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returns to BCC



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a Sci-Tech premier



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Analyze before you plagiarize

BCC faculty now have another tool at their disposal to hunt down stolen work

BY HEATHER DULMAN

SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

and

BY NATHAN PHELPS

SCI-TECH EDITOR

There is a new program in town, coming to a classroom near you. Plagiarism has plagued Universities since the advent of formal education. For decades teachers have wished or even dreamed for a way to make sure that what students are claiming are their own ideas are in fact theirs. There is hope on the horizon however it is in the form of a new web service called Turnitin.com.

Turnitin.com, which started around five years ago, is an online search engine that within minutes can tell a teacher whether or not the student's paper has been plagiarized. This works by checking all the text of the paper against a massive database that includes websites, papers submitted by other students and even papers submitted by other universities. Even secondary schools such as high school are beginning to use this ingenious program. Currently the system is being used by close to 90 instructors throughout BCC and in over 90 countries around the world, including many of the Universities in the United Kingdom.

The program is also very accurate by giving the teacher a layout of exactly what was stolen and where it came from



PHOTO BY HEATHER DULMAN

Theater professor Mariah Johnson uses Turnitin.com to check her students' papers for plagiarized work.

originally. Papers are “graded” by the order of magnitude of which they have been plagiarized. This is sorted for the teacher by a color coding system to indicate the level of threat the paper poses. The color the paper is given indicates an amount of the report that is near identical to one on their database. The colors are blue, green, yellow, orange and red. Blue and

green resembles no need to worry. Yellow indicates some possible plagiarism. With orange and red there is almost always a problem the teacher would need to address to the student(s).

Teachers at BCC who have just started to use this service are so far impressed.

■ **PLAGIARISM CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

BCC moves to protect students' social security numbers

BY EMILY MOORHOUSE

STAFF WRITER

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. According to surveys by Javelin/Better Business Bureau, between 8.9 and 10.1 million Americans, 3 to 3.5 percent of the population, were identity theft victims each year since 2003. Whether or not BCC students are aware or not, as long as they have been identified by their Social Security Numbers (SSNs), they have been at an increased risk of identity theft. Luckily, that risk is about to be diminished.

“Under Florida State mandate, in August of 2002, BCC ... made the decision to convert from using SSNs and to implement a student ID system,” said Karen Lee Murphy, Interim Associate Registrar at BCC. “The college has begun the initial process and anticipates converting all student records during the Thanksgiving break. If there are delays, conversion will

take place during the two week break in December 2006.”

Under the new system, students will be identified by a “unique student ID number that is determined by using random algorithms,” said Murphy. The number will still be nine characters in length and students will be able to logon to the BCC website using either their Student ID or Social Security Number. Files using SSNs including those of student data, credit and collections, finance, and financial aid will be converted.

Inevitably, there will be certain instances in which students' Social Security Numbers will be needed. They will be required for sending and receiving data files such as test scores, transcripts, Bright Futures, and Florida Prepaid to other institutions or to state and federal agencies. Also, the very small amount of BCC staff members whose job entails using students' SSNs to complete their work will have access to them in the school's database.

The issue of using Social Security Numbers as the identifier for students has been a long-standing one in which BCC is not alone in confronting. One half of 1,300 institutions reported using SSNs as the principal means of identifying students in a 2002 survey by the American Association of Collegiate Registers and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). Only a few states have enacted laws to limit the use of SSNs by higher education institutions.

Until the change is made, most BCC staff and faculty members continue to have access to students' Social Security Numbers and some professors record or post grades using them. Though the average person with access to these is not going know how to use them to steal identities or be inclined to do so, theoretically, he or she can obtain a list of SSNs and then sell them to someone who does know how.

■ **SOCIAL SECURITY
CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

Board of Trustees hold up contract ratification

BY BUZZ LAMB

STAFF WRITER

The United Faculty of Florida's BCC Chapter was certified as the bargaining unit for BCC faculty in 1981 when 86% of faculty voters chose UFF/BCC as their representative in contract negotiations. Voting for the ratification of a tentative new faculty contract took place on all campuses Tuesday through Thursday, Sept. 26 through 28. BCC faculty voting results were: North 97 yes, 2 no; Central 141 yes, 1 no; South 53 yes, 1 no.

But according to UFF/BCC Union President Tom Green, the BCC Board of Trustees has stated that the negotiations have not been finalized, and their chief negotiator would not talk to the union again until the union agrees to reopen the negotiations. Green said that last year's contract still remains in effect until the new contract is approved. “It's not unusual for a contract to be ratified this late, but it is unusual for them to cut off communications. This is the worst it has ever been,” he said. “Right now in Tallahassee the attorney for the statewide higher education union is filing an unfair labor practice against BCC.”

Green said that the results of the faculty vote to ratify the contract showed overwhelming support for the new contract and should be an indicator to the administration and the Board of Trustees that the union is firm in their stance to adopt the contract as agreed upon last July.

“We had an agreement on July 14... we shook hands on it,” he said. Green said the negotiations had been worked out with the administration's chief negotiator, Dr. Ken Ross. “The Board of Trustees didn't like some of the language in the contract, and they said we had to take some stuff back,” he said. Green said that the board told the union that the negotiations were not over until they looked at the contract. He said that at the back to school campus meeting in August, BCC President Dr. Larry Calderon and Dr. Ken Ross were sitting on the stage with him and appeared to have no problem with the contract. “There were no complaints that I heard,” Green said.

According to Green, the obstacle seems to be with some of the appendices added to the contract. “There are letters of understanding that are attached to the contract that are only good for one year. Usually it's something the negotiators don't want in the main contract or

■ **CONTRACTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

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Trio of comedians shine at Laughapalooza

BY DANIELLA DORCELUS
CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

Eyes teared up with laughter as comedians Buzz Sutherland, Benji Brown, and Rob Stapleton took the stage at Laughapalooza. Sutherland made various jokes about observations he has made throughout his lifetime. He commented on how on the television show Cops, the cameramen are the only ones who are able to keep up with the criminals. The police usually get tired after running only a short distance. He asked the audience what is the biggest thing they have ever snuck into a movie, and then he reflected on how many things have been censored over the years. For example, a few years ago bubble gum cigarettes were widely purchased among youth but now they have put a stop to that. He also talked about pixy sticks, another candy that was very popular among children, and made a joke of its association to cocaine because it looks similar.

Sutherland interacted with the audience by asking them what type of music they enjoy listening to. He went on to say that they should make country rap music, also known as crap. Among his many jokes, Sutherland stated that his grandmother and his cat always made similar sounds. Many references were made on aspects of parenting. He said that kids today have too much luxury, especially with all the technology that parents are now buying for their children. When a child is grounded and is told to go to his or her room, it makes no difference because they have access to all the tech toys that the parents purchase anyway. In addition, parents who spank their kids always wonder where the child learns such violence without realizing that the children are modeling the parents' behavior.

Benji Brown made a bold entrance to the stage by exhibiting lots of energy. Brown made reference to abusive and jealous males in relationships. He humorously depicted how they often threaten their spouse just for talking to other guys regarding business matters. For example, the lady could be talking to a cashier trying to order a meal and the jealous and controlling boyfriend will think that she is trying to flirt. He stated one benefit that women have over men in society: the fact that the law is usually on their side when it comes to domestic disputes. He illustrated a scenario in which a female was trying provoke her boyfriend to hit her while reminding him that he can easily go to jail just by dialing 911. Brown portrayed another one in which a man went to jail after being attacked by his girlfriend. The police in this case was not buying any explanations he had to give, but was on the woman's side.

The comedian also joked about the personality characteristics that people of different racial backgrounds possess. Brown



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIAN CARTER

Host Eddie Robinson and comedians Buzz Sutherland, Benji Brown, and Rob Stapleton are surrounded by students present after the show.

stated that white people are extremely nosy. In horror films, they are often curious when they hear a noise. That sound usually turns out to be some sort of killer or dangerous creature. The entertainer was able to interact with the women in the audience by asking them if they hate it when their boyfriend breaks up with them to go out with another female that looks physically unattractive. It was also said that women talk too much, and that is how they usually find out things that they don't want to hear. He made another comment distinguishing blacks from whites. When a person dials the wrong number and calls a black person in the middle of the night, that person usually get cursed out. However, you can accidentally dial the wrong number and wake up a white person during the evening and he will be amiable to the person that called. Brown closed his act by singing various songs that parodied lyrics of R. Kelly. He twisted the words around to reflect the incident in which Kelly was being tried for statutory rape.

The final comedian of the occasion was Rob Stapleton. When he entered the stage, he quickly seized the opportunity to pick on a member of the audience's weight. Stapleton remarked on how difficult it is to be a man in society. For example, guys can't act scared when seeing a horror film. They have to pretend to be unaffected by the movie or else their girlfriend will think they are a "punk". Stapleton asked the audience if they have ever been

poor and humorously reminisced on his childhood experiences of growing up in poverty. He said that one does not even realize that he or she is economically disadvantaged until that person goes over to a friend's house and sees a refrigerator filled with food. Kids in that situation usually have a parent who has a lot of pride and

tell their children to refuse when someone offers them something to eat. Stapleton mentioned that he would take the chance of accepting anyway knowing that a beating will be waiting for him by his mom.

There was diverse feedback among the audience regarding the show. "I thought it was too

long and boring. It contained no breaks. The jokes were bad," Marisol Ibanez said. Contrary to that opinion, Roberto Barraza thought well of it. "The comedy show was very good. I didn't like the first comedian. Benji Brown was okay, but I really enjoyed Rob Stapleton," he said.



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PTK emphasizes healthy living

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In life there are words that transcend the measure of time; such is the case with the Disney film *The Lion King*, in which Timon and Pumba tell Zimba *a kuna matata* "meaning no worries." So, what word(s) does one of Broward Community College's organizations use to transcend the time between the arrival of new students and the time they graduate? Well, those words are Phi Theta Kappa. So, what worries does Phi Theta Kappa have and what does this organization stand for?

One of the two main points that Phi Theta Kappa stands for is to provide opportunities for academic and individual growth as well as to enhance the development of leadership, service and fellowship through the participation of service and fellowship to the local community and abroad. Recognizing and encouraging the academic achievement of students is yet another reason this organization stands for; throughout the year they organize and coordinate various events that feed the very potential that all of their members poses as well as the promotion to educate the community to topics

that are relevant to their life.

The most recent topic that Phi Theta Kappa decided to tackle was health. In the week of September 25-28th, 2006, the members of Phi Theta Kappa coordinated an event titled "Health Week." During this week they creatively created various events for each day, in each and every one of those days they clearly sent the intended message of having awareness for the importance of health.

On the first day of the event a health luncheon was held at the Southern Breezes. At the luncheon, any student who wanted to attend the health luncheon was welcomed. A total of seventy-five non Phi Theta Kappa members attended this function. At this luncheon, fruits, food wraps and water were just some of the healthy foods that were provided as part of the event that brought a better awareness to the decisions that are taken daily in terms of creating a healthier life for all of us.

Wilson Torres, President of Alpha Delta Rho, Phi Theta Kappa organizations name for Broward Community College's South campus division, said that "the luncheon was the kickoff; it was an introduction to the week that was planned by Veronica Malo, vice-president of scholarship and

by Luis Soriano Treasurer for this organization." Luis Soriano and Veronica Malo dedicated two months of their time to this noble cause that involved: strategizing, organizing and gathering with local businesses in order to create an event of this magnitude that was flawless and successful. During the luncheon a raffle was held and prizes were awarded to those who had the right number. All of the prizes were donated by local businesses that wanted to contribute to this exciting event. These donations included food for the event as well as a gift basket with nutritional supplements, are only a few of the many thoughtful and inspiring gifts that would be given out to the lucky winners that were able to participate in this charitable event. The event was in short a success and it generated \$250 to the Red Cross.

On Tuesday, the itinerary for the day was to hold an arm wrestling competition. A large number of people came and participated in this fun and entertaining event. The third day of the week was dedicated to the dance known as *Rumba*, in which a rumba dance instructor was invited to attend and have a demonstration of this exotic dance that incorporates Latin music. For these events the organization was stationed in



PHOTO BY VERONICA MALLO

Students during the PTK event dance the Rumba.

front of the Student Life center at the South campus. In which they provided food for those who passed by and to those that inquired information about the club and its upcoming events.

The final day of this eventful week was dedicated to a good old game of tug of war. The tug of war competition began at 12:15 p.m. However, the teams of three were asked to register prior to the start of the game. Luis Soriano was the master of ceremonies for this event, he encouraged all of the attendees to participate and sign up. Soriano laid out the

ground rules for the tug of war event, "you can not wrap the rope around your waist or around your hands" were some of the rules he told the participants. Various teams participated during this game up until the end of the 12:30 p.m. past the meridian mark, this would inevitably signal the start of classes for some students and the start of a new conscious awareness on health for others.

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BCC Students Admire Cauley’s Talent

BY NICOLE RASMUSSEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Few attended Chris Cauley’s first acoustic performance at the North Campus “Coffee house,” however those who arrived didn’t regret coming out to support the independent musician. “The show was very jazzy; it was good!” declared student Stephanie Benavides. “...Especially the food,” chimed her beau, Dennis Kuno. Indeed, food is always a major selling point. BCC provided a myriad of munchies and a bottomless mug of coffee, free of charge. Upon each table sat a lit candle floating in water encompassed by a fishbowl; this only supplied an additional element of quaintness to the already intimate atmosphere. Among the modest group of patrons were many art students, ready to begin illustrating Cauley on stage. The ambience easily sent many into a state of deep relaxation; seemingly perfect for the approaching performance.

Twenty-two year old Chris Cauley, who has been “strumming the guitar for thirteen years,” appeared on stage quickly. With him, virtually attached at the hip, was his trusty acoustic guitar. His demeanor energized the room and grabbed the attention of the laid back spectators. Unfortunately,

he didn’t begin playing for roughly 15 minutes. Once the technicalities were in running order, he immediately introduced himself. “Hi, I’m Chris, and I’m from Atlanta, Georgia. I’m really glad to be in Florida—I was just in Maine and it was at least 30 degrees up there. But, my body is out of whack now; I was sweating up there and I’m freezing down here!” His candor and enthusiasm, despite a long and tiring national college tour, persisted throughout the show. He began his set with a cover of Hit the road Jack by Ray Charles, laying the foundation for the rest of the show and what Chris knows best—Soul mixed with a bit of Rock and Roll. His voice was strong, expressive and smooth. The next song, My favorite song to play live, was called When Will it Ever be Right? Attached to this song seemed to be a strong sentiment; because at this point, there was a sense of desperation and reality to his voice. The audience applauded him for this particular piece, encouraging him to share more great music.

Cauley then introduced several beautiful songs from his 2005 record Fish out of Water, but it was the cover of John Legend’s Ordinary People that blew everyone away. His interpretation, accompanied by his guitar instead of a piano, breathed new life into the song. His voice never faltered




Chris Cauley performing with his guitar at the North Campus “Coffee House.” PHOTO BY NICOLE RASMUSSEN

and remained electrifying to the last word sung. The show concluded with the southern gentleman gracefully thanking everyone who came to see him perform; he then exited the stage during his standing ovation, which was very well deserved. He mingled with the crowd for a while thereafter, still gleaming after doing what he loves most; “making music.” Chris is a truly talented young man and is worth listening. Check out his MySpace profile at www.myspace.com/chriscauley.

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Credit questions? Peter's the one to ask!

BY EMILY CORNWELL
WHC BUREAU CHIEF

Did you know that there is a 70 percent chance there is a mistake on your personal credit report? This report can affect whether or not you are approved for a car loan, student loan, or even a credit card. Peter Bielagus will be visiting college campuses across Florida in order to make the technical world of finances clearer to students. He has a list of solutions for problems all people, young and old, endure from failing credit scores and budgets.

Bielagus found himself in \$5,000 worth of credit card debt halfway through his freshman year of college. The answer to how this money was negatively accumulated was simple. "I moved from New Hampshire to Miami," he said. As a young student from a small town, moving to a glittery, not to mention very expensive, city makes it very easy for a naive teenager to mismanage what they see as almost limitless money (a.k.a. a credit card). After realizing what kind of financial trouble he was in, Bielagus instantly began making money in order to pay off the debt. From work-study programs at the University of Miami to \$6.50 per hour work and temp jobs, he slowly but steadily earned the money he owed.

After finally paying off all of his loans and accumulated debt, Bielagus decided to write a book about the experience. "I would always lend my financial advisement books out to my friends in college, but they would never read them," Peter explained. "They always said that those books were written for a person with \$10,000 savings or someone twice their age." So Peter decided to aim his book toward those who didn't know financial technical terms but still needed help managing their money. The book sold, but unfortunately Peter was only receiving \$0.85 per copy. He pondered how he was supposed to make a living as a writer, but he was answered with that fact that you don't; you make a living as a speaker. And that's just what he has decided to do.

Bielagus has been across the country to college campuses in the past three years. From Georgia to D.C., he hasn't been selling, but sharing his experiences and solutions with others. "I just wish someone would have made me aware of all of this when I was younger. I just want to introduce young people to the fact that they have a financial life," he said.

"Start before you need to start" is the opening remark Bielagus begins his seminar with. There isn't a specific time in life to begin focusing on your financial life, but he says that most people don't even realize that they have one until their early thirties. His first suggestion is to simply visit the important website www.annualcreditreport.com.

Here anyone can look up his or her credit score for free once a year or print it out for a small fee. It's important to carefully look over your score in order to verify that everything is factual. Another major aspect of one's financial life is a budget or lack thereof. Bielagus points out three major reasons why budgets fail:

1. They're written in La La land. The difference between what you want and what you need is not difficult to decipher, just difficult to acquire. Wanting a new car and actually saving enough money for that new car are two different things.

2. We forget the little stuff. While making out a budget we seem to leave out major contributors, such as the fact that you are a student and therefore may have student loans, or even

very small things like realizing how much extra cash you are spending on miscellaneous items such as Starbucks, gum, or sodas.

3. Chain reaction shopping. After a large purchase of a major item such as a new house, all other expenses in your budget may rise as well. Due to the neighborhood you have settled into, the new grocery store may be more expensive, along with the gas stations near by. It's a chain of higher spending than you are used to.

There are many solutions to the issues contributing to the lack of a realistic budget that Bielagus has to offer. "Making lists can be very beneficial," he said. Listing future goals along with lists of items that are worth spending money on and items that are not can illustrate what one should avoid wasting their income on in the future.



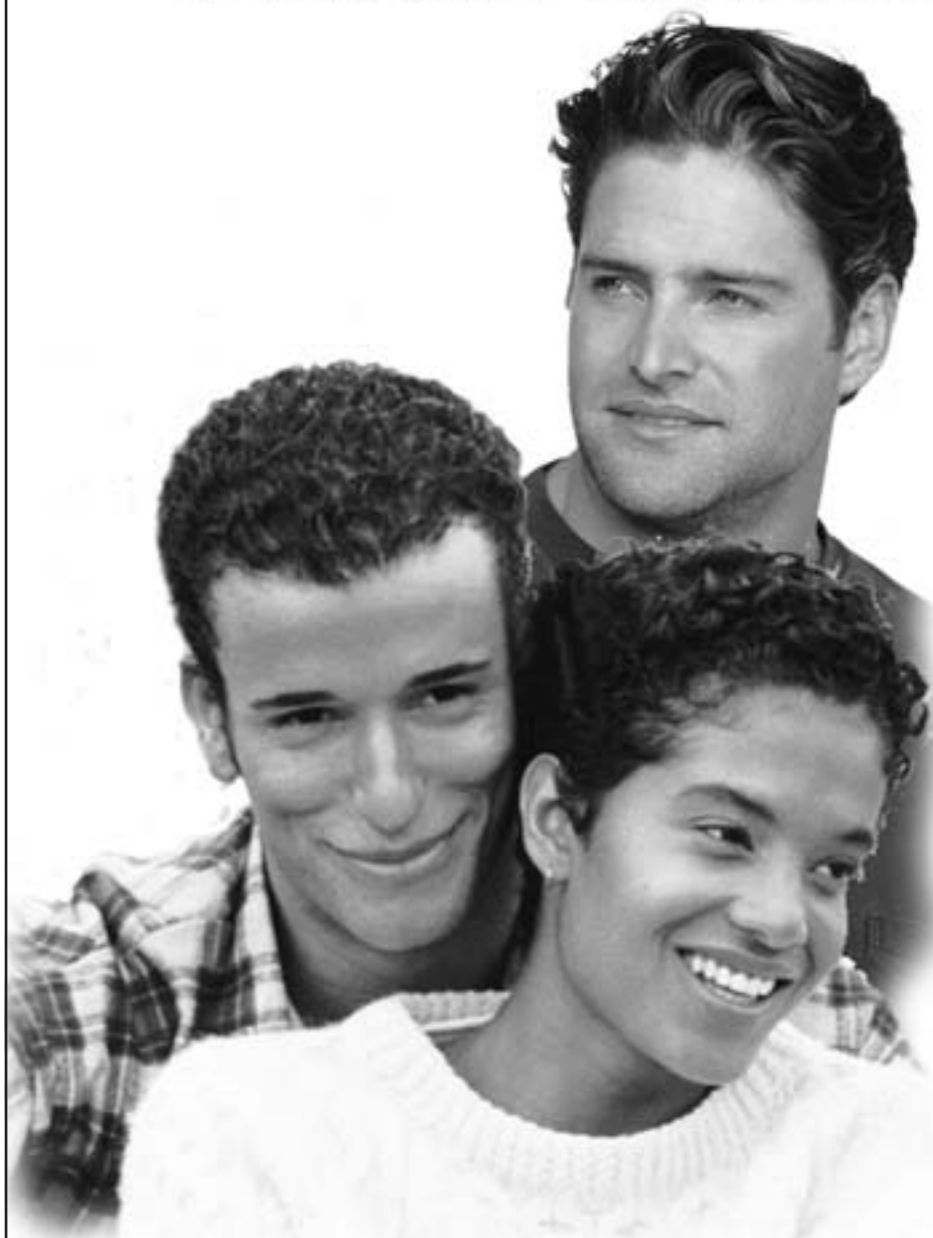
FILE PHOTO

Peter Bielagus shares his financial success tips with students.

By the end of Bielagus' BCC seminar, pages of notes had been taken and plenty lessons had been learned by the crowded room. After reaffirming his main ideas

and solutions for better credit and budget goals, Bielagus closed by admitting that a major contributor to the reason why he is no longer in debt himself is the fact that he stopped buying things for other people. He said that doing so is simply "expensive and lonely." Although this last statement received a reaction from the crowd, many students know how true it is, especially living in southern Florida. What does impressing others with money have to do with future happiness? Just look to Bielagus. He's still driving his 1999 Mercury Sable and because of this, he was able to purchase a house with an ocean view. Now that's some motivation for passing on a trip to the mall this weekend.

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Plagiarism

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Theater Professor Mariah Johnson said, “What I do is up until the due date students can submit papers and check the report from turnitin.com to make any changes. My students can see and make adjustments to use it as a learning tool... I like the program a lot it saves me the trouble of Googling each paper.” Johnson is currently using this program for the first time for this semester. She has her students log on to the website and gives them the enrollment password and class ID. Then the students have to go through 7 steps to enroll themselves into the site. After they are enrolled they can submit their paper online to Turnitin.com. A student from Johnson’s class is attempting to learn from the experience of submitting a paper online. “It would be a lot more useful if the students can view the paper to see if it is plagiarized before

submitting it to the teacher,” said BCC student, Sheila Hofhine. The consequences for plagiarism are clearly stated in the student code of conduct in the case of academic dishonesty it states, “Breaches of the College’s policies pertaining to academic dishonesty may result in academic penalties and/or disciplinary action at the discretion of the instructor. Academic penalties may include, but are not limited to, a failing grade for a particular assignment or a failing grade for a particular course. Additionally, the student may be referred to the chief student affairs officer of the campus/center for violations of the Student Code of conduct.” In short, getting caught plagiarizing will result in failing either the assignment or the class entirely. Presently Turnitin.com is being used as a deterrent for students to prevent plagiarizing in the first place, however some teachers who are using it see this as an opportunity to teach what

plagiarism actually is. According to Casey Gilson Associate Dean for English Department of North Campus “I want to use this to teach them not to plagiarize.” Students occasionally don’t understand is paraphrasing is still plagiarizing (unless the source has been properly cited or commentary on the basis of your analysis follows there after,) because plagiarism is more then just stealing someone’s words its taking another persons idea and claiming it your own. A student from south campus, McArnold Charlemagne states, “I took a class last year that involved Turnitin.com. I thought it was kind of tough and nerve racking. Even though they are your own words there is no way of knowing if it has been used before.” Professor Sass Nielsen from North campus said, “I have not used it yet, this would alert the students to be very careful about plagiarism. According to some students they believe the program is not only anti-student but is

unfair. We are trying to prepare students for a four year college.” Professors are now utilizing tools online provided by Turnitin.com and even the BCC website to educate students on what does in fact constitute plagiarism. The future use of this software looks promising. The new version of WebCT that will be coming out soon, will be fully integrated with Turnitin.com. Classes online are now even easier for the teachers to handle due to new technologies being used, including online grade books and discussion forms, keeps students and teachers in constant touch. Another new change is WebCT will no longer charge an additional cost to the student with the newly added features. Even though this service sounds like a miracle cure for the problem of plagiarism the school is currently discussing whether or not to use it. This presents an economic problem with the college because Turnitin.com cost around \$22,000 per semester

for access to their database for all the professors currently working for the college. The school is currently trying to determine whether the number of professors using the program outweighs the cost of the software. There are only a few professors using this program however. BCC has been using Turnitin.com for about a year now with great feedback from teachers and students alike. Presently, the institution is trying to get teachers involved in using Turnitin.com by having workshops on campus to teach the professors how to utilize this website. The following workshops on Turnitin.com will be held at 2 p.m.–4p.m. at Central Campus on Oct. 11 and at South Campus on Nov. 1. The locations for both will be determined when registering online. For further information for the teachers to register go to <http://www.broward.edu/itech/workshops.jsp>.

Contracts

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

agree on,” Green said. Catherine Leisek, Associate Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, said that the Taft/Hartley laws dictate how labor unions are run and how they deal with negotiations. “The situation is that once you come to an agreement on a tentative contract, both parties have to put it out for a ratification vote,” she said. “If one party fails to do so, then you have a violation of the labor act which would then go to a higher arbitrator.” Leisek said that the board is saying that they don’t have a tentative contract, so they don’t have to vote. “That is ridiculous because we actually have e-mails and other articles saying that the negotiations ended in July. Otherwise we would have still been bargaining,” she said. “The contract was distributed to the faculty with all of the changes in it highlighted.”

According to Leisek, the Board of Trustees held a public board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 27, and they did not put the contract on the agenda, and she does not know if they will put it on the agenda for October. Green said that 15 or 20 faculty members attended the meeting wearing all black clothing as a show of support for the UFF/BCC union, but that it went unnoticed by the board. Under Florida law it is illegal for the teacher’s union to go out on strike. “We can’t strike, but we can do informational picketing,” Green said. Green also said that if the board does not vote upon the contract at their October meeting,

then picketing would begin. “The next thing will be for the faculty to be working-to-contract,” Leisek said. Working-to-contract means that faculty members would stop any outside work that they might now be doing for the students such as club activities, major field trips, or anything that the faculty does for the students outside of



Dr. Ellingham signed the contract ratification last year.

their contract. Leisek said that she is involved in four or five committees and contractually is only required to be on one, so she would resign from all committees and activities, except the one, until the contract is approved. Approximately 66% of the faculty at BCC are members of the UFF/BCC union. “Every faculty member, even non-union, is part of the bargaining unit,” Leisek said. She thinks that the non-union faculty members might be sympathetic to their cause and would possibly resign from their

committees and activities as well. “We have been getting new union members because of this,” she said. “We have a stack of new memberships because I think people understand the value of this.” The lack of ratification by the Board of Trustees has also held up raises that have been agreed upon. “We did receive a 4 percent raise by the contract, but everybody knows inflation is running 5.8 percent here in South Florida,” she said. “We have some real issues with them holding this money up to the faculty that needs it. They’re not giving the raises to the administration or the staff either.” Leisek said that they always wait to give the raises to everybody at the same time so the delay is not only directly affecting the faculty, but it is affecting everybody in the school. “I think it’s really terrible for morale,” she said.

When asked what she thought would make the negotiations go more smoothly, Leisek replied flatly, “A new board.” She said that at least it would take some of the board members changing. “The governor appoints the board...so it would depend on who our new governor is,” she said. According to Leisek, the Florida Education Association, which UFF/BCC is a part of, as well as the AFL/CIO, has endorsed Democrat Jim Davis. BCC President Dr. Larry Calderon and Dr. Ken Ross were out of town at press time and could not be reached for comment.

Social Security

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This past summer, a BCC professor’s grade book, which contained the Social Security Numbers of students in each of his classes, was stolen. While the culprit may have had no intention of committing identity theft, the incident reflects the easy access identity-theft criminals have to SSNs when they are used to identify students. The affected students were notified by mail that their numbers were compromised and police began investigating right away. Although BCC has offered the option of assigning an alternate number in place of a Social

Security Number, few students have taken advantage of it. Perhaps students feel invincible until affected by identity theft themselves. BCC student, Jacob Khachatryan, had his identity stolen in the past and recognizes the threat posed by using SSNs as a means of identification. “It is the most important number the government gives you,” he said. He is pleased to find out that BCC is making this change. When the conversion project is complete, BCC will join Florida Atlantic University, Miami Dade College, and Nova Southeastern University, among other local colleges and universities that have already made the student identification number change.

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Energy drinks: enemy number one?

An in-depth look at the lethal levels of caffeine in energy drinks

BY DAYNA MALEK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jeanette Moffa, a Central Campus BCC student, was on a trip in Orlando with some friends about to make her way home to Ft. Lauderdale. "It was five a.m., and I was the one who was going to be driving," Moffa said. So in order to overcome their fatigue, Moffa and her friends each drank one Red Bull. "But it started to wear off," she said. So by the time she finally made it home, Moffa had drunk three Red Bulls and was jittery. "I was really wired. My hands were shaking, and I couldn't stay still," she said.

Energy drinks have been around since the 1980's, but only in the past ten years or so have

they really become a popular way for the college student to "boost up." Energy drinks are beverages like Red Bull, Venom, Vault, and Rush. "It's kind of like drinking a lot of soda, but you get hyped," BCC student Chelsea Cohen said. They contain large doses of caffeine and other legal substances that help stimulate consumers. These beverages contain up to 80 milligrams of caffeine, which equals a full cup of coffee, according to an article published by Brown University.

"I am not convinced that they are truly helpful for the average college student," BCC biology professor Harvey Liftin said. In fact, energy drinks contain stimulating substances that can boost the heart rate and

blood pressure. They can cause palpitations and dehydrate the body and prevent sleep, according to Wikipedia.org. "The first time I drank Rockstar it left me for four hours all wired. I was trembling," BCC student Joel Nascimento said.

One of the health hazards associated with energy drinks is the high concentration of caffeine that most have them have. Some side effects of drinking too much caffeine include upset stomach, nausea, rapid heartbeat, and irritability. "I drink Rockstar twice a day, every day, especially after school. You get addicted to it," Nascimento said.

Most energy drinks contain substances that are addicting such as caffeine and guarana; they



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAMON HART-DAVIS

In the energy drink market there are many different brands and varieties, including Vault, Soltise, DT, Red Bull, Monster and Rockstar.

can cause physical addiction if taken in large doses. Also, energy

drinks contain large amounts of sugar, which further undermines its nutritional value, according to Wikipedia.org. These drinks have even been a cause of several deaths. In 2001, the Swedish National Food Administration investigated Red Bull after it was linked to the deaths of three consumers. Already countries such as France, Denmark, Norway, and Uruguay prohibit its sale due to its health risks.

Some students who have been drinking energy drinks for some time build a tolerance to it and simply find other beverages with more caffeine. "I drink it just to stay awake. Red Bull doesn't work anymore. I now get Rockstar double shot. It leaves you really hyper for the first two hours, and then your blood pressure drops and you feel as if you are drunk," Nascimento said.

According to an article published on www.prevention.com, there are other healthier alternatives to drinking energy drinks. First, start off with eating breakfast, which will get the body going. Drink plenty of water, which will prevent dehydration and will keep the body refreshed and energized. Eat a small snack between breakfast and lunch, something like raisins, which is a great source of the mineral boron, which plays a role in brain function. Exercising is probably the best way to get the body up and going.

College students' lives are hectic and busy, but that doesn't mean they also have to be unhealthy and dangerous. There are many ways to avoid energy drinks in order to get a boost of energy. "Students have to really look at their diet and start to eat more vegetable and fruits," Liftin said. "The drinks will keep the students awake during class, [but] I am not sure they will help students get better grades on tests!"

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BCC College Academy shoots for the stars

BY CAROL WANG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many students at BCC Central Campus might be perplexed when it comes to the whereabouts of College Academy. Everyday students walk past these high school students and some might even have classes with them, but they never realized why they looked like they are from a younger generation. Who are these “overachievers?” How long have they been here?

Since the program started in August 2001, the College Academy (CA) has been located in Building 2 on Central Campus. As of now, there are 153 juniors who were admitted this year and 175 seniors expecting to graduate in June of 2007. Within the recent graduating class of 2006 totaling 150 students, 97 percent of them received an Associate of Arts degree as well as their high school diploma. In addition, the College Academy works cooperatively with BCC to supply these students with the use of the college facilities. All students also receive free tuition and fees, textbooks and transportation provided by the School Board of Broward County.

“When it was first started, I had mixed feelings about this program six years ago. I decided that I was going to apply for the job [as principal] and if the program didn’t work, I would get vocal,” said Nell Sapp, principal of the College Academy. Ever since then, it has become the most successful collegiate high school with one of the highest ACT, SAT and PSAT averages in the state.

In this program, the students take dual enrollment courses in English, social studies, and mathematics with CA instructors that all have either a Masters or Doctorate degrees, 40 percent of them are National Board Certified and all are qualified dual enrollment instructors. They also take all other courses including science, foreign language, humanities and professional prerequisites with other community college students. The objective of this program is to help students earn Associate of Arts degrees as well as provide them with a feel of how college is like.

In order to be admitted, prospective students must be a sophomore student in high school and meet the following criteria. Students must take the CPT and meet the score requirements of

an 83 in reading, 83 in writing, and a 90 in elementary algebra. They must submit letters of recommendations from teachers and the guidance counselor with an accompanied handwritten essay on the topic of why they want to be apart of this program. They must have a 3.0 unweighted grade point average, passed the FCAT during their sophomore year and have various personal qualities.

“The students must be a master of their own time; they are basically responsible for themselves and what they do. They have to be mature and self-disciplined [in an environment] without structure. At a traditional high school, there are more safe guards such as a closed campus or hall monitors,” said Sapp.

"I was really anxious the first day because the scheduling was so different from my regular high school but by the end of the week I got used to it. After that it was awesome," said Maria Llanos, a senior at the College Academy.

“You get used to the environment with college, you become independent and there isn’t much parental involvement,” said Andres Sahagun, another senior at the College Academy.

However, one of the things students must give up when becoming a member of CA is sports. "At first I didn't want to come because I didn't want to leave my friends and the wrestling team but my parents made me. Now that I'm here, it's the best decision I ever made," said Christian Bueno, a senior at the College Academy.

Since the school only has two grade levels, there are not enough people to have their own sports teams although they are welcomed to join the intramural teams available at BCC. There is also a National Honor Society with mini committees to supplement the need for extracurricular activities.

From a teacher's perspective, Jane Koszoru, an English teacher for CA, describes teaching at this school as a "luxury" and "teacher heaven." She is a National Board Certified Teacher who has taught for over 33 years and has won many awards, recognitions and achievements throughout the years. She even has her own appreciation day named after her, "Jane M. Koszoru Appreciation Day" that was proclaimed on Feb. 11, 2003 by the Board of County Commissioners of Broward


County, Florida.

Koszoru mentions many of the differences between a traditional high school and College Academy. "At the College Academy, as an instructor, I have more freedom to design appropriate curriculum that is not restricted to FCAT Prep. It's much more flexible to have students using resources available to them. [For example,] I don't have to write a hall pass for them to go to the library or restrooms. I can trust the students," said Koszoru.


Koszoru also reveals that with this small program, she gets to know all of the students more closely. “I have the luxury of the time during the day to help students individually. At a traditional high school, students can’t leave classes to get help from other teachers. It is teacher heaven, you spend your time teaching and working with students. You don’t have to spend a lot of time on classroom management and bureaucracy,” said Koszoru.

Sapp also agrees with this statement. “I love working with the CA students. They are

■ COLLEGE ACADEMY
CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Fresh Produce is a blast from the past

BY CAMI CARR
LAYOUT EDITOR

On Friday, Sept. 28 the art exhibition entitled “Fresh Produce” opened at the Central Campus Art Gallery in grand style. The exhibition includes over 77 produce labels from all over the country and all over the world, dating from the early part of the last century. Those from

the 1940’s are most abundant in this collection. The states the many labels herald from include Florida, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Missouri, Michigan, Louisiana, North Carolina, New York, and Georgia. There are also a few international labels, which have found their way from Canada, Tasmania, and Australia.

The exhibit started as the brainchild of artist Barbara Ryan,

Central Campus Art Gallery Director, who had a love for old things from an era that has passed away. She found an interest in collecting these fruit and vegetable crate labels 15 years ago when their color and meaning caught her eye. “They are the perfect combination of design and advertising. This exhibition has something to offer everyone of every discipline. It is fun and colorful as well as insightful and telling of our cultural history,” Ryan said. Though the exhibit is mostly about color and beauty, there is another edge to it. “This isn’t just about the past though. Fruit is rotting on the fields and no one is there to pick it. So from another standpoint, it could be seen as a political one, and it’s a problem,” Ryan said.

T-shirts are on sale with the “Fresh Produce” art on them in benefit of this year’s Annual Juried Student Exhibition. The exhibit will be on display until Oct 24 and the gallery is open every day until 2 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA RYAN

The beautifully illustrated “Fresh Produce” flyer.

Wii will rock you

BY CAMI CARR
LAYOUT EDITOR

Just when you thought it was safe, Nintendo is sending a new shark into the waters of game play, and she’s a sly one. The Nintendo Wii will be released on Nov. 11, 2006. It started as the brainchild of the key developers and owners of the Nintendo Company just after the Nintendo GameCube was released. They based their designs on technology that already existed in the highly competitive world of electronics and game consoles, though they wanted it to have a grownup look, feel, and interface.

It has all of the ability and frills of existing technology, such as the ability to connect to the Internet wirelessly via IEEE 802.11 or a USB 2.0 LAN adaptor, and it also reads both 8 cm and 12 cm optical discs, giving it the range to play both your GameCube games and the new Wii games. The developers didn’t want it to seem like just another console however; they wanted something which shone above the rest with highly developed graphics, game and controller capabilities, and the new idea of a console that updates itself 24 hours a day. “Once the concept of Wii as a console where something new happens everyday became clear, we were certain that we had made the right choice,” Mr. Shiota, a Nintendo engineer, said. Even when not being played, the Wii can safely remain on and connected to the Internet, giving it the ability to update even when not instructed to do so.

Nintendo has something



PHOTO COURTESY OF NINTENDO

Nintendo Wii Console and its innovative controller.

else going for them in the new Wii controller. It’s sleek, white, touch and motion sensitive, and could well be the cousin of your television’s remote control. The benefit of its motion sensitivity is that it can be used as an actual tool versus having to press buttons to perform an action. For example, in the new Zelda game, “Twilight Princess”, when fishing you cast with the left hand controller, the nunchuck (which includes a mini joystick), and reel with your right hand control (which is the main, b-buttoned one). This, as you can see, will literally pull the gamer into the game. RPG has a totally new meaning. Other benefits of the totally mod controller are player indication LED lights to show whose controller is whose, a built-in speaker for online gaming and communication, and a home button for navigating the

Internet. Its range, too, is near unbeatable at a whopping 30 feet from controller to receiver, an addition developers said they had to make.

The already developed and sale-ready games include the much anticipated “The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess,” “Wii Sports,” which is bundled with the hardware when purchased, “Excite Truck,” and “WarioWares: Smooth Moves.” All of these are highly adapted to the abilities of the powerful Wii system and interactive controller. So as long as you’re willing to camp out at Best Buy with the other ever-faithful gamers, the Wii is sure to not disappoint. But the question is: What will they think of next?

For stats, information and indepth interviews, photos and game designs go to wii.nintendo.com.

Hollywoodland is bland

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

Superman back on the screen again, no not really it’s not another adventure movie it is however a mystery about the actor who plays Superman and how he tries to survive in the movie world having everyone labeling him as only Superman, not by his acting abilities itself.

Adrian Brody from 2005 movie *The Jacket* plays Louis Simo. In real life, Louis Simo was Milo Speriglio. Ben Affleck from the 2003 movie *Daredevil* plays George Reeves also known as Superman.

The movie was going to be called *Truth Justice and The American Way* instead its called *Hollywood Land* is based on a true story of the man who the first actor to dress up in tights. From 1952-1958 aired the show *Adventures of Superman*. The pilot was called *Superman the Mole Man*. The movie was based in the 1950s. Set on June 16, 1959 from when the night George Reeves committed suicide with a gunshot, however some question that he was murdered rather then committing suicide.

Hollywood land reinvented the life of the very first role ever played Superman was George Reeves. The movie showed his struggle to become an actor and how he landed the role as Clark Kent/Superman. The flick shows some of the difficulties

and struggles of being a star in Hollywood. Some re-in acts was when Reeves stared in the movie *From Here to Eternity*. Everyone booed him labeling him only as Superman and not for his other work out side of being Superman. Including children would look up to him and if the saw him they would test his strength. Such as a kid approached him with a loaded gun attempting to shoot Superman, thinking that the bullets would pop back from his chest to test his amazing “so called strength,” like the television show.

Reeves had an affair with Toni Mannix played by Dianne lane. Mannix was the wife of MGM studio executive Eddie Mannix.

The movie could have been better; the ending was very loose and did not make sense of what was going on. The ending was not precise to the point when it should have in the end been a little blunt. It made the moviegoers think but gave them no input of what the ending was.

The movie is rated R and is two hours and six minutes. People were still waiting for the grand finale of the end, which turned out to be only credits and a confused audience in disbelief that the movie just cut off to just the credits. Movie-goers should be on guard at all times and keep their eyes and ears open.

So find a seat and keep your spot neat.



SCREEN CAPTURE

Adrian Brody played former detective turned private investigator “Louis Simo” in this Autumn’s Superman drama.

Open Season full of laughs

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF
and
BY LAUREN VELAZQUEZ
MANAGING EDITOR

“Open Season” shot its way to number one according to the box office stats at yahoo.com. The voice of Boog the comedic bear was done by Martin Lawrence and his hilarious dear side-kick buddy was Elliot, voiced by Ashton Kutcher.

Boog is a loveable and tamed grizzly bear who lives with Beth a park ranger who found him as a cub. Beth and Boog do shows in which Boog stars in them. Three days before hunting season opens they go to town to talk to the Sheriff where Boog meets his soon-to –be-friend Elliot who is tied to the hood of a truck with one horn missing. The truck belongs to “Hunter” an evil hunter who hunts during and on off season. From that moment on Boog’s life changes. He gets charged for an uproar caused by both him

and Elliot at a local convenience store. Boog then gets outcast by his community and forced to live in the deepest part of the forest with Elliot. They learn to live an unhampered life without his beloved “Beth”. Not only does he have to learn to adapt to the wilderness but he also has to beware of “Hunter” and other hunters.

With more and more challenges along the way Boog and Elliot bond. One of the movie theaters that were promoting was Muvico Paradise 24. For like a couple of months and up until now they advertise a preview of “Open Season” skit in the theaters saying “Thank you for visiting the concession stands” where they speak loudly on the phone.

The flick is an hour and forty minutes long and is rated PG. Shockingly, people of all ages are going out and watching this particular movie. So go see what it is about. Find a seat and keep your spot neat.



Boog and Elliot go through a rough patch before ending up the best of friends.

BY AMANDA FERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

We remember her as the cute 19 year old “Genie in a Bottle” who captured America’s hearts with her sweet smile and sparkling baby blues. Christina Aguilera was born in Staten Island, New York and had dreamed of being a singer since age 12. Finally in 1989, her dreams came true when she was offered a role on Disney’s The Mickey Mouse Club. The show ended a few years later and in 1999, her debut self titled album was released. Her innocence and playful nature appealed to the young teenage audience and she was an instant hit, winning “Best New Artist” at the Grammys in 2000. In 2002, she earned yet another Grammy for “Best Collaboration” when she recorded *Lady Marmalade* along side Pink, Lila Kim and Missy Elliot.

The very same year, she would release *Stripped* the album which introduced us to the more adult side of Christina. Her entire image changed. She was no longer the cute, 5’2” young blonde teenager singing about innocent love, crushes and having fun with your friends. She’d grown up into a sultry, voluptuous bombshell complete with a tattoo that read “X-Tina“, short for her first name, and piercings which included her nose, nipple and chin. Even her attitude had gone from innocent to seductive. It was a completely different Christina, and her audience grew and transformed with her. When asked about her sudden transformation she simply replied “It’s human nature to have a sexual side.”

Stripped, also allowed X-Tina’s fans to see her emotional side when she released “Beautiful” a song which won her recognition and an award at the GLAAD awards



Christina's shot from her August Rollingstone cover.

for her portrayal of gay men and women in the music video. “The Voice Within” which was a song about finding comfort within yourself and listening to your conscience. Christina remained true to her “dirty image” until recently when she announced that she was going to release another album, which meant that a whole new Christina would emerge along with the album.

Sure enough, *Back to Basics* was released in 2006 and with it, the new Christina. Inspired by legendary jazz and blues singers such as Billie Holiday and Etta James, Christina’s first single from the album, *Ain’t No Other Man*, has the sound of the music popular in the 30’s and 40’s with the edge of the 90’s jazz-rap.

As predicted, Christina cleaned up her image and now looks like a spitting image of Marilyn Monroe. Even her official site has been transformed to look like a 30’s dressing room. However, despite the nature of the album, her “dirty” persona is still present in the song “Still Dirty” in which she claims “If you want some more ‘sexy’, I still got that freak in me”.

Christina’s sound evolves with time as more and more of her heart and soul is revealed. With each new album is a new piece of Christina and another peek into her emotions.

Halloween Horror Nights puts the “spook” in Spooktacular

BY AMANDA FERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Halloween has always been an eventful night for many, due to parties, trick or treating, dressing up and of course, Halloween pranks. In 1990, Universal Studios took Halloween to the next level when they created Halloween Horror Nights: an event which runs from Sept. 29-30 and continues through Oct. 6-8, 11-15, 19-22, 26-29 and 31. The event takes place in Universal Studios theme park in Hollywood, California as well as in the Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida. Of all the places to go, (consisting of haunted houses and live entertainment) Halloween Horror Nights is the place to be. This year, for the 16th anniversary, the theme for Horror Nights is “Sweet 16” where they will bring back for the first time,

Jack the Clown, The Caretaker, The Director and The Storyteller, who have been known as the most demented fiends of Halloween Horror nights and will be joined by a wickedly gruesome guest list.

Universal will feature seven haunted houses which include: the *Dungeon of Terror*, *People Under the Stairs-Under Construction*, *Psycho Path-The Return Of Norman Bates*, *Run-Hostile Territory*, *Scream house resurrection*, *Psychoscareapy Maximum Madness* and *All Nite Die in Take 2*. They will also be having live entertainment and various shows featuring The Director, The Storyteller, Jack The Clown, and The Caretaker. The first show, *The Arrival*, will allow the audience to witness “darkness and his minions” as they bring forth the ashes of Halloween’s past and summon iconic evil. In honor

of the 16th anniversary, the second show is titled Sweet 16; Directors Cut. In this show, the Storyteller, Jack, The Director, and the Caretaker host the “Horror Nights Homecoming” and incorporate some of the most intense scenes from various Universal pictures fright films. Lastly, this year there will be a new show added to the roster titled Bill and Ted’s Excellent Halloween Adventure. In this parody, Bill and Ted as they encounter various heroes and villains from the years most memorable T.V. shows, music and movies.

In addition to the shows and haunted houses, they also have three new “Scare Zones” where it is completely foggy and you are chased by with men with chainsaws. One can imagine that despite them not physically touching you (employees dressed like monsters) it does seem scary



The Chainsaw Gang at Halloween Horror Nights.

at first hand though. People who have been to Horror Nights before tell that you can not see them in all the fog and they come from any and every corner.

This is one of the most popular

destinations for Halloween. It’s described by many as an incredibly great time and a unique experience.

Our eye in the heavens

BY WILLIAM BREIM
SCI-TECH EDITOR

The Hubble telescope has been an amazing tool for astronomers, physicists and cosmologists around the world as well as public relations gold mine for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Most people have seen an image of Hubble in the newspaper, television, the internet is filled with them and because they are so beautiful many have become wallpapers for computers.

The 24k pound space telescope orbits earth every 96 minutes at a height of 370 miles above us.

On September 21 it spotted 500 more galaxies in the early universe. How can a telescope see into the past? Well, it's not hard at all; people do it all the time every time you look at a star or anything very far away. Light has a travel speed, so it means that when you look at Sirius, the brightest star you can find in the night sky, it is 8.4 light years away. The photon hitting your eyes at any moment took 8.4 years traveling at the speed of light to get to you.

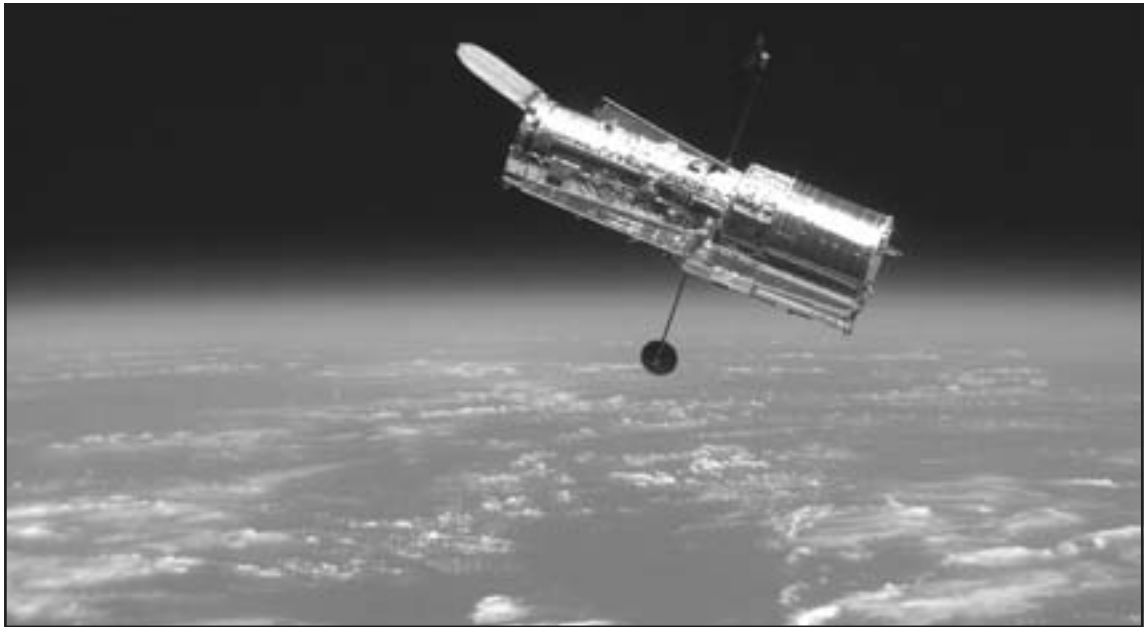


PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA

The Hubble Space Telescope in "Hubble Against Earth's Horizon."

That means you are looking at that star as it was 8.4 years ago. The galaxies spotted by Hubble however are 13 billion light years away, it is looking at the universe as it was only 1 billion years after the Big Bang. Studying these, scientists can make better models of the universe which we can use to refine the theories that explain

how it all came to be.

Since its launch in 1990 it has contributed on many ground-breaking researches as well as helping solve long standing question of astronomy. The Hubble is responsible for allowing astronomers to measure the rate of expansion of the universe down to a 10 percent margin of error, much

better than the 50 percent before the telescope. Knowing how fast our universe is expanding allows scientist to know more accurately how old it really is. Ironically the space telescope has caused much uncertainty about the nature of the universe; astronomers have shown after observing far away exploding stars that the cosmos may actually be accelerating, meaning the expansion is getting faster. That would mean that our universe may be doomed to grow ever bigger until everything is very far away from each other and all the stars start dying out, until finally all that is left is an enormous cold cosmos. That is directly opposed to the theory

that the expansion is slowing down and will start contracting until eventually the universe is compressed into another big bang.

Over 4000 papers have been written with data from Hubble and just who gets to use this 6 billion dollar machine? Anyone is eligible really, there are no restrictions on nationality or academic affiliations, but competition is fierce and there are 6 to 9 times more requests to use the Hubble than there is time to use it.

There is great debate over the future of the telescope, a service mission was schedule for February 2005, but it was scrapped after the Columbia disaster in which NASA decided that the shuttles future flights should always get to the International Space Station in case of damage at launch. Since the shuttle cannot reach the Hubble and the space shuttle is on the same flight a servicing mission seems unlikely.

Hubble will fall back to earth in about 5 -20 years, it all depends on the Sun's activity and its impact on the atmosphere and how well the telescope's gyros will work, but no need to worry even a completely unguided re-entry only has a 1 in 700th chance of causing human injury. Next time you look up to the sky you will know that we have an amazing tool in trying to understand just how amazing the universe really is.

Colorful time of the year

BY NATHAN PHELPS
SCI-TECH EDITOR

This is the season where warm weather changes to cold, scary Halloween costumes abound and harvest celebrations make us gain weight. Autumn officially began on September 23, at 12:03AM EDT. Known as the Autumnal equinox, when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are nearly equal, it is the season where days rapidly get shorter and cooler, the nights rapidly get longer and in some parts of the world the amount of precipitation increases. It is due to these changes that we also experience the breathtaking colors of fall leaves. For years scientists have worked to understand the changes that happen to trees and shrubs. Although there is much that they don't know, there does seem to be three factors that influence the change. These factors are weather, length of nights and leaf pigments.

The amount and brilliance of the colors depend on the weather that occurs before and during the months leading up to winter. A dry late summer followed by bright sunny autumn days and cool nights bring out the richest colors. Wet weather diffuses the concentration of pigment in the leaves and produces a less vivid affect. Conversely dry weather increases sugar concentration in the sap, and also the pigment anthocyanins, which helps to enhance color. It is due to the weather and the right combination of trees that one of the best places

in the world to see the rich, vibrant colors of fall is in the northeast United States.

Photosynthesis is the process by which plants use the energy of sunlight to produce sugar.

As the days start to shorten there is not enough light for photosynthesis to occur. During the spring and summer the leaves serve as food factories producing the food for the trees growth. This process takes place in the cells of the leaf that contain chlorophyll. This chemical absorbs the energy from the sunlight and transforms carbon dioxide and water to carbohydrates such as sugar and starch. In the fall this food production shuts down, due to the changes in temperature and length of the daylight hours and the stored sugar is used to maintain the tree during its dormant period.

There are color pigments that are present in every leaf, the amount of each depending on the type of tree. These pigments are chlorophyll, carotenoids, tannins, and anthocyanins. The color perceived is in direct proportion to the amount and types of chemicals present in the leaf. Chlorophyll is the pigment in the leaf that produces the green color. It is by far the most important element of the leaf because it is used in photosynthesis. During the growing season, it is continually being produced and broken down making the leaves appear green. It is produced by the sun and is the chemical that converts carbon dioxide and water to glucose and oxygen. Chlorophyll is a photosynthetic pigment. There

are different chlorophyll pigments that produce the different colors of green, according to the type of plant. In fall when the chlorophyll stops producing and disappears from the leaf, the other pigments that where already present are revealed.

Carotenoids produce the yellows and oranges. The color brown comes form tannin. This is a bitter waste product that is trapped in leaves when photosynthesis stops.

Anthocyanins cause the red and purple colors. These pigments are common in many plants. This pigment is enhanced when glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and cool nights increase the red color making the colors more vivid. Scientists believe that anthocyanins help to lower the freezing point giving some frost protection to the tree. The leaves remaining longer remove more of the sugars, nitrogen and other valuable substances before the leaves fall. Scientists also believe it may be possible that this pigment seeps into the ground, once the leaf falls, preventing other types of species from growing nearby.

It is an interesting fact that part of the tree needs to die in order for the rest to grow and flourish. The fallen leaves are not wasted; they decompose and once again add nutrients to the soil that will nourish the tree and the soil around it. The colors of nature's palette seem to do more than just replenish the soil and forests; they also seem to replenish the soul.

Exposing Exponents

BY WILLIAM BREIM
SCI-TECH EDITOR

As the fable goes, a renowned, yet anonymous emperor of Persian was presented with beautiful chess board by a courtier, the monarch in his infinite generosity offered him any reward for his fabulous gift. The courtier asked simply to be presented with a mere one grain of rice on the first square of the chess board, 2 grains on the second, 4 on the third and so on. The emperor promptly agreed to the modest request, he unfortunately at that point had just committed himself to deliver more grains of rice than existed in the world.

In a nutshell exponential growth means that as a quantity increases it will increase by a faster and faster rate. Exponential growth like the one in the fable is an enormous part of everyday life. Human population, computer processing power, viruses and bacteria are all example of that kind of growth. Famous Thomas Malthus predicted in 1798 that world population would surpass

world food production, fortunately technological advancements, like the green revolution in the 20th century prevented a global famine on the scale Malthus predicted. Bacteria like the common cold can spread exponentially among human populations.

When more than one nuclear reaction is caused by one nuclear reaction causes an exponential growth in nuclear reactions. An uncontrollable chain reaction with sufficient amounts of fuel is the basis of nuclear weapons. A controlled chain reaction is what powers our nuclear plants.

Exponential decay is also very important specially when it comes to radioactive decay which predicts how long it would take for an area affected by a nuclear blast for example to be safe for humans again. Also it is how Carbon Dating is done so we know how old fossils are, helping immensely the development of evolution theory. As you must know by now there is a lot of power when you multiply a simple number by itself many times.

Academic software saves students money

BY RICK DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Just about every campus bookstore offers some software for their students although the popular titles are often sold out while some of the more obscure ones are hardly ever stocked. There is hope though as a quick Google search reveals countless offerings for student versions of

popular titles although checking directly with the specific software producer may find cheaper prices and better options. By far the most popular titles for students are science and engineering or productivity. For example, Microsoft Office is almost a necessity for many college students while advanced mathematics software such as Maple and Mathematica are

essential for higher level courses while some require their use for special topics. Programming languages are just as popular for computer science courses and operating systems are in demand for everyone, especially when new systems come out. So what is the difference between the editions... surprisingly it's generally only in definition. Most student

editions are the full program and merely include a disclaimer that you cannot legally use it for commercial uses. In some cases student editions have advanced features disabled which can be turned on by purchasing a standard license. Take note though that most student editions have a limit, usually a year or two, after which time you need to renew the license in order to continue to legitimately use the application and in some cases the software will cease operating at this point. Also, when you buy the software online proof is usually required of your student status just like an on campus bookstore. Not convinced that students can get a good deal? Microsoft Office 2003 Professional Edition has a list price of \$579, which

is the retail price you would pay at Best Buy or any other retail outlet. Looking at three random links from a Google web search finds the average price of this title as \$180 for students. Not convinced? How about Adobe Creative Suite 2, the industry standard for graphics creation, retail price \$1,200, student price \$380! In many cases you can upgrade a student version to a full version at a cost that is still cheaper than the regular retail price. Mathematica offers a student version for about \$120 and allows you to upgrade to a standard commercial edition for an additional \$375, considering the full commercial edition is \$1,800 the savings are staggering.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Mirages: Do you see what I see?

BY NATHAN PHELPS
SCI-TECH EDITOR

It is real or is it imagined? The answer is yes, when it comes to mirages. Have you ever wondered why you see that water on the road? You know it's not there but you see it, you can even see the reflection of a car passing through it; are you sure it's not there? The definition of a mirage according to the English standard dictionary is, "an optical illusion due to atmospheric conditions by which reflected objects are seen." In truth the term should be refracted not reflected and technically a mirage is not an optical illusion, but rather a real phenomenon, due to the fact it can be photographed.

To understand what creates a mirage we must first understand how light travels through the air. In a vacuum, or air of equal temperature, light will travel in a straight line.

Cold air has a higher index of refraction than warm air does, as a result photons, (particles of light), travel through warm air faster. Light bends as it passes through different mediums, be it different temperatures of air, or from air to water. Mirages are a direct result of photons traveling through different mediums. Ideal conditions for a mirage to form are still, hot air on a sunny day over a very flat surface that will absorb the suns energy and become very hot. In this situation the air closest to the surface will be hottest and less dense. The air density will gradually increase with height. In this situation the photons will curve upward away from the ground to the cooler air. Someone viewing the road ahead will see the sky, because all the photons from the sky are taking a curved path that the human eye interprets as water on the road.

There are two types of mirages; the most familiar type is the inferior mirage. This is the

"highway mirage" a form most always seen over a land surface. In an inferior mirage the reflected object always appears below the object. The other type of mirage is a superior mirage; this form of mirage is seen over large bodies of water or snow and ice fields. In a superior mirage the air is colder closer to the ground and warms as it goes higher. Due to this fact the reflected object appears above the actual object rather than below.

Mirages are more common now than they were a century ago. This is due to the changes that humans have brought to our landscape. The most common mirage seen today is the "highway mirage." In times past, mirages played a significant role in many cultures around the world. Many legends, spiritual visions and folk tales have their origins in mirages. Although a mirage is not magic but science there is a certain amount of wonder still associated with it.



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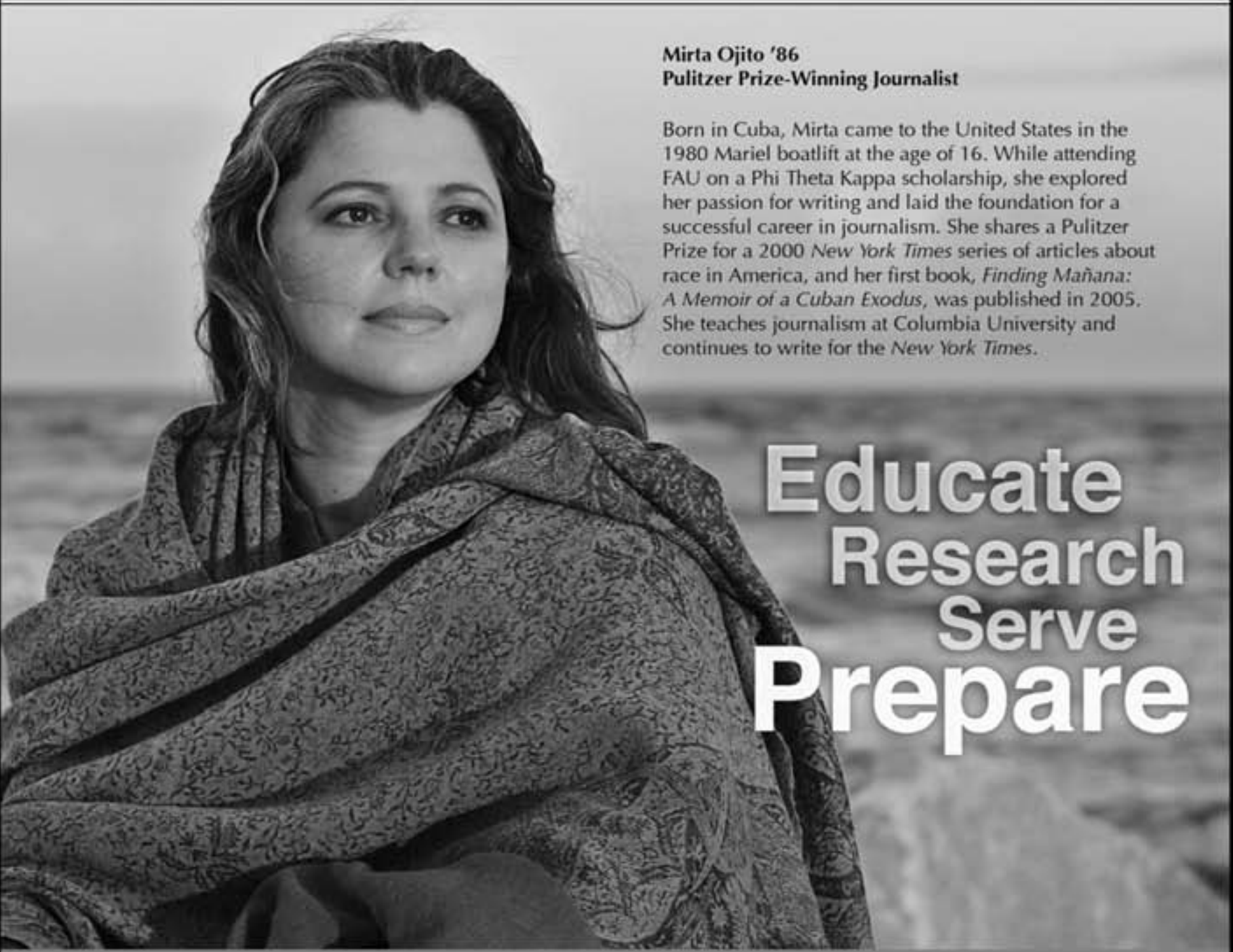


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Mirta Ojito '86
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist

Born in Cuba, Mirta came to the United States in the 1980 Mariel boatlift at the age of 16. While attending FAU on a Phi Theta Kappa scholarship, she explored her passion for writing and laid the foundation for a successful career in journalism. She shares a Pulitzer Prize for a 2000 *New York Times* series of articles about race in America, and her first book, *Finding Mañana: A Memoir of a Cuban Exodus*, was published in 2005. She teaches journalism at Columbia University and continues to write for the *New York Times*.

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Shakira rocks Miami



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Shakira blends classic Columbian beats with a distinctly pop sound.

BY ENA PORTILLO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Colombian Diva, Shakira, rocked the floor during her two shows in Miami. Many people had been waiting for this moment, and now that it’s over it’s easy to see why her concert tickets sold out faster than lightening. Her colleague and friend, Alejandro Sanz who collaborated on the hit single ‘La Tortura’ was there along with expected and well known Fugees member Wycleff. Shakira has captivated music lovers with her music and charisma for nearly a decade. She has entertained many of her followers since 1996 when she released her first pop album called “Pies Descalzos.” Since then, she made her crossover with her first English album, Laundry Service, which sold more than 13 million copies. Her latest album, Oral Fixation 2 has been a greater success for this enchanting entertainer.

Shakira’s dedication has paid off with many important nominations and awards. Recently, she was named a UNICEF ambassador. To be the youngest world representative came after enormous effort, devotion and time to her Pies Delcalzos Foundation. Her foundation is dedicated to children; it promotes education and basic needs of children displaced by violence in her native Colombia. Without doubt, Shakira has become one of the most acclaimed and successful Latin Female solo singers in the world. Shakira always keeps her fans waiting and wanting more, and for the same reason she has added a third show in Miami. It seems like Miami can’t get enough of this Latin Pop Star, but that’s not a surprise to anyone who has danced to “My Hips Don’t Lie.” Dec. 6 will be Shakira’s last concert in Miami this year. Tickets went on sale Sept. 16.

BY HEATHER DULMAN
SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF

Julie Daniels, an up and coming theater student and recent BCC alumna, performed a pre-Broadway showcase called Boomers at the Amaturo Theater in Ft. Lauderdale in late September. The 24-year-old has been involved with theater for the past 10 years when she auditioned for a local community college in Rainsville, Alabama. She was then given a full-ride scholarship to Northeast Alabama Community College. Daniels started in BCC during the fall of 2002 and graduated in the spring of 2005. She is currently a theater student at FAU and is planning to get a BFA in two years. Boomers was about the National Baby Boom after the end of World War Two. The play is a description of two generations of fathers and sons and about the pressure a father puts on his son to

become a football star; the son’s dream is opposite of his father’s. “I was just thrilled to be involved in such an amazing show with such an amazing message,” she said. Daniels said that every night of the performances, she made it her mission as the character Beth to deliver the message to the audience. “I felt like I did my job when I could hear the audience sniffing.” Daniel thanks theater professor Debbie Sanchez for casting her in The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 when she was a student at BCC. “That show gave me the opportunity to sing on stage for the first time in two years. You don’t always know who is watching you perform,” she said. “It is so important to give it your all and enjoy yourself and have fun on stage. There is always that one person out there looking out for you.” Daniels had this to say for



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBORAH SANCHEZ

Daniels in “Murders of 1940.”

inspiring actors and actresses: “There is always room for improvement because there is always someone out there who works just a bit harder than you. Study acting seriously, make new discoveries and don’t forget to sing.” Her next production at FAU that she’ll be in is called the Merchant of Naples.

College Academy

■ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ambitious, want to learn and are courteous kids. It’s the best job in the world to end my career with before I retire,” said Sapp. The overall success of the students also has contributing factors from the partnership between College Academy and BCC. “The absolute reason why at least 97 percent of our enrolled students get their A.A. is because of Elena Starson,” said Sapp. Starson is one of the guidance counselors for BCC

who has worked hand-in-hand with the College Academy since it debuted. She has been the one who helps the students at CA to get all or most of their prerequisites completed before they are transferred to the college or university of their choice. BCC security also has worked well the CA in keeping the students safe, said Sapp. One question that remains is why this program was developed. “This program is just another option among many [for students]. At CA, we are blurring the lines between high

school and college, creating a seamless link between secondary and post-secondary education and helping students understand how their coursework connects to the future,” said Koszoru. Other program options available to the high school students today include full time dual-enrollment, virtual (online) schools, career academies, technical schools and magnet schools. As another alternative for high school students today, this program continues to transcend the limits of public high school education.

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Engineering Association takes flight

BY NATHAN PHELPS
SCI-TECH EDITOR

The engineering club at Central Campus has undertaken a monumental project at the Aviation center on South Campus. The three year project is to design and build a working cozy mark IV airplane. Funded through a continuing education course called “composite aircraft design,” this is a fascinating and exhilarating emersion into

aerospace engineering. The project envelopes all elements of design, including interior cockpit layout, instrumental panel design and aerodynamics of wing and body structure not to mention working with engines and designing a new engine coolant system. Using both standard equipment and state of the art technology, the plane build will offer a unique opportunity to anyone interested in a hands-on experience.



PHOTO COURTESY NATHAN PHELPS

The Boeing 727 provided by FedEx earlier this year.

Cleary explains it all

BY DONALD THOMANN
STAFF WRITER

On his website, the definition in dictionary terms of Micheal Cleary is “n. ex-altar boy, ex- beer truck driver, ph.d., who writes poetry chock full of humanity and humor.” Additionally, Dr. Cleary is a creative writing teacher at BCC and winner of the *Paumanok* poetry award alongside such poetic greats as Joyce Carol Oates and Allen Ginsberg.

His first published collection of poems is called *Hometown*, U.S.A. and debuted in 1992. The book received acclaim from notable sources, including the *Small Press Review*, *Appalechee Quarterly*, and *Sun Sentinel*, for his accounts of what it was like growing up in post war Glenn Falls, New York.

Fourteen years later, in 2006 he published his second book entitled *Halfway Decent Sinners*. “I’ve taken dogmatic, catechismal concepts and find myself applying them to things that aren’t religion,” said Cleary. “For instance, the admiration of courage for the daily suffering of those handicapped students,” he said, referring to the first poem in the book, entitled *Lucky Shirt*. “Instead of God on a cross it becomes a poem of great admiration toward human suffering and courage.” This award-winning second book has received praise from Anne-Marie Oomen at *Foreword Magazine* and Lisa Bramen from the *Post Star* among others.

Halfway Decent Sinners is organized into three sections with their own secondary themes that necessarily follow with the underlying theme of the book itself. The first chapter, entitled *Original Sins* contains poems like *Lucky Shir*; *Ex-Jock on Faith*, *Free Throws and Follow Through*; *Sister Lard Ass*; and *I Never Heard a Nun*, a poem that combines comedy and religion and begins with the line “I never heard a nun fart/ though God knows/ they were beside us all our days.”

Aunt Sara, the second section, tells the fictional story of a sad and lonely woman. “I called her Aunt Sara so she would sound like an old lady, although she’s not an old lady, more like in her thirties,” said Cleary. “I wanted to make her sexually adventurous in some way; she’s not married, she has affairs with people and in the book, that sequence is a beginning to the end of a relationship with a married guy.” Although it might seem difficult to imagine a reader sympathizing with such a promiscuous woman, Cleary articulates in a way that the reader feels a sense of compassion for Aunt Sara.

Chapter three, the last section, contains Cleary’s showcase poem entitled *Word Farm*. As Cleary drives in a beer truck with his coworker, Beech, up Tongue Mountain staring out the window at David Smith’s sculptures on top of a hill, he comes to the hard realization that this will be his last summer spent on the wagon.



FILE PHOTO

Dr. Michael Cleary.

The poem reminisces of the important little details that have shaped his life. The words that the nuns blacked out of his books and his girlfriend’s drunken father, everything recounted in beautifully poetic detail.

Dr. Michael Cleary will be reading select passages from his newly published book, *Halfway Decent Sinners* at the Southern Breeze Café on South Campus on Friday, October 13 at 7 p.m.

Amish Paradise?


BY LAUREN VELAZQUEZ
MANAGING EDITOR

Lancaster, Bucolic, a peaceful, quiet country was interrupted by devastation with no logical reasoning. It all began on October 2, 2006 at 11 a.m. in Wolf Rock School. Suspect Charles Carl Robert IV, a 32 year old milk truck driver carrying three guns barged in a tiny Amish school, while causing a huge uproar. The one-room school house consisted of 27 students ranging from grades 1-8. Robert took over the school, dismissed all the boys and adults outside. Once they were outside he took pieces of wood to board up the inside of the school—he was familiar with because of his milk route. Roberts then used plastic flex cuffs and wire ties to bound the feet of his girl hostages. He then lined them up along the

blackboard and began shooting at them execution style.

He committed suicide but not before executing six innocent children. There was no grudge towards the Amish community nor was he Amish. The reason he targeted the school was because it was close to where he lived, there was poor security there and girls attended the school. Roberts came fully prepared for his massacre. He had a 12-gauge shotgun, 9mm semiautomatic pistol, rifle, two cans of smokeless powder, 600 rounds of ammunition, a stun gun and two knives. Just before the gun down took place Roberts illegibly had confessed to his wife that he had molested two very young relatives 20 years ago. They were family members between the age of 3 and 5. He mentioned in his suicide notes about having constant dreams about molesting

and he also mentioned he was very angry about the loss of his daughter in 1997. It is said that he did all of the killing because of a 20 year old grudge (his daughters death.) The final outcome was shocking to many. No one knew it was coming. Could this have possibly been a copy of the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colorado that had two teenage gunmen who killed 15 people? Or the death of seven people at a school on Minnesota’s Red Lake Indian Reservation, from a 16 year old that then afterwards killed himself. It just goes to show you that anyone and everyone can be subjected as a target. Whether you’re in the Bronx or Amish country, disturbed and mental people don’t show partiality to ethnicity, gender or race when they want to execute someone.




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Please e-mail bccobserver@gmail.com or call 954-201-8035 to make an appointment with one of the editors or the advisor. The following positions are available:

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LOST CAMERA REWARD IF FOUND

A camera belonging to The Observer newsroom went missing Monday, Oct. 2, on BCC South Campus during the afternoon. The camera is a Fuji FinePix digital and was lost along with its black camera bag. A reward will be given to those with any information leading to the eventual reclamation of said camera.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our Photo Editor, Johnny Louis
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To MySpace or not to MySpace?

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Who is MySpace? Where is MySpace? Do you have a space where you can use it as MySpace? These are just some of the infinite questions that the novice to the internet world might have to ask. So why do people use MySpace as their space to create and generate a conglomerate of people who happen to possess the same interest or simply happen to know someone who has a webpage on that website?

The internet is what enables people around the world to use MySpace as a fountain to which to absorb the eternal plethora of

knowledge and viewpoints that humans have toward cultures, subjects, topics of interest—just to name a few. Well, the mere fact



that the day has approximately 1,440 minutes could be a motivating factor to anyone who has time to fill, which pretty much sums up all of us.

So, where do people have to go to in order to create a MySpace

webpage? The obvious answer is not at school since the computers have a block so that students can not enter this forbidden site. Possible motives for this restriction on school computers may be that it could easily be interpreted by school administrators as a deterrent to studying, because if you are to give students the equation of having the free will to use their time and you add a computer to this mix the result might be that they would utilize their time in an accordance to a MySpace kind of world.

So, do you *Yahoo!* at what life has to offer or do you prefer to stay on MySpace in an attempt at everlasting bliss?

Pope need not apologize



PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLEMAGAZINE.COM

Pope Benedict XVI during his more fruitful years.

BY DANIELLA DORCELUS
CENTRAL BUREAU CHIEF

Recently, Pope Benedict XVI caused uproar among Muslims when he quoted a 14-century letter that stated that the prophet Mohammed “spread by the sword the faith he preached” and that his doctrine brought things “evil and inhuman.” What is funny about this is the fact that he repeatedly tried to stress that the statement was not his personal opinion. Why would one say something that he does not personally believe? Since the Pope is Catholic, he obviously must denounce any other religion that is contrary to the teaching of Catholicism so it is no surprise that he would make such a remark. Public apology was demanded after the situation occurred which I thought was ridiculous. How can one try to censor someone else’s personal belief?

If I was Muslim there is no way I would accept that apology because by no way did I believe it was sincere. Instead of asking

for an apology they should have refuted it with scriptures from their own doctrine but in any case it might not have been persuasive to non-Muslims. Something is truth to someone only if he/she believes in it. I’m a Christian and I know that there are a lot of religions out there that do not recognize Jesus as the Son of God. For example, the Nation of Islam believes that he was just a prophet but am I going to ask for an apology when someone of that faith verbally expresses this? No. What would be the point? As a Christian, my mission is to fight false doctrine and therefore I would use biblical scriptures to oppose anything that the person would mention concerning Jesus Christ. In addition, I myself am not Catholic and do not pay any reverence to the Pope. If I choose to say something contrary to the Pope’s teachings or choose to question his authority according to biblical standards no one should censor what I have to say and force me to apologize.

The life of a human guinea pig

BY CAMI CARR
LAYOUT EDITOR

When one thinks of testing new pharmaceuticals, one would see images of animals dancing in their heads. But no, I am a human guinea pig for a pharmaceutical company in a trial for a new drug that aids sleep in insomniacs. I never really had an opinion on this subject before I began the clinical trial, but now my mind abounds with the conflict of my experience and what I’ve always thought was right for both human and animal kind.

In labs where cosmetics and intravenous anesthesia drugs are tested on animals, the subjects

suffer greatly and the vast majority succumb to death or suicide. The next best alternative is to have human subjects who can actually explain certain effects of a drug and also its beneficial components.

In our country many of the world’s highest officials own shares of major pharmaceutical companies and profit from not only the sale of their sometimes deadly product, but also from the suffering of animals and humans alike.

I began the clinical study as an experiment in how they actually worked, what the politics were like and what exactly the forms said. I can say now that I’m

involved I really don’t see it as a benefit to society to be testing drugs that soon could be on the market and pumped into your systems but as way to monopolize on the human ability to feel and to feel with such depth.

Humans hurt and ache and pine, sometimes we cant sleep or eat or function in social situations; all from being forced into a society with so much pressure and such a need to function perfectly like a streamlined robot.

I’ve signed my rights over to pharmaceutical company in their clinical test string simply to learn and to understand though now I’m filled with regret for I am now a human guinea pig.

Wal-Mart: Your one stop shop for drugs

BY LAUREN VELAZQUEZ
MANAGING EDITOR

Roll down prices at an incredible price. Wal-Mart is going to start a \$4 generic prescription program statewide in Florida and other places. It begins Oct. 6, four months ahead of schedule. The reason for the early schedule is because of the increase of demanding customers and many Florida state official requests. In January 2007 the program was going to be statewide. Wal-Mart has also added 314 generic prescriptions to choose from. Target also jumped on the band

-wagon by selling their generic prescriptions at the same prices. Before people use to fly to Canada to get cheap prescription drugs to save money so now Wal-Mart wanted to gain back their customers by charging one low price for all generic prescriptions. Its going to benefit many people whether they are old or young. With prices increasing all the time people are unable to afford medications that are important to their health. So Wal-Mart made it more affordable and also gained more customers and profit. Now that’s what I call roll back prices!

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My Fellow Non-Americans

BY JOSÉ VALENCIA
BCC STUDENT

When it comes to immigration people often have very polarized points of view. My own assessment of the current immigration policies in America is fairly balanced by any standards, considering of course that I am a recent legal immigrant. My family moved to Miami-Florida in August 2001 from Sao Paulo-Brazil, we expected to become residents in three to four years taking into account that my father was transferred here to represent a multi-national, open an American branch and generate jobs. We all know what happened then, September 11 changed everything, and I saw in my own community a rush of immigrant running to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) so they could get driver’s licenses with their tourist’s VISA. It became chaotic, expensive and time-consuming to obtain residency, only now in mid-2006, after two applications

and roughly \$1,500, I was granted permanent residency. What do I think of the immigration policy? They are tough, justifiably so, but they are terribly misplaced. Liberals like to point out that once all Americans were immigrants and we have no right to turn these new people away. That argument is fundamentally flawed, times have changed, this country is not the virgin land of opportunity with a fertile bosom of prosperity it once was. Globalization is making the international market so complex and competitive that a nation’s survival plan must include a coherent control of the influx of population. It is unacceptable that millions of people, with minimal education are breaking the law to enter this country, while there are many people in countless lines all over the world waiting to legally immigrate to this country. I agree that we should help other nations, respect the immigrants and give people a chance at the American dream. But support

the right people, the people who follow the law, the people who have more to add to this country, whose ability is unsupported in their home nations and to bring in more students with promising futures to American universities. The policies are already there, what needs to happen is reinforcement. People already have a way to move here legally, I’ve done it. Closing the borders would be tough, and cause a lot of suffering, but America is doing no favor to immigrants by allowing them to escape their country, instead of forcing them to unite and change their nations. With a more selective influx, this country can be stronger and help the countries immigrants are fleeing from. Amnesty would be nothing short of a slap in the face of those who worked very hard to help America and immigrated legally. The United States became a great power, through immigration, including the forced immigration of slaves who immensely

contributed to growth. This nation’s future is directly related to the immigrants who are moving in today. Yes, we hope to live in a world without boundaries where all human beings are free to move, but if we are ever to reach that dream, we must create strong nations that can push humanity’s development to the point of virtually ending disease, famine and war.



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Singer Willie Nelson charged with possession

BY ZARA HOYT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Country legend Willie Nelson, a public advocate for the legalization of marijuana, has once again been caught by police, this time for possession of one and a half pounds of his favorite drug of choice and 90 grams of psychedelic mushrooms. The singer-songwriter was traveling on his tour bus Sept. 18 in the company of a group of other musicians when they were flagged down by the Louisiana State Police Department for a “routine commercial inspection.” Maybe the personalized banner reading “Willie Nelson’s Tour Bus” was enough of a tip for police. The state trooper smelled marijuana aboard the Willie-

mobile and thoroughly searched the vehicle. The fuzz seized the pot and shrooms and immediately cited Nelson and his four cronies for possession. Although no arrests were made, the trooper did suspend the bus driver’s commercial driving privileges. As for Nelson, the police department says he faces up to six months in prison and must dish out an unspecified amount of cash in punishment for his crime. I bet he gets probation for six months and treats the Louisiana precinct to a round of cold beers and autographed pictures at the local watering hole. LSPD is just glad to be in the papers for joining the long list of other police departments who were also able to book the smoked-out star for doing what he does best: smoking pot.

Speed trap on South Campus

BY DAVID COOPER
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A voice in the back of my head tells me to slow down every time I approach BCC’s South Campus. No matter if I’m running late for a final exam, my car all but crawls into the student parking lot. I’m all too familiar with the South Campus speed trap. We’ve all seen them, the Pembroke Pines Police Department, hidden behind the trees. One officer standing, holding a radar gun while his cohorts sit on motorcycles, ready to pounce on their prey. Apparently I’m not as careful leaving South Campus as I am coming. An officer proved this by flagging me down after I had made a right-hand turn onto Pines Blvd heading east from the rear entrance of the campus. I was not guilty of speeding. My citation indicated that I had failed to stay in the immediate right-hand lane while making a right hand-

turn. Unbeknownst to me, that is illegal. Unfortunately there really is no other way to get over to the left-hand lane fast enough to make the U-turn necessary to head west down Pines Blvd if leaving the campus from the rear entrance. I find myself asking just how many BCC students have pulled this maneuver. Is the police department aware that you cannot make a left-hand turn from the rear entrance of the school? Do they choose to post themselves east of the rear entrance knowing that half of the cars turning from the rear entrance will merge into the left-hand lane in order to make a U-turn at the traffic light in front of the main entrance to the school? Are BCC students being unfairly targeted? Whatever the case may be there is one thing that I am certain of: If you are a student attending BCC’s South Campus, you are better off riding the bus.

A world without texting or e-mail

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Your alarm clock rings and its time for you to wake up. You subconsciously follow what has been your normal routine up until now: you shower, eat breakfast, pack up your books and you head for school. Up until the past months this has been your daily and monotonous ritual. But wait, you notice the time and go to the nearest computer to check your e-mail. You enter your login name and password but nothing comes

up, you try again but for some reason you are unable to access your account. So, impatiently you go to another computer and again come across the same quandary. You then take your cell phone and attempt to text message a friend, to let them know what just happened to you. You hit send so that your message can be read, but to your utter shock nothing happens. By this point in the day you meet with your friends and the stories are the same. My friends the message is loud and clear, we no longer have a life with e-mail or

text messaging. What will we do? How will life be? What will we do during the boring moments in class? How will we communicate? Does this mean that we’ll have to resort to prehistoric methods of communication like writing a letter on paper and having to buy stamps? Or perhaps maybe just maybe even having to dial digits in order to say something that won’t last even a minute? What would we do? With what habit will we replace the routine of checking our e-mail after class? Or even text messaging to

say something that would make us stutter if we were to say it in person? Well my friends this situation did exist at one point in time, and my friends we survived it, The only way to move forward is through adaptation, change and perseverance. If you believe a life without e-mail or text messaging would be impossible to live then just ask your parents if they ever had a problem living their life with such luxuries? And they might respond with “You are just very spoiled.”

Marlins need to try harder

BY MARTIN BATER
SPORTS EDITOR

Once again, a new era is looming for the Florida Marlins. Joe Girardi was fired because of an ego clash with both the owner and the General Manager (GM) that included a heated argument in August in the middle of a game against the L.A Dodgers in August and several disagreements over in-game decisions made by Girardi. According to sources close to the Marlins, Fredi Gonzalez, former Atlanta Braves third base coach, will be the new skipper. But will he command the same respect Girardi did?

Idon’tagree with several things Girardi did as a manager during the playoff–trying to run the team filled with rookies and magical aspirations. For example, why did

he force things putting guys who couldn’t throw strikes but gave up home runs consistently like Sergio Mitre and Logan Kensing? Wasn’t there a cheap veteran out there in free agency we could grab and make a solid seventh inning contribution? That’s all the bullpen needed...if we had that we would have been in pretty good shape with Tankersley in the 8th and Borowski in the closing.

Girardi may not have been the greatest game manager, but as a mentor I have never seen anyone better. He convinced a team full of rookies and frustrated veterans that winning was what they were SUPPOSED to do. When Scott Olsen tried to pick a fight with Cabrera after yet another frustrating start en route to an 11-31 record, Girardi separated them both, tugging Olsen by the shirt

and taking him into the locker room for a tough love kind of lecture. Olsen himself admitted that that moment turned his season around.

It didn’t matter if you were a rookie making your Major League debut or a veteran struggling to find a groove, Girardi was always there to protect his players and that’s an invaluable integrity that all coaches, GM’s, and owners should have.

Girardi is gone, Gonzalez is in. The 2007 off-season has already started for the Marlins, Loria and Samson are happy, now get out there and get us the stadium we have been waiting for once and for all. Not in San Antonio, not in Portland, get it HERE and get it NOW.

Lady Seahawks must learn to fly

BY MIKE GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Seahawks have not started their year on a positive note, but there are plenty of games left to be played. Although the Lady Seahawks had a 1-11 record on October 9, first year Head Coach Maite Furey remains confident in her team.

“It’s been a very tough year so far. I feel like we have the capability to play [better] and start winning some games. We just need to keep working hard every day,” said Furey.

The Lady Seahawks upcoming schedule doesn’t provide much relief. After playing two conference games against including Palm Beach and Indian River Community College on October 12 at home, the Lady Seahawks travel to Lake Worth to take part in the Lake-Sumter Community College Tournament playing a gruesome four games in a span of two days starting on Friday October 13.

Some players are trying to keep themselves in good spirits despite the ugly start. Sophomore Leftside Hitter Lisa Butler and

Freshman Rightside Hitter Sarah Payne are the ones trying to lead the way.

“The season has been going well for the most part. During games, we’re working our hardest and that’s all I care about. We are improving every game,” said Butler.

“We have very good team chemistry and we will continue our season playing hard every game. Hopefully, we will finish strong and try to conclude our year on a positive note,” said Payne.

Marlins’ new no-hitter pitcher

BY AMANDA FERNANDEZ
BY STAFF WRITER

Anibal Alejandro Sanchez, a Florida Marlins pitcher who is six feet tall and weighs 180 pounds has been on fire making history as a rookie with the likes of All-Star second baseman Dan Uggla, who set a rookie record this season with 26 home runs and fellow rookie pitchers Josh Johnson, Scott Olsen and Ricky Nolasco.

Twice this season he amazed everyone and overcame all odds. Once by throwing a no hitter game on September 6 against the Arizona Diamondbacks at home in front of 10,000 people. Recently he became the fourth Marlins rookie to win at least 10 games against the New York Mets, with a 10-3 record in just half a season—he would definitely be the NL Cy Young if he had played the whole season. He could have been a 20 game winner in a league that had none this season.

At only 22, this Venezuelan native has achieved what many ball players spend their entire career trying to obtain. For example, Hall of Fame pitchers like Roger Clemens and Greg



FILE PHOTO

Marlins’ Anibal Alejandro Sanchez.

Maddux have never thrown a no-hitter. Sanchez has started a total of eighteen games since joining the Florida Marlins on June 25 and continues to progress.

Best known for his fastballs and deceptive change-ups with a rapidly improving curveball, Sanchez is well on his way to the top. Working his way up from the Carolina Mudcats all the way to starting pitcher for the Florida Marlins, it has been a bumpy ride for Sanchez; one that has proven to be completely worth it. “He has probably experienced as much as a rookie starter can experience without going to the postseason,” said former Marlins’ manager Joe Girardi. “Anibal did it, and he had the fewest starts [out of all

five starting pitchers.] “It’s pretty remarkable. He really wanted to win this last game.] I think he was more caught up in the 10th win than the no-hitter. He looked more relaxed in the no-hitter.”

Sanchez comes to us from Maracaibo, Venezuela and was raised around pro-ball players. Although he never went to college, he learned English very quickly and played baseball in his spare time. He was added to the Boston Red Sox roster in January 2001 as an International Free Agent. In November 2005 he was traded to the Florida Marlins along with Pitchers Jesus Delgado, Harvey Garcia and Shortstop Hanley Ramirez for Josh Beckett and Mike Lowell. He has been known to have lots of poise on the mound even though he apparently had been experiencing nerve problems in his throwing arm from which he has seemingly fully recovered. Overall, Sanchez is looking at a long prosperous career in Major League Baseball. His fans are thrilled for him and excited to see what happens next season. Can you say World Series Champions?

Playoff Predictions

BY BELAL JABER
STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles Dodgers vs. New York Mets

Key Matchup: Dodgers’ Pitching vs. Mets’ Offense

The Mets and Dodgers face off in a cross-country tussle that will fire up passions on both coasts. The Mets will rely on Orlando Hernandez with Pedro Martinez out for the post season. The Dodgers already had Derek Lowe and Brad Penny and their mid-season acquisition of veteran Greg Maddux solidifies their playoff rotation. The Mets do have the edge in offense, however leadoff man and shortstop Jose Reyes stole 64 bases, Carlos Delgado and Carlos Beltran combined for 79 homers and 230 RBIs and third baseman David Wright, even with a little slump, hit .309 with 26 homers and 116 RBIs. In a short series, pitching wins games and the Dodgers have the edge.

Prediction: Dodgers in 5 games

St. Louis Cardinals vs. San Diego Padres

Key Matchup: Jake Peavy (Padres’ pitcher) vs. Albert Pujols (Cardinals’ first baseman)

Both teams didn’t secure playoff spots until the final weekend of the season. But now the Padres and Cardinals meet in the NLDS for the second straight season. Nobody in the NL has deeper pitching than the Padres, from number one starter Peavy to the all time leader in saves in closer Hoffman. If San Diego had any power in the lineup, the Padres would be a threat to win the NL pennant. Luckily for them, against the weakest pitching staff in the postseason, they’ll be fine. They’ve played better than any team in the league over the past month. That’s not good news for St. Louis. First baseman Albert Pujols has been the only bright spot for the Cardinals who barely got into the playoffs this year after being so dominant in previous seasons.

Prediction: Padres in 4 games.

New York Yankees vs. Detroit Tigers

Key Matchup: Tigers’ Bullpen vs. Yankees Bullpen

The meeting of the Yankees and the Tigers in a Division Series

is the meeting of the expected and the unexpected. A victory for the Yankees would be business as usual. A victory for the Tigers would be a breakthrough. I mentioned pitching is the key to winning in the post season. Well the Yankees are the exception. They’re starting lineup is the best assembled lineup ever. Leadoff man, Johnny Damon scored 100 runs and hit 24 homers. Derek Jeter may win MVP. Then there’s Jason Giambi, Alex Rodriguez, Gary Sheffield, Hideki Matsui and Bobby Abreu. With that much power, the Yankees should score at least 5 runs a game. The Tigers are good story and had a great run. But it ends courtesy of the Bronx Bombers.

Prediction: Yankees in 3 games.

Oakland Athletics vs. Minnesota Twins

Key Matchup: Johan Santana (Twins’ ace) vs. Barry Zito (Oakland’s ace)

Not long ago, the A’s and Twins were next to last in their respective division races and apparently going nowhere. But the two teams turned things around in an impressive way. Now, these two improbable champions will meet in the playoffs. This is a showdown between, arguably the two best pitching staffs in the league. The Oakland starters, overall, are better than Minnesota’s, but Twins ace Johan Santana is the difference, especially in a five-game series. If Francisco Liriano were still healthy, the Twins win. This should be the best series in the first round and should go the distance.

Prediction: Athletics in 5 games.

NLCS: Los Angeles Dodgers vs. San Diego Padres

Prediction: Dodgers in 7 games.

ALCS: New York Yankees vs. Oakland Athletics

Prediction: Yankees in 6 games.

WORLD SERIES: New York Yankees vs. Los Angeles Dodgers

Prediction: Yankees in 5 games.



FILE PHOTO

Dodgers show their pride as they make it to the playoffs