that doesn't respect their beliefs.

America is supposedly a country that is tolerable of everyone, yet it wants to be openly discriminatory of people's religious beliefs, or lack thereof. News flash, people have beliefs different from your own, no matter what they might be. A more sense of unity and pride can be established by removing four little words from our currency.

At the time, 1864 the phrase "In God we trust" was supposed to unite the country, and it did at that time. But it's 2008 now and something that was supposed to unite America's citizens is now tearing it apart at the seams. The country

has surrendered beliefs that it once held dear in response to the changing times.

Slavery was a practice that half the country felt so strongly about that they went to war for it, but then the south grew up and learned that just because someone was different they still had rights. We have the same problems today but we should learn from the mistakes of the past and embrace and respect our differences.

By classifying the battle over religious tolerance as childish is in itself, a little out of hand. By no means do I want to challenge people's beliefs unprovoked, I'm just asking not to have theirs forced upon me. Atheists are leading the battle to have non-religious money but it really does effect everyone who doesn't attend service in a church. For those who believe, it wouldn't be fair to take God out of their lives, it just shouldn't be the government's choice in who I trust.

pledge of allegiance and stamped onto our money.

It is amazing that something that is so vital, such as separation of church state, one of the reasons why our country was founded has been so recklessly disregarded.

According to religioustolerance.org as of May 2007, only 71 percent of the country would classify themselves as Christian, with that percentage shrinking. So why does the other 29 percent and growing part of the population have to be reminded every time they look at they go to pay for something that they are



The nursing students deserve the old library

KIELIA SAMUELS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The US Department of Labor states that registered nurses constitute the largest health care occupation with over 2.5 million jobs. The occupation is projected to provide over 500,000 new jobs, which is among the largest growth for any occupation.

Broward Community College offers a high quality, accredited nursing program. But unlike Miami-Dade College, BCC has a program that is only offered on a full time basis. Therefore one can assume the measure of dedication required of students entering such an intensive program.

Before beginning the program, students are expected to complete a drug screening and background check among other requirements. It seems like a very serious program, and students are expecting not just the best

education out of it, but also proper facilities, that will allow them the proper hands-on experience required in their field.

While Central Campus boasts a state of the art clinical facility, South Campus nursing students are still practicing their clinical labs in portables. And with the massive growth expected in the nursing industry, the portables seem very "high school" for the students entering this growing field.

The largest section of the old library has been closed since last year, leaving many to wonder what the space will be used for. Nursing students would agree that the space would be a well needed improvement for the South Campus nursing program.

When approached regarding the issue, nursing student Verina Edwards expressed her hopes of an improved facility. "I love attending South Campus, the teachers and atmosphere is

great," said Edwards. "But I think if we have facilities available to improve the nursing program, then the institute should consider it."

South Campus nursing students currently attend their clinical classes in the portables on the campus. It is a pebble compare to the hospital-like facility that the Central Campus have available to their students.

The Central Campus facility looks like an actual hospital, it is very large and by the looks of it, a nursing student would feel more connected to the field, in a facility such as that. The South Campus facility is small, so it holds less people at a time.

South Campus needs to welcome its nursing students, with not just the great professors and staff they offer, but also with a competitive facility that is welcoming to everyone who is interested in this demanding field.

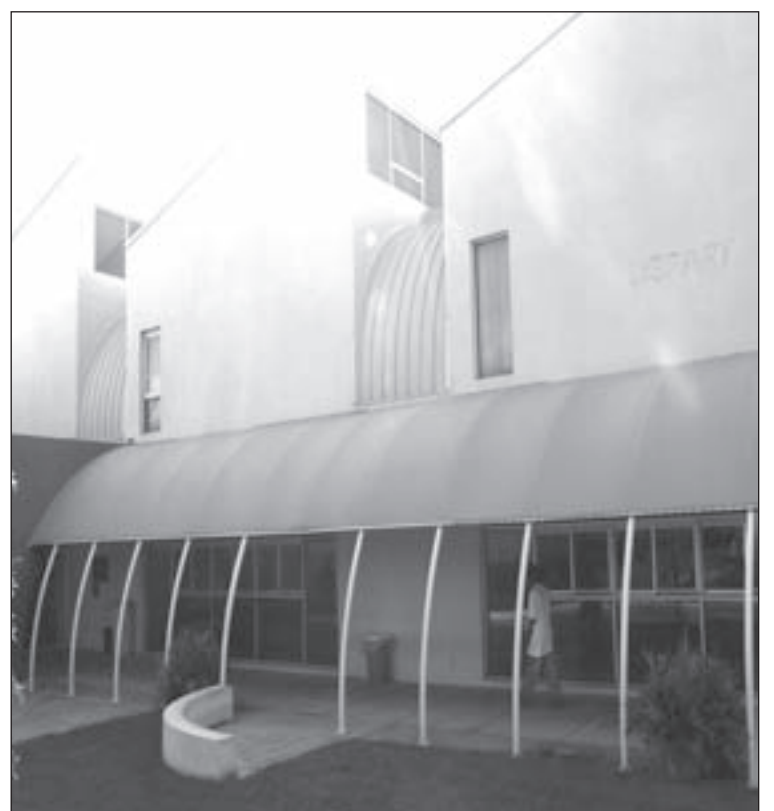


PHOTO BY ANGELA OSBORNE

Building 72 on South Campus, that used to house the library, now is mostly vacant.

Observer Mail Bag

Dear Editor, In reference to the February 25, 2008 article, Smokers Lament Designations, I found that several points were incorrect. First, smoking in non-designated areas is not a violation of the BCC Code of Conduct. During the past year, the campus has created designated smoking areas and enforcement has not been addressed. As the North Campus Dean of Students, I believe that the vast majority of students will abide and respect the campus community and appropriately self-monitor. Second, because this is not considered a “disciplinary infraction,” noncompliance would not be made part of the student’s permanent record. I apologize for any confusion that this article may have caused. The campus will take a proactive stance to notify our students of the new designated areas to ensure that all constituents are aware. This is a positive initiative to improve the campus environment.

*Thank you,
Peter Barbatis*

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Dear Editor, In the past are the days when schools were only a place to learn. In the classrooms, students and faculty could breathe the safety of the surrounding but not anymore. Flags are down in North Illinois University because a tragedy invaded the lives of its students. A gunman decided to open fire against students who were only attending a science lecture. Isn’t familiar this scenario? It has happened before, and it seems that after the massacres in Columbine, 1999, and Virginia Tech last year, shooting in places of study are becoming more frequent. In fact, there was a time when only in movies tragedies like the last Thursday happened.

Such incidents make students think twice when attending school because who knows if an insane

individual will attack you while being in campus or what it is worst if the killer is sitting next to you in a class. Students must be alert since now it is more difficult to feel safe at any place. It is really sad, ironic and shocking that not even schools escape from crime and violence when their objective is to educate people who can build a better society. Moreover, it is hard to understand why tragedies of this sort still occurred, and for sure, it is harder for all the victims’ families. This wave of violence that is going toward schools must be stopped. How many more tragedies like these are going to happen to enforce the security of schools? I hope none.

*Sincerely,
Alexa Sandoval*

Hip Hop and Gamers, more alike than you think

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Video games and hip hop music share similarities in their almost forty year shared history and among the fans that enjoy them. It’s very interesting that both of these relatively new entertainment media share some of the same problems that television, comic books, and Rock ‘n’ Roll faced before them.

Video games and hip hop both face censorship pressure from state representatives and other political figures, such as Senator Joseph Lieberman (D. Connecticut) and Bill O’Reilly. Senator Lieberman advocated against the easy access that minors had to violent video games. This led to the video game industry’s response which was the formation of the Entertainment Software Ratings Boards (ESRB).

We aren’t arguing against this however, the formation of the ESRB has been a positive for the most part. What we are arguing against is the way in which Senator Lieberman went about it, essentially threatening the video game industry saying, “If you don’t do something about this, we will”.

On hip hop’s end, TV personality and political figure Bill O’Reilly is a strong opponent of hip hop music. He was the reason that rapper Ludacris lost his Pepsi-Cola endorsement back in 2002. Mr. O’Reilly argued that Ludacris peddled a life of guns, violence, drugs and disrespect of women. “The man can rhyme many words,” O’Reilly said, “and some of them are ‘glock,’ ‘crack,’ ‘hos’ and, most frequently, the ‘f-word’ in an amazing array of forms.” Any casual listener of Ludacris’ music would be hard-

pressed to disagree with O’Reilly’s statement, but actually listening to any of Ludacris’ albums, which O’Reilly apparently failed to do, one would see that there’s more to him and all of hip hop than peddling violence, drugs, etc.

The problem of an older generation attacking the newer medium with which they aren’t familiar is a problem that both media share.

Mentioning casual listeners earlier brings us to our next similarity between video games and hip hop, that being the mainstream, or casual market. The success that Nintendo is now seeing from their Wii and DS systems is bringing a new audience to video gaming, a mainstream market. A similar “problem” that hardcore fans have now that hip hop is much more commercialized.

Hardcore gamers, like hardcore hip hop fans, believe that the new mainstream audience is ruining their entertainment medium. Hardcore

gamers feel that the mainstream audience doesn’t understand what they – the hardcore gamers - love because the mainstream games or hip hop artists aren’t “real” games, or “real” hip hop.

Both media have their established icons proclaiming that “hip hop is dead” (Nas) and that “video games are pure, unadulterated trash” (Nolan Bushnell, the inventor of Pong and founder of Atari).

Unfortunately neither side realizes that we need the mainstream market. Diversity in what we listen to and play is what keeps each medium strong. We need “Crank Dat Soulja Boy” by Soulja Boy Tell Em, keeping our parties lively, just as much as we need “The People” by Common when we want something deep to sit back and think about.

We need Wii Play to first potentially pay for the development of Super Mario Galaxy, and second as a palate cleanser after a three hour Metroid Prime session.

There is also the possibility that the people who like Wii Play or Soulja Boy will want something more substantial, thus becoming another hardcore gamer or hip hop fan.

So we, gamers and hip hop fans alike, are essentially two peas in a pod. We both struggle with the misunderstanding of an older generation that blames the media for how their kids turn out, and we both give the stink eye to the mainstream and casual audience.

With that said we should not be pointing a finger at each other when that older generation increases the pressure. No more, “Well look at what the kids are playing,” or “These games are just as bad as rap music”.



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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.

SPRING ON CAMPUSES

Flowers are to be planted on all campuses as part of a wild flower project.

ALEXA SANDOVAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a variety of colors, shapes and aromas, flowers can not only embellish a room or are an exceptional detail for a special occasion. Also, they are essential to the environment since they attract insects such as butterflies.

Learning about different varieties of flowers, especially about Florida native wildflowers, helps not only to educate people to preserve them, but also to the propagation of these native plants. Moreover, it encourages the concern about protecting the environment and going “green.”

Therefore, BCC, as part of a project, is planting native wildflowers on all campuses. The idea came up when Professor Dr. Peggy Green, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, heard about grants that the Florida Wildflower Foundation could award to educational institutions that are interested in the propagation of Florida native wildflowers.

According to Dr. Green, \$ 25,000 was awarded which is half of the money that the committee requested.

The wildflower project started Dec. 1, 2007 and will go through December, 2008.

The objective of the Florida Wildflower Foundation is to promote the research, propagation and education of Florida native plants and flowers. According to the foundation’s website, www.floridawildflowerfoundation.org, “Today, grant support has reached more than \$1.3 million.”

In 2000, the foundation began the sale of license plates, in which funds were used to create a research center as well as to encourage the increment of planting Florida wildflowers. Three years later, the institution granted the first projects.

At Central Campus, Professor Dr. Genevieve Chungschickle incorporated curriculum on planting Floridanative wildflowers into her General Botany labs. “It is a very attractive project,” Dr. Chungschickle said. “One of the things that people do not realize is that we have a really wonderful campus with a lot of wonderful plantings.”

On Feb. 25 and Feb. 26, Botany students planted in endcaps, on the Davie Road side entrance: Red Salvias, Gaillardias, Blue Porterweed and Blackeye Susan.

Additionally, in the southwest corner of Bldg. 15, a variety of other Florida native wildflowers have been planted.

Michelle Anderson, a student from Dr. Chungschickle’s class said, “It’s nice to contribute to the beauty of this campus especially through what we learned in class.” Another student, Justin Robertson said, “It was a good experience and as far as planting the plants, it wasn’t difficult at all.”

The importance of wildflowers, remarked Dr. Chungschickle, is that they require less water. Moreover, they do not require any fertilizer; they attract butterflies, and they add a lot to the environment.

The project, which calls students to participate, includes the art, poetry and poster contests.

**“IT’S NICE TO
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The contests are open to all BCC students who are registered during the current term, and in order to qualify, the student must have a 2.0 GPA. More information about the contests will be posted on BCC’s website.

The students creative works will be exhibited at BCC North Campus / Broward County North Regional Library during the wildflower week from April 21-25. In addition, a wildflower informational program will be presented on April 24, as well as a reception honoring the winners of the three different contests. BCC President Armstrong, the Mayor of Coconut Creek and the Board of Trustees have been invited. This activity will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 154 of the library.

On Central Campus, as part of Earth Day, Dr. Chungschickle will be giving two student wildflower workshops. She will talk about the importance of Florida native wildflowers, and students who attend will receive a Florida wildflower upland mix seed packet so they can plant native wildflowers in their gardens. The activity is sponsored by Student Life, and it will be on Tuesday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Bldg 19/Patio.



PHOTO BY CHRIS CUTRO.



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