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Online Newspaper

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Newspapers

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Weeks after the fact, students and faculty are still talking about the Student Activities Events Calendar and the rumors that circulated Barry's campus. Two long-time Barry University employees, Student Activities Director Jay Gannon and Professor and Assistant Dean of Information Technology Alberto Fernandez, were fired for errors of judgment in regards to their edit of one group-photo from the nationally broadcast Hardball College Tour last year. Associate Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Maria Alvarez, led a student forum on Wednesday, February the 4th along with Dean of Students Dr. Kenneth Rockensies, in order to "discuss the future of student services."

The original cover photo in the aforementioned calendar was snapped during a commercial break



Ann Jackson, President of S.O.C., asks Dr. Maria Alvarez, V.P. of Student Services, a question at the Student Forum.
Photo By: Elise Colon

on Hardball night last year. This first photo showed one or two students with their backs to the audience, allegedly prompting an edit of the real photograph into something more presentable. Gannon and Fernandez were the primary editors of this image and appeared to have cut several individuals out of the photo, digitally inserting various other people who weren't even originally in the

shot; except of course Student Government President Brett Nagelbush who is featured twice in the new image. The changes to this image were so highly suspicious that some students and faculty believed them to be racially motivated and unjust in their representation of Barry University as an ethnically diverse (CONTINUED, pg. 11)

BSU Striving For Unity

By Dominique Agri & Elise Colon
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Despite the possible perception of the Black Student Union being a club designated solely to students of color, they are a multi-



A Group Shot: Some of the Members of The Black Student Union. Photo Provided by BSU's Website

cultural group that acts as a friendly resource to anyone on campus who may be seeking an outlet for sharing interests, brotherhood, and a quest for knowledge. They stand by the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he said in his 1963 Strength to Love speech, "The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers."

Multi-Cultural groups have a purpose beyond the recognition of most. They focus on creating a way to make individuals feel comfortable amongst people whom they can relate to or feel at ease with. This group, as well as the many other ethnically characterized student organizations here at Barry, do not gather in order

to separate themselves from the rest of the community. The Black Student Union is a group that strives to promote a universal understanding of a specific way of life. This way of life entails believing in and providing one another with the level of comfort that comes from a family-oriented, communal environment. Through the support that comes from developing these close relationships, the Black Student Union believes that the individuals involved can and will achieve great things.

The BSU started off as they hoped they would and stuck to the plan, keeping their focus on politics, the community, and health. On February 10, 2004, they hosted a panel discussion titled, "Haiti and North America: The Truth Uncovered." It featured special guest speakers including Marleine Bastien, Aline Francois, and others. They also sponsored, "Love Thy Health- Health Fair." This was a health fair providing physical, mental, spiritual, and holistic information and free cholesterol, HIV, and blood pressure screenings held in

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Letter from the Editor

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We must celebrate the many colors, the miraculous beauty that comes from every corner of the earth, represented in the United States, represented in Florida, represented in Miami, and represented at Barry University.

Here we are, together, in a world where we must accept one another despite our differences. And here we are, realizing that so much can be learned through experiencing cultures other than our own. It is important to acknowledge that each person, regardless of skin tone, race, religion, or gender, has something very special to offer the world, something that only that one individual can offer. It is also important to truly believe that this is true. Only if you believe can it truly become a reality in your life. This reality is what connects us to one another in an indescribable way, an amazing divinity with no human definition, a universal realization.

We are here together for many reasons, and no other place on Earth has so many different cultures in one place than the United States. So many people from so many different backgrounds, all searching for opportunities, with the right to follow their dreams to wherever they may lead. The ideas upon which this country is based on appeal to all people, and I believe that they are truly given from God. The diverse and multi-cultural United States is a place that has allowed people to act on what is truly right in their hearts to be a part of. This is infallibly an unseen power and if we join together and make the effort in our own lives to eradicate racism

and prejudice, the effects will be colossal.

I believe that the United States is a part of Christ's divine plan. I know what you're thinking, and you have the right to your own opinions; just hear me out. I'm not talking about the men who founded this country, as they, just as all people are, were quite flawed. I'm talking about the meaning behind the ideals that they represented and spelled out in the Constitution. I'm talking about the source of life, the Living Word. I have found time and time again that nothing is more powerful than the Word of God, and many like me know it is a true necessity for leading a healthy, happy life that is worth living.

I can't tell you how long I have tried to find my way through life by my own means, without God. Time and time again, I've landed flat on my face. I just keep going back to God.

People are so turned off when it comes to the subject of God. Maybe its because humans have tarnished and shamed His name for centuries. Wicked men of power like Adolf Hitler used the ideas of 'God and the Spirit' in an attempt to justify his actions and to persuade people to follow him. The founding fathers of this nation spoke of Liberty and Justice for *all*, but most of them had slaves! And many of them raped and impregnated their female slaves. How is that liberty or justice?

Even today, some people involved in the ministry continue to make God look bad. From the pastor who drives a Bentley purchased at the congregation's expense to the 4,500 Catholic priests in the United States accused of sexual molestation. All these people have misrepresented God. Throughout

history hypocrisy and Christ have somehow ended up side by side, and it isn't right. Hypocrisy is purely a human characteristic, not a Godly one.

It's easy to blame God for all the evil in the world. But we should really examine what has happened and what is still happening to the world. We're all like Adam, all human beings with free will, with the opportunity to choose what path to follow in life. The struggle for money and power has consumed mankind and historical evidence proves it. The rationalization of wickedness in exchange for wealth is predominant and even at this moment, in full force. It corrodes the very essence of mankind. And to make things worse, many of the people in power, the ones that are in charge, are so deeply embedded in it, that they continue to weave it through the systems that were originally intended to promote justice and order.

All that just makes it harder for us common folk. But knowing what is right and acting upon it is all that you need. Nothing can come against you if God is on your side.

The physical world can only take you so far. Experiencing difficult times can only make the good times that much better. Through sorrow comes joy. Try to view obstacles as an opportunity for positive change. So many seek happiness by feeding their outer self with material wealth, all the while their inner self dies. Your inner self matters and your outer self should be a reflection of your inner self, not the other way around. And that my friends, that's real.

We all have something to contribute to the bettering of mankind, as each person was created for a purpose. That purpose can only be found when

your heart is cleansed of the negative notions we are exposed to in this society, that continue to separate us from one another. Racism and prejudices need not exist in a modern society. I mean, there are enough problems in the world already. Once separated from one another, it is impossible for us to stand together for the universal cause that so desperately needs to be fought for. We must submit our will and truly understand and believe that we share one love, and we are one people. Bob Marley knew years ago, and he was quickly silenced. And now it's time everyone knows. They can't quiet us all. The United States has been afflicted with hatred and deceit far too long. Does it not make sense that the enemy would create these things and place them right in the middle of a nation as culturally diverse as ours in order to keep us from unifying?

We must work together as an intricate part of the formula of life on Earth. We must do our part in the unification process, by attempting to cleanse ourselves of stereotypes, prejudices, and racism. We must acknowledge that we are blessed to have a chance to be a part of this process. We must move forward and get involved for Freedom, Justice, Liberty and for the well-being of all mankind. We must take our positions, and must play our parts, accepting even the most painstaking moral and social responsibilities. There is no more time to be wasted.

Utopian dreams, you say? Never that. We should never just accept that something is out of reach or impossible. Anything is possible with God, with unity. And there is no exception to that.



buccaneer

The Student Newspaper

Barry University

The *Buccaneer* welcomes all student, staff and faculty contributions. Letters to the editor, story ideas, news releases photos and artwork can be submitted to the Barry *Buccaneer* office below the Library, room 123, or through campus mail, e-mail or through the campus suggestion boxes. All contributed material must include the signature and the mailbox or telephone number of the contributor. **Deadline for submission is the 1st Friday of every month.**

The *Barry Buccaneer* reserves the right to edit letters and guest columns for style and length. Contributed material does not necessarily reflect the opinions and policies of the *Buccaneer* editorial staff or those of Barry University.

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Meeting Barry's New President

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Sister Linda Bevilacqua, the Barry alumna and faculty member since 1969, was chosen as the successor to Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin on Wednesday, Feb 11, 2004. On the following morning, Andreas Hall was overflowing with curious and welcoming members of the Barry community. Loved ones including her parents and fellow alumnae reunited with a familiar face. For some faculty members as well as students this was their first time ever meeting Sister Linda, who was just taller than the podium she was speaking over. Although little is generally known about the new Sister Linda, those who might have been apprehensive about their new leader listened with pleasure as she spoke about her commitment to duty, and most of all her enthusiasm about being appointed the new President of Barry University.

"It's so good to be home," she said excitedly, as she spread her arms out toward the crowd. "Yes! I will be your president."

Sister Linda spoke about her college years here at Barry, when "here" was Barry College, an all-girls school. Next, she introduced her four-year college roommate, who was sitting in the audience, and then her parents. "I learned about true commitment from my parents, who have been married for 69 years," she said, as she walked into the audience to where they were.

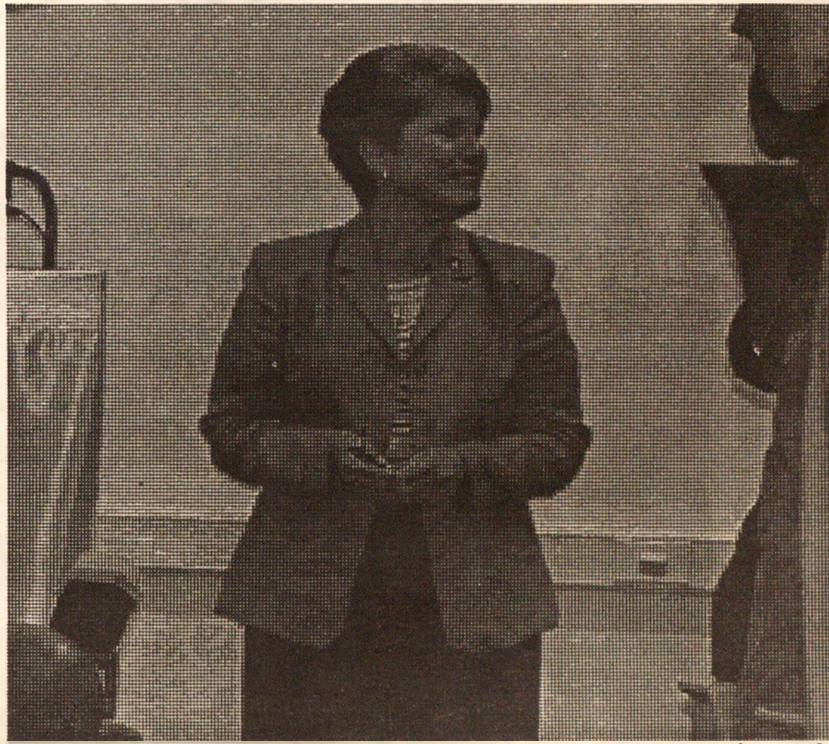
Some apprehensive faculty and students have wondered why this event was not publicized to all students, as many did not know of the event. "Why wouldn't all students be invited to such an important event?" asked one student who asked to remain anonymous. "We all

want to know who the new President is."

The night before this event, a group of students who attended the open meeting held by the Black Student Union caught wind of the event and organized to attend. Members of this group included students from LASA, SGA, and the BSU. They are interested in the role the new president will have in the negotiation of issues currently causing problems between student and Faculty Relations. One issue concerns restrictions some students claim to encounter when they try to express an opinion that is inharmonious with the position of Barry's administration.

During that morning's event, these students were instructed by the new president to contact her secretary, so that interviews could be arranged in March. They walked out smiling after meeting Sister Linda, but told *The Buccaneer* that they were still going to wait to see if she was going to listen to the "student voice."

The Buccaneer got its first Barry President Hug. Though it was a small gesture, it carried a strong promise. Sister Linda, as Sister Jeanne's successor, said with that silent gesture that she is committed to continuing certain traditions which we know as quintessential characteristics of the soon-to-retire Sister



Sister Linda Bevilacqua is announced Barry's 6th President. Photo by Lauren Rivera

Jeanne.

The event of Thursday morning was a much-needed warm breeze through Barry's campus, which has been somewhat chilled by recent controversies. Now that the Barry community has officially welcomed its new leader, who will begin her presidential term on the First of July, we will continue to look forward to the future, to where this University is going, as well as to the past in order to recall how far we have come. Sister Linda is not only overjoyed to take on the position but she also acknowledges the great responsibilities that come with the job, and she assures us that is prepared and willing pledging sincerely, "I am your servant leader."

The Buccaneer is looking forward to having a close relationship with the new president.

Institutional Effectiveness For Change

By Andrea Ratto
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The theme of Sr. Jeanne's final annual Presidential Conference was "Celebrating Tradition, Embracing Change." While this theme was chosen to help prepare the University community for the myriad of changes that will occur when Sr. Jeanne steps down after 23 years as Barry University President, such lessons are relevant to our own lives.

Whether we are rich or poor, white or black, old or young, we will all face numerous changes as we travel through that great adventure called life. We face numerous adjustments as we leave the safety nets of our parents' homes and go off to college. At the other end of our college careers, we face numerous adjustments as we leave behind (at least physically) the solid, caring relationships we formed at Barry and venture out into the scary, intimidating, and sometimes not-so-forgiving 'real world.' Some of the 'more mature' members of the student body (usu-

ally found at ACE) are facing the changes associated with adding college coursework to their already overwhelming job and family commitments. And some of the 2500-plus employees of Barry University (including Sr. Jeanne) will be exchanging a life of teaching, meetings, and dedication to quality faith-based education for a new life of leisure, geriatric health concerns, and other activities of retirement.

How can we deal with these life changes? Here is what the "experts" at the Conference have to say.

Dr. Carol Rae-Sodano, Dean of Adult and Continuing Education (ACE)

"Structure is interrelated locks with a common culture. Change in one element has a rippling effect in various degrees on all other elements." Keep abreast with the major news happenings occurring in all sectors of society worldwide. If you are a student, remember that what one University department does will eventually have some impact on the entire

University community. If you are ever in a position to implement change within a system, remember that you have a moral obligation to consider the impact it will create within the entire system and the systems it interacts with, not just your immediate sphere of influence. Lastly, remember that a crisis or change in one facet of your life will eventually necessitate adjustments in all other facets of your life.

Sr. Candace Introcaso, VP of Planning/Assessment

"A cultural knower will be able to understand and appreciate the uniqueness as well as the similarities to others." When entering a new situation such as a new school, a new job, or a new neighborhood, remember that it is important to understand and acknowledge the reality of the existing culture, even though you might not always agree with it. In other words, don't try to be a revolutionary, at least not right away.

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Home Sweet Habitat: Barry's Chapter Finish Their First House

By Wanda Sily
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Last January, Overtown, located in downtown Miami, was the destination of many Barry University leaders, students, faculty and staff, who joined the residents of Habitat houses nearby, for a very special event. It was the day that Mrs. Riva Perryman received the keys of the first Habitat house totally sponsored by our campus chapter.

This house was a long-cherished dream, fulfilled by the effort of Barry's volunteers. A lot of persistent work was necessary, with hands-on labor and fund-raising activities, to turn this dream into a bright reality. Sister Jeanne dedicated the house and cut the inaugural ribbon. After the ribbon-cutting, cake and refreshments were served.

The happy recipient of the four-bedroom, two-bath house was Mrs. Perryman, a single mother of five, two of them twins. She was selected in a tight scrutiny as the most apt individual to buy the house, and, as it is required by the organization, was actively involved in all the steps

of the building process.

Thrilled, Mrs. Perryman delivered a few words to the audience gathered in her sunny front yard, saying how the house, with its large yard, will provide a caring environment in which to raise her children.

At the other side of the street, a long line of the Caribbean-style group of houses built by Habitat glows with life, with children running around, flowers coloring their front doors, and green palms swayed by the morning breeze.

Those who were on the location when the houses started being built were amazed in seeing the changes in the neighborhood. Habitat residences are not an island of dissonant nice houses surrounded by deterioration. The cracked houses of the neighborhood, with yards full of debris and garbage, got a lift, and are now painted and with their yards cleaned, certainly inspired by the cheerful mood Habitat has



Habitat For Humanity, The Barry Chapter, Finish their First House.
Photo By: Wanda Sily

brought to the place.

I talked to Karina Baesso, vice-president of the chapter, asking what is being planned for this year. She promptly answered, "The second Habitat/Barry house, of course, and to keep up the hard work, trying to get all help we can from our volunteers, because it is the foundation of

Habitat structure, volunteer work."

The Buccaneer congratulates our campus chapter for this achievement, hoping it can sustain the Habitat goal of improving housing through volunteer work.

Changes at Barry, Continued

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Dr. Stephen Koncsol, Associate Professor of Psychology

"All living things resist change because it is accompanied by anxiety; the result of internal conflict which results in growth. We can manage that anxiety because change is also accompanied by curiosity and the confidence to know that everything will be alright." Whenever you are facing a major life change (voluntary or involuntary), don't just grumble or withdraw from the situation due to fear. Instead, pull out every coping skill in your repertoire and view the situation as an excellent opportunity to learn about life in general and to develop your coping skills even further. Remember that many of the survival skills that you already have probably were learned as a result of previous major life changes and other frustrations.

Dr. Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami and Conference Keynote Speaker

"You have to listen, your entire

career. Do not make the mistake of arrogance in the belief that you know what you are doing. Find a balance between asking permission and asking forgiveness. Narrow down your To Do List to a few specifics." Reliable mentors who can help you learn the nuances of your new environment are worth their weight in gold. Don't be afraid to ask questions; the only stupid question is one that is not asked. However, you do not want to be constantly bothering busy people about every single thing. Therefore, you should attempt to strike a balance between seeking appropriate guidance (such as when you are contemplating breaking a company policy on behalf of a customer) and "just doing it" (such as when you are considering moving to a neighborhood you are unfamiliar with). And no successful person ever changed the world in one fell swoop. Rather, successful people gradually leave their mark on society one small step at a time.

Praise the Lord!

WBRY 1640 AM To Air Christian Radio Show

Back in the 1940s, when Barry College for Women (now Barry University) was first established by the Adrian Dominican sisters as a school for young Catholic girls, the religious dimension was omnipresent. Over the years, sadly, the campus scene has lost its spiritual feel, making Barry University not much different than the secular colleges in the South Florida area.

One WBRY staffer decided to change that, however. In February, Rachel Leah Harrison (formerly known as Andrea Marie Ratto) launched W-DOV, a two hour Christian radio show that includes a mix of Contemporary Christian, Worship, Classic Hymns, and Gospel music. The show is designed to be a relaxing retreat from the normal pressures of student life. Each show will end with a 5-minute newscast covering current issues of interest to students from a Christian perspective. Occasionally, guest speakers from Mission and Ministry, the Theology Department, and other faith-based units on campus will be brought in to discuss faith issues pertaining to the college experience.

W-DOV normally airs Sundays on WBRY from 2-4 PM. WBRY 1640 AM, Barry University's own student radio station sponsored by the Broadcast Communications program, can be heard from all campus locations (including Thompson and Garner plazas) as well as from many neighborhoods surrounding Barry's Miami Shores campus.

Discovering the History of Black History

By Maria Jones
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Black History has been a part of American culture for many years. Recognized since 1926 during the month of February this historical remembrance was once called "Negro History Week." Black History was not respected or even really noticed until the 20th century. Although black people have been in America as far back as colonial times, black individuals were continually absent from the history books and public accounts.

Many people wonder, for whom do we owe the greatest thanks for starting such a rich tradition of black history? It was Dr. Carter G Woodson who took the first steps in making black history month possible. In 1926, he worked diligently to achieve the goal of "Negro History Week." Dr. Woodson began to study black history in the United States motivated by its absence and the blatant ignorance surrounding black contributions to American society. Dr. Woodson, born a child of former slaves, spent his teen years working in the coalmines of Kentucky. He did not enroll in high school until the age of twenty, successfully graduating in two years. Woodson continued on to Harvard to earn his Ph.D., soon after establishing what is now

called the Association for the Study of Negro Life in 1915. Only a year later he founded the highly respected Journal of Negro History.

Many African Americans today make jokes about Black History Month being the shortest month of the year since it is celebrated in February. Many bring up the issue of racism and the mistreatment of black individuals in this country as a reason for being designated such a short month. Fortunately, there is a good explanation of why the month of February was chosen. Although Black History Month was just given a week in decades past, Dr. Woodson chose February specifically because of two men he admired. These two individuals are Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, both of whom were born in the month of February, both of whom played major roles in black history.

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809 in Kentucky. He was self schooled and taught himself how to read. Lincoln began his political career early in life. He was elected to the state legislature where he served four terms up until 1841. He took a stance against slavery through his Emancipation Proclamation.

Frederick Douglass was born on February 7, 1817 to the son of a slave. He was separated from his mother as an infant because his father was a white man

he would never know. He was sent to his grandmother to be raised on the plantation where she lived. He later became one of the most influential black men in his time, as well as an eminent human rights leader. He boldly stood at the forefront of the United States Abolition movement. He also became the first black citizen to hold a high rank in U.S. government.

Black history has a great past and future in this country today. A few significant times in black history are as follows: February 23, 1868, the birthday of W.E.B. DuBois. February 3, 1870 the 15th Amendment was passed granting black men the right to vote. February 25, 1870 the first black U.S. senator, Hiram Revels took his oath of office. February 12, 1909, the NAACP was founded. February 1, 1960 the infamous Woolworth and Kress lunch counter sit-ins occurred in Greensboro, North Carolina. Finally, February 2, 1965 famous black leader Malcolm X was assassinated.

February is a memorable month for the celebration of black history. Many black leaders who helped to shape this country into what it is today are meant to be honored this time of year. We might not have overcome so many hardships and obstacles in this life if there was no Martin, Malcolm, or DuBois to envision and help create a different way of life.

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God Sees No Color: One White Woman Talks About Her Experience Attending an All-Black Church

By Andrea Ratto
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A question I have been asked by my Caucasian friends and family from time to time is why I attend a church where 99% of the membership is well, of a different skin color? Aren't you, they ask, supposed to worship with "your own kind?" And after all, isn't Sunday morning the most segregated hour in America (according to a recent opinion poll)?

Moreover, a long time ago, I used to feel that way myself. Whenever I would move into a new neighborhood and have to hunt for a new church-home, I would skip the "obviously Black" denominations and the churches that by virtue of their name or location were "obviously Black" I did this primarily out of concern for my own safety: ethnic church bombings were all the rage in the final decades of the twentieth century. In addition, I felt that perhaps the minorities formed their own churches so they could all discuss their spiritual concerns without whites being present, and that perhaps they deserved such privacy.

My first foray into black spirituality was purely by accident back in the summer of 2000. At that time, I was



The Word of Life is for everyone: The Minister Preaches at Andrea's church. Photo By: Andrea Ratto

living in a low-income section of Oakland Park and attending a huge affluent white church a few miles away. I was riding the bus home from the downtown Broward County public library one stormy Sunday evening when suddenly the driver announced that we were under an imminent tornado alert. Even though I was within walking distance from home at that point, I did not want to stay on the rickety county bus that was to take me near my second-floor flat (the worst place to be in a tornado) at that point.

Therefore, I immediately left the bus and dodged into the nearest structure that was open, which happened to be a Black Pentecostal church that was preparing to begin its evening worship service. I was enthralled by the lively gospel music and the minister's practical sermon about the Christian life, so I continued to go to that church on a more regular basis. It also helped that this particular church was one of the few churches that I could easily reach by bus (as opposed to special disabled (CONTINUED, pg. 6)

Attending an All-Black Church, Continued

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"The pastors of both black churches I had the privilege of being affiliated with constantly reminded their congregations that they "did not belong to a black church but rather to a community of individuals who truly believed in Christ, regardless of the color of their skin."

transportation) on a Sunday morning.

However, this small black church was not without its flaws. Specifically, its adult Sunday School offerings (where you get to really know other fellow Christians) were limited. Basically, I could either attend the regular adult Sunday School class, which was overrun with senior citizens who were preoccupied with who was dying/going into the nursing home or attend the young adult Sunday School class, which largely consisted of older teens barely out of high school who were still living at home with their parents. Neither group understood what it was like to be a modern, young single adult living on her own. At this point, I settled into the routine of attending the "black" church and the "white" church on alternating Sundays.

When I moved to North Miami Beach so I could attend Barry University, it was time for me to find a new church-home. When choosing a church, I set myself two ground rules. First, the church had to be fairly close to my home. After all, it helps to have a support system that is in close geographical proximity to where you live. Secondly, the number of active members of my Sunday School class had to be greater than the number of fingers on one of my hands. Thirdly, the church had to be large enough to have a few "special interest groups" where I could get to know people in a context where they were not busy discussing, or taking care of, their families. The only church that met that bill happened to be a large Black Baptist cathedral located near the Opa-Locka/North Miami border. I attended church/young adult

Sunday School one day and found something else that I liked, namely a Sunday School curriculum that gave young adults Biblical answers to the issues they faced while attending college and venturing out into the working world. (Most Sunday School curricula focus on abstract issues.) And so I became involved with my second black church.

What do I find in black churches that keeps me going back for more? First of all, such churches take a practical approach to spirituality. While white church sermons focus on upholding "traditional family values" such as two-parent families where the kids go to Christian school and mom stays home, black churches acknowledge the harsh realities families face when both parents (or single parents) work (assuming they are lucky enough to have jobs) and the kids must attend poorly performing public schools in dangerous urban neighborhoods. While white churches teach courses in Conservative Christian political activism and wholesale evangelism to individuals of at least middle-class status, black churches teach courses in money management for the financially challenged, avoiding unhealthy abusive relationships, and personal empowerment, realizing that people cannot be good witnesses for Christ if their own affairs are not in order. While white churches require members to tithe 10% of their income on the grounds that there is always someone less fortunate that they should be supporting, black churches acknowledge that many members cannot safely afford to tithe that amount, urging them to first set up a household budget and then tithe what they can afford. While white churches focus on introducing the Gospel to foreign lands (some of which I cannot even pronounce), black churches focus on restoring the struggling people in their own backyards, helping them become economically self-sufficient, productive members of society.

Secondly, worship at black churches is a more joyful experience than worship at most white churches, particularly the more traditional ones. When the Gospel mass choir at a black cathedral sings, they sound truly happy. When the Chancel Choir

at a huge white church sings, they sound stilted. Once I was sternly criticized by a member of my white church for waving my hands in joy during a hymn I found to be particularly beautiful. My black church, on the other hand, encourages people to wave their arms, clap their hands, and, yes, run around the sanctuary to their hearts' content. As a hyperactive person, that is exactly my kind of church.

Thirdly, I enjoy attending black churches because of the openness and tolerance I find there. The white church I attended in Broward County proudly boasted that it was "multicultural" because it sponsored off-campus Hispanic and black congregations that "better met the needs" of those population groups. The pastors of both black churches I had the privilege of being affiliated with, on the other hand, constantly reminded their congregations that they "did not belong to a black church but rather to a community of individuals who truly believed in Christ, regardless of the color of their skin." In fact, the bulletin of my original black church often featured a "white" hand joined with a "black" hand. And unlike the leaders in some of the white churches I attended, who would spend weeks "scoping me out" before fully integrating me into their group, the leaders of the black churches embraced me immediately, calling me "Sister" right from day one and including me in all their events.

Perhaps the most important reason why I like to attend black churches is that often I feel that I have more in common with the blacks than with the whites in this society. Up until the big Civil Rights push spearheaded by Dr. Martin Luther King in the 1960s, the blacks and other ethnic minority groups were often marginalized by societal institutions that sometimes outright discriminated against them, did not feel comfortable openly interacting with them, and often were not set up to easily accommodate their unique needs. As an individual afflicted with a mild disability, I too, frequently find myself in such situations.

Yet being affiliated with a black church has not been without its awkward moments. For example, some of the white disabled Para transit reservationists

and drivers say things like, "You know this church is a black church" whenever I call to reserve a ride for church. And once when I accidentally went to my original black church for an evening meeting that turned out to be canceled, I walked away from the church and into the path of a gang of young white racists who shouted, "Miss, if you lay down with black dogs, you will wake up with major fleas!" (At that point, I became more afraid of the white "skinheads" than any "black" gangster who might want to rob me!) Finally, because the blacks tend to "dress to the nines" on Sundays, I occasionally feel embarrassed about my church attire, even when I am wearing the best of my Sunday best.

When I was attending my first college in Buffalo, NY back in the 80s, I lived two doors down from an AME (African Methodist Episcopal) cathedral. That beautiful cathedral was tragically burned to the ground one night by a group of white teens that attended the local prep. school. Later on, I heard about all the ethnic church burnings in Alabama, Mississippi, and parts of northern and western Florida. I wonder if the culprits would still commit those heinous acts if only they would go into a black church and experience the tremendous love that is exhibited there.

By the time this is published, Black History Month may very well be over. Nevertheless, I still challenge you to take the time to find a black church in your area and see what it has to offer. I think that you will be pleasantly surprised.

As for me, I know that someday the time will come when circumstances will take me outside the South Florida area. In addition, because of the nature of my career path, I will most likely find myself living and working in a well-manicured suburban area complete with subdivisions and office technology parks. But when that day comes, I think I will still try to find myself a decent, "Bible-believing" Black church, even if it means traveling 10 miles by cumbersome public transit to find one, because that is where I feel I spiritually belong.

Students Speak Up!

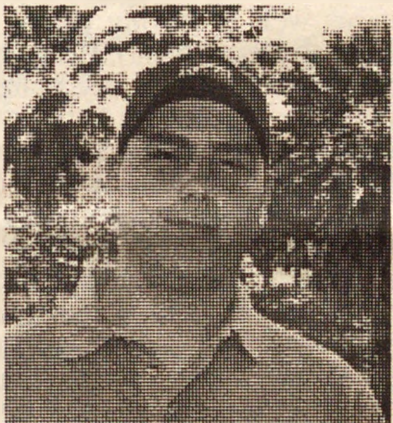
Question:

Do you believe in love at first sight?



Maresa Patience
Sophomore, Professional Writing

"Yes, I do believe in love at first sight. However, it is really important to get to know the person too."



Eduardo Aristiguieta
Freshman, Business

"No, relationships shouldn't be based on physical attraction alone."



Andres Ouzmon
Philosophy/Theology

"No. We come into this world alone, and we shall die alone too."

In Love With the Love

By Wanda Sily
Staff Writer
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It is still cold and windy up north, but in Florida spring comes in full gear. On our campus, flowers blossom in an explosion of colors greeted by the birds singing in the greenery around the alleys. It's the time when love blossoms, too, and it is easy to catch a glimpse of this magic watching the couples walking around, hand-in-hand, sneaking a goodbye kiss before departing for classes and labs. College schedules don't respect feelings.

February is the love month, because it is spring, because it is beautiful, and because it's St. Valentine's Day, Saint Valentine being a Catholic bishop regarded to have started it all.

Verses and valentine greetings have been used since the Middle Ages. Cards then were handmade, crafted in colored papers, adorned with flowers and hearts. With this elaborate style, we can understand why the cards were practically sent only by women. The first written valentine cards appeared in 1400 A.D. The oldest valentine card known, dated from that year, lies well protected in the British Museum - handmade and written probably by the girl, this card turned an unknown couple the symbol of eternal love.

In 1800, valentines began to be assembled in factories, soon becoming a fashion. Every

year, Hallmark displays a collection of rare and antique valentine cards at card shops around the country.

Valentine cards turned into a mania in our time. Each year, one billion valentine cards are sent, making the lover's day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year, second only to Christmas. However, in times of sexual liberation and equalitarian female rights, 85% of these cards are still sent by women, an embarrassing statistic, as love is meant to be shared. Are boys less romantic than girls? Are they insensitive, not responding accordingly to the feelings of their sweethearts? However, let's give the boys a chance. Perhaps they also are touched by the romance impregnating the air, but prefer to convey their feelings with flowers and chocolate, two other must-sends on the lover's day.

Sorry, but it is not a universal symbol. Besides United States, Valentine's day is celebrated only in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia.

Love increases Valentine's celebrations, or Valentine increases love?

No one wants to be alone on Valentine's. When February shines, boys and girls look for a mate, just to have someone to call 'my valentine.'

Would you be with someone only because it is Valentine's Day?

Down With the Love

By Kim Grant
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Valentine's Day. A day for love and gifts. A day to celebrate your love for another person. Of course, you actually have to have someone to enjoy it with. For those of us who are single, it's the pits. You have to sit through the hours of television, watching people go on dates. All your friends have boyfriends, and you're left being invited as the third wheel. This is only because they pity you for not having anyone. These couples are so annoying. They are always hugging on each other and always seem so lovey-dovey, as if they are picture-perfect.

The days leading up to the 14th of February are worse than the actual day itself. All the bigtime department stores are selling cute teddy bears and diamond jewelry. Then, everyone rushes to the stores to buy them out. Are any of these gifts for you? Of course not; you're single. The only way that you get a gift, as a single person, is when you have a secret admirer. Which is another story in itself. A lot of times, your secret admirer is someone you overlook, who likes you. Sometimes, it is someone you wouldn't mind dating. Other times, you wish you could continue overlooking them.

Then, the day comes. All your friends get some kind of candygram or flowers. They are so smug about it, too, like it is a sin to be single on Valentine's Day. And you... get nothing. But, it's okay, because you don't have a boyfriend. Of course, you're constantly reminded of this.

That night, you commence your anti-love

festival of video rentals. You sit on the couch and watch movie after movie, until you fall asleep with a carton of ice cream in your hand. You dream that you are being pursued by Prince Charming in the form of Vin Diesel. Then, you wake up and it is February 15th. You have survived the love fest. What happens now?

A few weeks later, the couples that surrounded you on that fateful 14th day of February, have dwindled to a third of their number. Most of those couples start having post-Valentine's Day break-ups. It is as if they were saving up all their frustration. What? Is breaking up with someone on Valentine's Day a sin? God forbid Valentine's Day be ruined! Better to waste your time with your mate during the day of love and suffer for it a few weeks after the day of love, right?

In the beginning, I'm sure the genius who came up with the idea of Valentine's Day was just trying to celebrate the feeling of love. And, I'm sure there was quite a bit of love in the air. But, now, it's about who loves you and not who you love. Couples purposely stay together, sometimes, because it is Valentine's Day. Then, there is a Valentine's Day grace period where the couple is still blissfully happy, because of Valentine's Day. This period lasts for a few weeks. Then, the blinders come back off.

I'm sure you're wondering how I became so cynical about Valentine's Day. Well, my old best friend put it best: why wait for one day out of the year to celebrate love, when you can celebrate it every day of the year?



Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor:

"It's not everyday that I decide to pick up a copy of the school news paper and give it a good read. They say things happen for a reason and I truly believe that the story, My Life with Asperger's Syndrome was the reason I was meant to read this month's edition. To say that the story completely amazed me would be an understatement. We see people on campus and make hasty judgments with out even evaluating the basis behind our reasoning. It is easy to make explanations for what we do not understand. We sometimes sit silently by and let others say ignorant things. We may even look at someone and feel sorry for them, thinking that they are worthy of pity. It isn't until we read articles like this that we realize that maybe we are the ones worthy of a little

pity. It must make us feel a little foolish to realize that sometimes those we see as below average are extraordinarily above average. Not only did this article compel me to write this, but it also gave me one more reason to value the gifts that God has given me. It is quite inspiring to read about some one who has overcome adversity and accomplished so much. There are times when things get so stressful that we not only think of giving up, we do. I'm sure that at one time or another we have felt like life is so unfair because we don't have the greatest car or the best clothes. Then you read about someone that refuses to give up and allow herself to succumb to stereotypes, proving to us that anything and everything is possible. When looking in from the outside, we see a person that seems to have some disability that makes

her different from us. What sets her aside from us is not her set back, but her drive to push forward and succeed. Not too many can say that they have graduated with honors from high school or that they have a BS in Biochemistry. Those are achievements that are difficult enough for those that do not have impairments. I have seen many people that are perfectly capable of achieving these goals, yet impose limits on themselves. There are people in this world that are in perfectly capable to do anything they set their minds to; however, they let their God given talents go to waste. What did this article mean to me? I can say that I felt a sense of happiness come over me, as corny as that may sound. It brought a smile to my face and a warm feeling to my heart. It made my day to read something so encouraging in a world that

is seems so negative at times. The people that you would least expect to surprise you, are the ones that have small miracles up their sleeves. This should teach us all a lesson in how we should see our lives and this world. Articles like this should stimulate everyone to strive for success. We should never say we CAN NOT and always at least TRY. We should never fear failure because that will prevent us from realizing what our full potential truly is. We should take the little bumps in the road as challenges that will make our accomplishments all the sweeter. These amazing people need to be applauded for their drive and determination. If more of us were as courageous as Andrea Ratto, the world would be a better place."

An Open Letter to Barry President, Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin:

Dear Madam President:

I am writing as a former faculty member to express to you my horror at evidence and at charges of the existence of institutional racism and sexism at Barry University. I wish to express my unqualified support for Barry's Black Student Union, which you will know has been in dialog with your office for some time now over this issue. I am moved to write this letter by three recent events.

The first event is an early February meeting attended by faculty, students, and administration called in the wake of an incident in which images of students of color were airbrushed out of a Barry University media photo and in at least one case replaced. That apparently censored photo appeared in an official Barry calendar. Students of color objected to this, and while the meeting was called in order to conduct what the administration called 'rumor control,' faculty were directed by administrators to remain silent during the discussion conducted at the meeting. It is my contention that in the event of any public discussion of institutional racism, faculty ought not be gagged, but in fact ought to be allowed to speak, ask questions, and to present analysis and solutions.

The second event is a meeting of the Barry Black Student Union on February 11, which I attended. Approximately five Barry faculty and/or administrators were at this meeting as guests, with approximately 50 students also present. Various students, some of them students of color, recounted alarming stories of alleged hostility, denigra-

tion, and insult from administrators. If true, these claims are disturbing because they would amount to transgressions of the human and civil rights of these students. Members of the BSU detailed to those of us present a series of incidents which equal institutional racism dating back as far as 2002, including alleged unwarranted firing of students from university employment, alleged intimidation of students by administrators in retaliation for student criticism of university policies, and alleged mistreatment of the parents of students by hostile staff and administrators. Plans to conduct protests against the university were openly discussed at this meeting, targeting the February 12 welcome ceremony for the new president designate of Barry.

The third event was that February 12 ceremony, at which no protest took place. I regard this temporary absence of protest as being trivial when considering the reality that if allegations of mistreatment of students are true, it is inevitable that students have and certainly will in the future, plan and carry out protest, as is happening on college campuses across the U.S., and that Barry students ought not to have to plan to do so in the first place. It is the responsibility of we, the past and present administration, faculty, and staff, to examine Barry's actions toward students and to request that your office lead the way toward changing any actions which, intentionally or not, equal institutional racism and/or sexism. Thus, I write you this open letter.

The BSU has already drawn the attention of faculty and administration to the issue of institutional racism. They have done so through

formal complaints, meetings, and even through the participation of parents in criticizing administrative practices which can only be seen as racist and discriminatory, if true. It seems to me that the BSU is not currently seeking to 'raise consciousness' nor to 'inform' your office and those offices subsequent to yours regarding this situation. They have, in tangent with some members of other student organizations not necessarily organized around racial identity, already drawn the attention of the faculty, the administration, and of the president's office to alleged violations of the individual, constitutional, civil, and human rights of Barry students. I have seen faculty openly discussing student complaints on main campus, so my comments here are not obscure; the problem is well known. Though Black students are particularly concerned with what they say are specific and repeated incidents of racism on the part of Barry administrators over the past two years, BSU has for some time now been formally complaining about and objecting to what it called at its February 11 meeting, a general atmosphere of contempt for the human rights of all Barry students. These complaints have been ongoing—that much is public knowledge. Having talked with my own students, with Barry faculty, and having sat in on the February 11 meeting, I believe that most if not all of the students' complaints are justified.

I write you this without the knowledge of the BSU, and I do not know whether they would approve of my communicating with you, nor would that matter to my obligation to speak out. I was a four year mem-

ber of the Barry University community (I taught writing and literature courses in the Ace program for two years, and worked for the main campus Learning Center for two years, as well as having taught in the English Department). Because I care about Barry, It is my obligation to write to you.

Barry is not Mississippi State circa 1956, and private Universities do not have the right to disrespect the human rights of their students. I urge you to immediately appoint an independent commission composed of administrators, faculty, and students, to investigate every single claim of racism, sexism, and civil rights violations presented by students in the past three years. This commission ought to report its findings to your office and faculty and students ought to be free to comment on those findings. The wishes of Barry's students of color ought to be regarded in any suggestions for policy changes submitted by that commission. Above all, Barry's students, including its students of color, should not have to bare the responsibility, the burden, or the risk, of objecting to unfair policies, procedures, or practices engaged in by Barry. Nor should they be responsible for implementing change. The purpose of a university is to serve the needs of students, first and foremost. I write this letter due to my belief in that idea, and out of loyalty to Barry University.

Respectfully,
Professor Rayfield A. Waller

The Buccaneer staff looks forward to future letters to the Editor. We hope that you will continue to submit your comments and concerns for possible publication. Thank you!

Contributed material does not necessarily reflect the opinions and policies of the *Buccaneer* editorial staff or those of Barry University.

Dancehall Nice Again

By Princess L. McBean
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How good and how pleasant it is for brethren and brethren to dwell together in the dancehall. Gone are the days when dancehall-reggae was a fermenting pile of sexual frustration, the days when the entire club gyrated under the greasy, sweltering auspice of the new millennium.

The new millennium started late 2003 amidst the picante release of Good2Go. Elephant Man is the blazing epidemic that has forced Jamaica and the Caribbean into the front seat of music. His genre of touch, dancehall, is a sizzling combination of fun, hype and culture forged with high-potency messages that incite energy. His socialites are in constant poise and inquiry for the latest dances and rhythms.

Elephant Man has bombarded the industry with the flammable release of Good2Go, an eclectic trilogy undefined in time, space or waist-line. This musical weapon lashes out with a tour down the flank: "Pon De River," an infectious track with a resounding chorus. "Signal De Plane" is an inspiring, happy, trance-like rendition of what the dancehall has become: a place of no fighting, no red-eye from Mavis and Maxine, simply pure Dancehall-Reggae vibes. "Head Gone/Wine Up Yuh Self" is fueled by the Coolie Skank rhythms' Hindi chorus; it's an interesting tune

that praises craziness and the African tradition of top-class winning all in one. One can just imagine bonafide Hindi bindi-wearing dancers, draped in their Sari's "making monkey face."

"Nah Gwan a Jamaica," brings out the serious side of Elephant as his lyrics bubble over the natural mystic of Black Shadow's Ching-Chong rhythm. He warns dancehall socialites that Jamaicans know how to have fun but aren't a people who tolerate "slackness" in all of its cascading and unnatural forms. "Blasé" forwards with a hypnotizing representation of the dancehall-culture in this millennium. One can actually feel Club Asylum's heat and the possession as Elephant Man commands them to "Shake - them-off," to "Elbow-dem," and to be aware



of Mavis and Maxine because, "Dem a work witch craft."

Real bad men redefine dancehall, take it to a higher-level; they strive to top-the-list and by doing so they "Lock Jamaica and Bronx." Good2Go is definitely ready and fine-tuned. Such a combination of art, skill, high-class production and voice is Grammy-worthy, dancehall-approved and yep, Good!

'Strictly the Best' Doin' it For Dancehall

By Princess L. McBean
Staff Writer
mcbeanp@mail.barry.edu

Imagine an airplane that played only dancehall-reggae throughout the flight. The air-hostesses; draped in the finest batty-riders and see through tops. Imagine that Strictly The Best Volume 31 engulfed the cabin, choking the travelers with high-potent dancehall. Study as they mellow down under its natural mystic, similar to the effects of the "highest grade."

"Dude", featuring Beenie Man and Ms. Thing, seeps out of the air-conditioning and

into the libido of those who left it in baggage check. The playful sexual banter of the tune incites emotions of touch, desire and covert reminiscence. The lyrics, promising a "proper fix" and "handled business", subjects even the most innocent to bubble amidst the mile-high fiesta.

Rik Roc and Shaggy's duet of "Your Eyes" adds dashes of romance and intrigue to the seductive feel of the flight. Roc's velvet voice affords an ecstasy to the ears of many as Shaggy's nasal bass hovers in reminding Roc to "get her number". The melody is highly fluid, yet firm, as those under its mystic can

down..." sneaks into the bubbling and gyrating cabin, inspiring a conscious vibe, an aroma of culture and of a man who has struggled and become the Kolumbi of his time and space. Sizzla's command of "they could never ever take my crown..." stabilizes the flight. What a reasoning tune; "Solid as a Rock" redefines kinetics and semantics with the prolific, yet placid, presences of Sizzla. This tune captures the soul of the cabin and unifies them all the way to the end of "Dry Cry"; an sympathetic rendition of love lost and love wanted for the Kolumbi.

The lace-like gyrating forwards in under the auspice of the tune "Tempted To Touch," by Rupee, a German-Bajan Soca-God, whose threat of "before the end of the night..." merits arousal. This mix of Soca, Calypso and rhythm pulls sweat from the marrow of whoever has not yet felt the inevitable effects of a dancehall-packed flight.

Marshall, a young but vocal rhythm-rider, sets the prototype of what a dancehall scene should resemble. Marshall gives the final "True. True. True" and say with "Hot in the Club"; a smoke-clearing promise of "hot girls" and "gyrating them waiste"; exactly the peak of the flight.

Imagine an airplane that played only dancehall-reggae throughout the flight. The air-hostesses; draped in the finest batty-riders and see-through tops. Imagine that Strictly The Best Volume 31 engulfed the cabin...



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The Funny Side of Politics

By Dominique Agri
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When was the last time there was a surge of young voters on any given election day? The correct answer to that question is simply, who knows? According to an article titled "The Vanishing Voter" written by Thomas E. Patterson, the majority of the population that votes in the "democratic" United States is retired, middle class, and white. He suspects that a main factor in this voting decline is due to younger people of this country feeling that they can't relate to politicians and their ways of achieving office. Generally, candidates hold meetings and appear at rallies when they want to win any given election. Besides CNN, there aren't many

late-night channels that a college student could watch in order to gain a more thorough knowledge of the political world.

However, it seems the world of politics as we know it is in for a change. The past few months have shown us a surge, or resurgence, of television personalities who are taking a more relaxed approach to the way that all of us see and perceive politicians. Programs such as "Tough Crowd" and "The Daily Show", which air on Comedy Central during the later hours of the evening, approach current political issues with a humorous style. This allows the viewers to notice the comedy of our archaic political system which we've simply accepted in today's modern age. The purpose of this comically liberal approach

on these shows is getting audiences to realize that the system needs to be changed. We notice that each one of us has played into an idea that stodgy, old, white men are ideal for running this country. In reality, an older man from the South who is meant to be nothing more than a representative of the people of the United States is not going to be in tune with the younger and liberal population that is rapidly approaching full-on adulthood.

Bill Maher is another longtime comedian and political activist who has developed a new show on HBO called "Real Time with Bill Maher" as the new election approaches. While the show is still extremely funny, he invites serious panelists to debate on current issues instead of merely poking fun at them. These

shows, though not meant to be taken as pure truth, are great for name-recognition. Before I became a "Tough Crowd" addict I was not fully aware of each of the candidates. These shows are a wonderful source of witty entertainment as well as a short briefing of current events. For any open-minded individual in appreciation of the political world, I would invite you to tune in. It is amazing how much truth can be spoken from a humorous perspective. These comedians are extremely well-read and articulate. They know exactly how to appeal to anyone who is fed up with the fake side of politics. These comedians bring the political hierarchy back to a level ground that a country filled with differences can appreciate.

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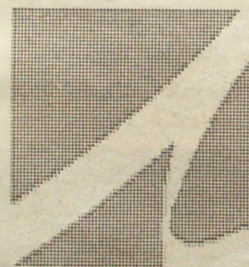
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The BSU, Continued

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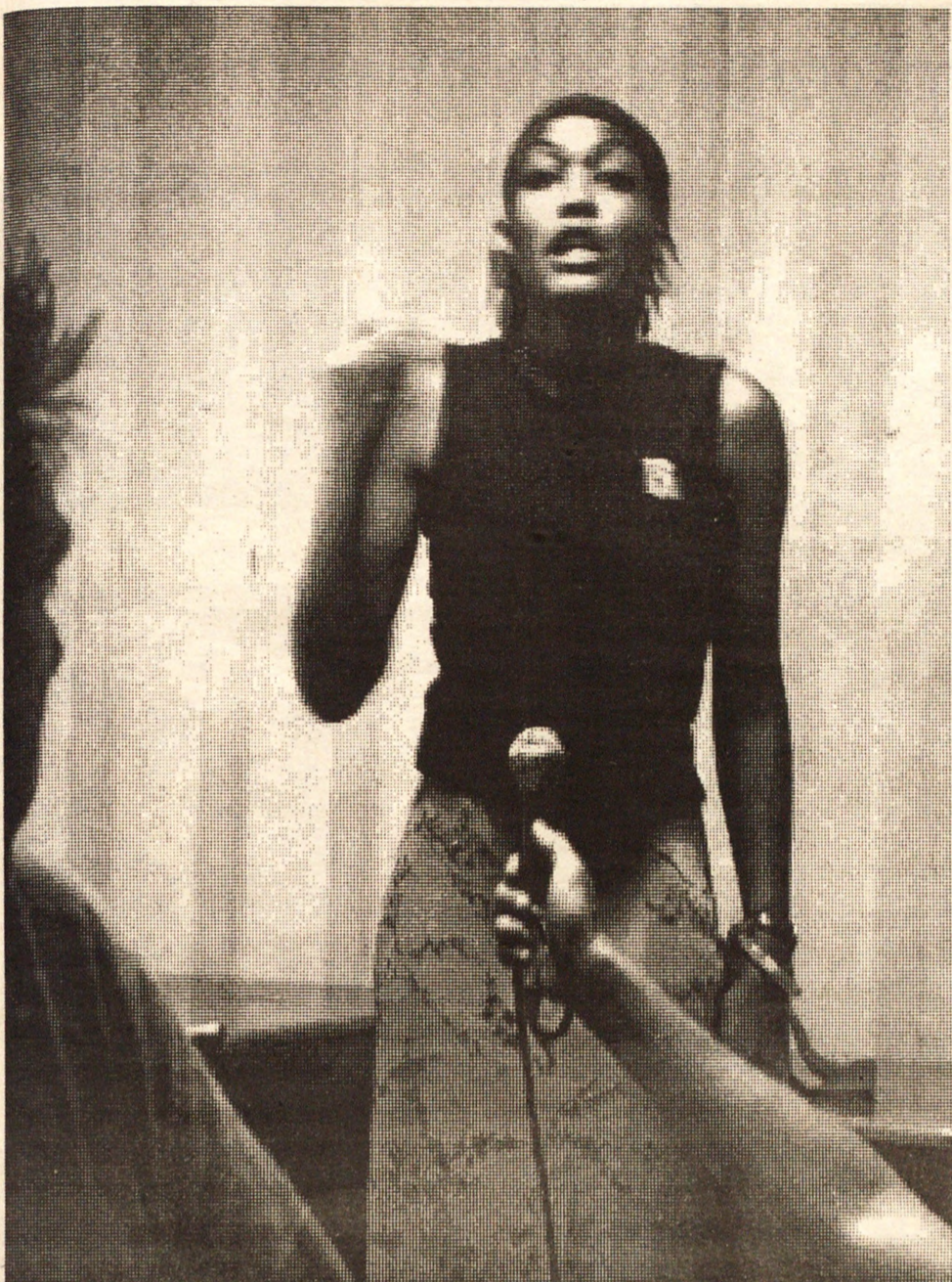
Thompson Plaza on February 17, 2004. The club works diligently in its attempts to improve the quality of life for all members of the Barry community. In doing so, they stretch far beyond what one may conceive as the sole definition of a cultural group. One of the purposes of this club as stated in their constitution is, "Encourage dialogue that will advance positive interaction and understanding between students of all backgrounds." The inclusion of this passage could lead one to believe that this is a club that sincerely wants to break down the walls of stereotypes and racism. As

a club and as individuals they realize these notions are unjust and they are making conscious efforts to change them.

Mercedes Washington, the president and initiator of this one-year-old club, hopes that the work being done now will continue and flourish in the years to come. She realizes that negative biases may still exist on campus but she is working assiduously toward raising awareness and promoting positive change. She has the qualities of a true leader and visionary who plans to do great things, while continuing to "Honor a culture, not a color."

The *buccaneer* Online

Now featuring video content, sports, interviews, and commentaries all on the student web!



Mercedes Washington, President of the BSU, raises important issues at the Student Forum. Photo by: Elise Colon

The Calendar Controversy Cont.

(CONTINUED FROM, pg 1)

Nagelbush who is featured twice in the new image. The changes to this image were so highly suspicious that some students and faculty believed them to be racially motivated and unjust in their representation of Barry University as an ethnically diverse campus.

The Barry Buccaneer sat down with the Vice President of Student Services, Michael Griffin, to ask him for his reaction to the situation. Griffin commented that, "it's a sad day for everyone. We knew them as students, not just as employees." These comments were of course in reference to the termination of Gannon and Fernandez's contracts as Barry University employees. When asked about the effect these men's departure on the students reliant on them for support Griffin stated, "It means we all get together and work harder to fill the void."

The professors attending the forum were asked to remain quiet during the "student forum" giving students the primary right to ask questions. Several students present thought this lack of faculty participation was an injustice, including Mercedes Washington, President of the Black Student Union. Dr. George Czejanovich was one of the few professors allowed to comment. Dr. Czejanovich said, "At this University, students have always come out of the woodwork just to

complain when something goes wrong," he continued, "and then honest and hardworking people go back to doing their jobs, and the students go back into the woodwork just to complain when something goes wrong." Washington expressed her opinion in regards to this professor's comments stating, "Students are asked to resign for doing the right thing, and faculty members are fired for doing something questionable." Several other students concurred with Washington, stating for the record that they were forced to resign from Barry University Residential Life by Maria Alvarez and Jean Hock, Director of Residential Life. These student's terminated in their roles are still awaiting their resignation papers and in essence have been fired. Students expressed their fear of administrative repercussions, or "elbow-twisting" as it is commonly referred to, they will face if they voice any complaints they might have against the administration. According to SGA, there will be more student forums like this one scheduled in the future where all students can voice their concerns on various topics from Residential Life to Public Safety.

Graduating Soon?

If you have borrowed a federal student loan while attending Barry University, federal regulations require that you attend an Exit Interview session before graduation. Attending a session will inform you of your rights and responsibilities relating to your student loans. You are not required to attend an Exit Interview in person. You may complete an Exit Interview on-line at www.Barry.edu. Navigate to the Financial Aid page and click on Student Loan Counseling. However, if you are unable to complete an Exit Interview on-line, Exit Interviews will be held in Kelley House on the main campus every Tuesday at 12pm and 1pm and every Wednesday at 1pm and 2pm, March 9 through April 28th. Each session will last approximately 20 minutes.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are not graduating in May, you do not need to complete an Exit Interview. If you are graduating in May but do not have student loans, you do not need to complete an Exit Interview.

Grand Theft Auto: Barry University

By Steven Gaymont and Kendall Bercaw
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The sun was shining. The birds were chirping. And yet, despite the serenity of the moment, we found ourselves narrowly escaping from being hit by one of Barry's many out of control golf carts. Some may think this is a satirical account, but we are by no means recounting a dream. Instead of venting the stresses of our college curriculum through the fictional video game world of "Vice City", we are living it. Welcome to Grand Theft Auto: Barry University.

Residents in Kolasa Hall, Athletes and Sports Management Students from the Health & Sports Center, and Commuters venturing to the Parking Lot can all relate to this tale of mayhem. The times where we've been pushed off the pedestrian sidewalk by a speeding golf cart, or have been jogging alongside the road only to hear a human interpretation of the Road Runner's "meep-meep", allowing us just enough time to have the backs of our ankles grazed by some poor man's Mario Andretti. A student even confessed to us that an administrator wished the golf carts would be better equipped with horns so that they could force the students into the mud with much greater ease, without having to burn the extra calories it takes for them to warn us of their impending collision. Excuse me, but I didn't realize your name was Mr. Tommy Vercetti. I could have sworn Barry was in Miami Shores, not Vice City.

In all fairness, students know better than anyone else that the uses of golf carts are necessary for many different departments in order for them to properly carry out the duties of their offices, including hauling goods or providing faster transportation of personnel. However, the students also know that there are different paths that golf carts can take and that too often, they choose to take the ones where there is the highest concentration of students trying to make their way to and from their destinations. Many students feel that it would be just as easy for individuals driving golf carts to take alternative routes, such as the dirt path alongside 115th Street, instead of forcing students off the sidewalk next to the Tennis Courts.

If Barry University is where we belong, then you'd think that would include the sidewalks. If they're warning students with signs posted on the guard gates of the main campus that we should utilize crosswalks for our own safety, then why can't they warn the golf carts to protect pedestrian's safety from getting run over? Our suggestion, as two students who are con-



sistently confronted with this problem, is to create a "golf cart code of conduct" that states the appropriate routes for golf cart drivers to utilize, as well as more student-friendly training in regards to interaction with students when driving a golf cart. For example, is it really necessary to yell at students to get out of the way when you're driving along the sidewalk? Wouldn't it be just as easy for someone to kindly ask us to move? We know we would be more inclined to comply with their request if this was the case, but quite frankly we get a little discouraged when we're instead, pushed off the sidewalk.

We do realize that there are faculty

and staff members that drive golf carts on campus who have already taken into consideration what we have said, and they are the ones who always go out of their way to make sure the students' right of way comes first. However, the purpose of writing this article is to educate the rest of the individuals who are not following this example to take charge in improving the quality of student life on this campus. If you are given access to a golf cart on a regular basis, as students, we understand your need to use these as a method to facilitate your business, however we hope that you respect our right to walk on campus and go about our day's activities as well.

Need Money For College? File Your FAFSA Now!

A Reminder from the Director of Financial Aid

My name is Dart Humeston. I've worked in the financial aid office at Barry University for over eleven years, and year after year I do my best to help students to finance their education at Barry. The most frustrating thing for some of these students are the problems that arise when they do not apply for financial aid on time. Without the results of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) there is little I can do to help. I don't want that to happen this year, so I am asking for your cooperation. Fill out the 2004-05 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before March 15th or as soon as possible afterward. And please, do it online - it is easier, faster and more accurate. The official website is www.fafsa.ed.gov

Why complete the FAFSA in March, when Fall is five months away?

We can't provide you with your 2004-05 financial aid award letter until you file the FAFSA. Registration for Fall starts soon, and ideally, you should register for Fall

before Spring semester is concluded. If you rely on financial aid, you can't do that until your financial aid for Fall is in place. (If you are considering enrolling in Summer classes, then you really need to complete the FAFSA immediately!)

In March, it takes the federal processor about two weeks to send us the FAFSA results, called the Student Aid Report. The longer you wait to file, the longer the time it takes them to process it. Come summer, it will be taking as long as four to five weeks. The federal processor, to ensure accuracy, will select about 30% of all FAFSAs for a process called "Verification". If your FAFSA is selected, you will need to provide federal income tax forms from 2003 for you and probably your parents, plus complete a Verification Worksheet. Our office will compare your income tax returns to the data you entered on the FAFSA, and in some cases your financial aid award may change. This entire process takes time. Time for you to provide the forms, time for us to verify your FAFSA, time for us to sub-

mit the FAFSA corrections to the federal processor and revise your financial aid award letter.

How do you file the FAFSA?

While we strongly encourage you to apply online, paper applications are available in our office. To apply online you'll need a PIN number for identification and security purposes. If you do not already have a PIN, apply for one at www.pin.ed.gov. If you are a dependent student, your parents should also apply for a PIN. The PIN allows you and your parents to electronically sign the FAFSA, and speed up the process. Your PIN will be emailed to you within one to five days. When you receive your PIN, surf to www.fafsa.ed.gov and start completing the FAFSA.

If you or your parents have not filed your 2003 federal income tax returns yet, you can estimate the information on your FAFSA. Take a look at the 2002 tax forms and try to accurately estimate the 2003 information. So,

there is no need to wait to complete the FAFSA until after you've filed your income tax returns.

Filing your FAFSA now gives you plenty of time to resolve any issues so that you can register for Fall early, and have the assurance that your financial aid is in place. Don't be caught in a situation where you are unable to register because your FAFSA is not completed. So, please help us to help you by filing the FAFSA now. For assistance, please see your Barry University Financial Aid Advisor at Kelley House, between 8:30 and 5:00 Monday through Friday. Or call us at 305-899-3673, 800-695-2279. You can also email questions to us at finaid@mail.barry.edu.

Who Says March Has to Have All the Madness?

By Guy Harrison
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What a February it was. From day one of the month, the sports world was sent on a tailspin. Here is a look back at the month that was from a sports fan's point of view.

February 1
Ah, the unofficial American holiday: Super Bowl Sunday. This year's contest (New England vs. Carolina) was the first between two teams that represented regions of these United States as opposed to cities or specific states. As I predicted in the previous issue of this great publication, the Patriots defeated the Panthers 32-29 in a game that was well played on both sides of the ball. In the odd-numbered quarters, the defenses dominated and in the even-numbered quarters, the offensive coordinators seemed to have the light bulb turn on upstairs as the two teams combined for the most points in a Super Bowl (61) since the Dallas Cowboys trounced the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXVII 52-17.

Although Patriots' QB Tom Brady was named the game's MVP, in my opinion, he owes a lot to a player that could very well be named the MVP to the MVP, WR Deion Branch, whose 10-catch, 143-yard performance was the best, yet most overlooked performance the NFL has seen in a very long time on its biggest stage.

Forget all of the FCC/Nipplegate stuff that happened at halftime. This year's version of the Super Bowl served as an example of what America craves when it watches that event.

February 8
This was All-Star Sunday, or more specifically, the day of the NHL All-Star Game and the NFL's Pro Bowl. In my honest opinion, the NHL (for all of the

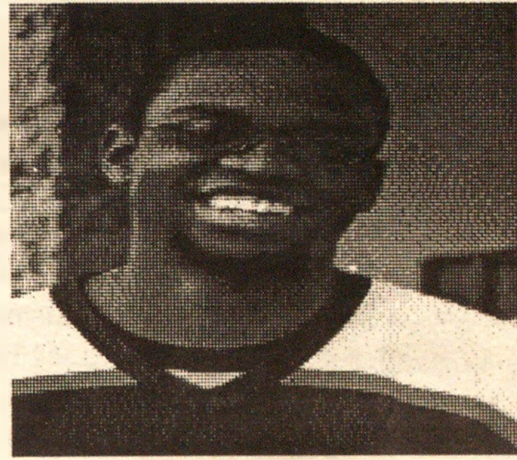
floundering the league is going through now) does the best job of the four major sport leagues as far as an all-star event goes. The NBA once held that distinction until they let no-names in the dunk contest (and did not select LeBron James or Carmelo Anthony to the game, but that's another matter.)

St. Paul, Minn. hosted this year's NHL All-Star Game and, even on the eve of the game itself, there were fireworks. In the NHL's SuperSkills Competition (in which all All-Stars must compete) three guys you may have never heard of (all from the Eastern Conference) had shots of over 100 MPH in the hardest shot competition (Adrian Aucoin, Pavel Kubina, Sheldon Souray.) Colorado's Joe Sakic was named the game's MVP, recording a hat trick.

The Pro Bowl was actually a breath of fresh air as the game actually had excitement with the National Football Conference (NFC) rallying late in the fourth quarter on the arm of much-maligned St. Louis Rams QB Marc Bulger. The AFC lost on a last-minute missed field goal by Mike Vanderjagt who had not missed a kick since early last season.

February 15
This was another Sunday loaded with huge sporting events. This Sunday included the NBA All-Star Game and the Great American Race, the Daytona 500. The NBA ASG is usually a dunk fest, especially now that the game is so unevenly matched with the Western Conference holding the upper hand. Either way, it is always entertaining to watch and, this time, hometown player Shaquille O'Neal won the MVP honors as, to no one's surprise, the West defeated the East.

In Daytona, Little E, Dale Earnhardt, Jr. won his first Daytona 500 in the first



race of the revamped and renamed NASCAR Nextel Cup. One interesting thing about this race is that Greg Biffle held the pole position until the eve of the race when it was discovered that he was having serious engine problems. This bumped him so far back in the lineup that he never figured in the outcome of the race.

As all of this was dying down, the story of the Yankees possibly making a trade for SS Alex Rodriguez broke. By Monday morning, it was a reality and all of Boston's worst nightmares came to reality. Once again, the Yankees had beaten the Red Sox to the punch.

By the end of the week, a legendary arm went back to his roots as pitcher Greg Maddux signed with the Chicago Cubs, the team for whom he made his major league debut.

More things to look for in the next couple of months:

- Who will lose first? St. Joseph's or Stanford?
- As camp breaks, who will be the favorite in the NL? The Cubs, Astros, or Phillies?
- Can the NHL Players Association and the League avoid a lockout?
- Who will be Rookie of the Year in the NBA? LeBron or Carmelo?

The Dolphins Are on the Clock

By Steven Gaymont
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After watching Superbowl XXXVIII, many people in Miami found themselves scratching their heads and wondering why their beloved Dolphins can't seem to make it to the big game. Despite the best efforts, or lack thereof, of management, there seems to be a closing window on the opportunity for the Dolphins to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to Miami. However, there is still hope for this franchise if certain measures are taken to make this a real championship contender. The first issue that needs to be addressed is that of the quarterback position. Jay Fiedler has obviously been an adequate quarterback. He has a great winning record and has shined at moments. Yet, despite his talents, the Dolphins are mired by an anemic offense that often had trouble moving the ball downfield and thus, they have become a one-dimensional attack. For example, Ricky Williams led the league in rushing two seasons ago yet he struggled this year. This is due mostly to the fact that every team knew that Ricky was going to get the ball and con-

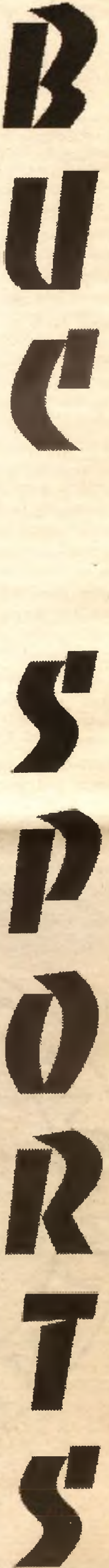
centrated their defensive schemes on stopping the run. Since Fiedler can hardly be expected to throw for more than 150 yards on most occasions, the Dolphins simply could not put enough points on the board. Obviously, Fiedler is not the answer and the acquisition of Brian Griese was a bigger bust than "Gigli." The Dolphins need to get a better quarterback through free agency if they want to win now.

The offensive line is the next area that needs a little work done. The key to both a strong running game and a strong passing attack is the presence of time for the running back or quarterback to make plays. The fact is, this offensive line is simply not giving them the time they need. The Dolphins need to address this better in the upcoming draft; they need to get some young stud linemen into the picture because the current line is not effective or even consistent. Free agency might also be an option, however, the cost of quality veterans in this department might prohibit that "patching-up" of other Dolphin weaknesses.

The final major weakness that needs to be addressed is the lack of playmaking

receivers. There is no doubt that Chris Chambers is a great receiver, but he has been limited in his ability to win games for this franchise due to the fact that his fellow receivers are basically average. When you are the only real receiving threat on a team, you tend to draw the best coverage and it becomes hard for you to get the ball and make big plays. Because of the Dolphins' lack of depth at the position, they should utilize their highest draft pick this season for a wide receiver, perhaps trading up for a higher pick.

With embattled head coach Dave Wannstedt not going anywhere for a while, the key to the future for the Dolphins is to get some much needed help on the offense. Miami needs to look past the "almost hiring" of Dan Marino and get a veteran General Manager who can help the Dolphins shore up their deficiencies and make a trip to the big show next season. If they make a few simple additions and subtractions from this current team, there could be many more endzone dances in this town.



Freshman Guard a Welcome Surprise to Women's Basketball

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On the second floor of Barry University's Health and Sports Center are the coaches' offices for Men's and Women's basketball. Throughout both offices, there is one athlete gaining praise on a regular basis.

"When she came in, it was a shock. You could tell she did everything we asked her to do over the summer," says Katrina Colleton, an assistant coach for the women's team who also has WNBA experience to her credit. "What more could you ask for from a freshman?" she later asks. Colleton also says that this athlete is not a "ra-ra" type of person, but one who leads by example: "She doesn't pump her chest when she does something good, and she doesn't frown when something doesn't go right." Basketball fans have seen that type of stoicism before (*cough* Tim Duncan *cough*).

Head coach Nicci Hays admits, "You're looking for consistency as a coach and having a player that's as consistent as she is just makes your team click a little bit better." Coach Hays also says that this athlete's performance off the court is a big contributor to her stability.

"She's got great grades. She's everything you want in a student-athlete. All we ask of our student athletes is to take care of their business. I don't get involved in your business unless I have to, and I don't have to [with her.]

Karla Mast, who calls New Buffalo, Michigan home, was coached at New Buffalo High School by her father, Randy Mast. Perhaps this is why she is so disciplined. The fact that she grew up with basketball is certainly not lost when one talks basketball with the rising star.

"The biggest differences [between high school and college basketball] are how long the season is and how fast the game is," she says. "In high school, you don't push the ball up the court as fast," says the bubbly yet calm Mast. "When I go back to watch a high school game, I say, 'Woah, that's how it was?'"

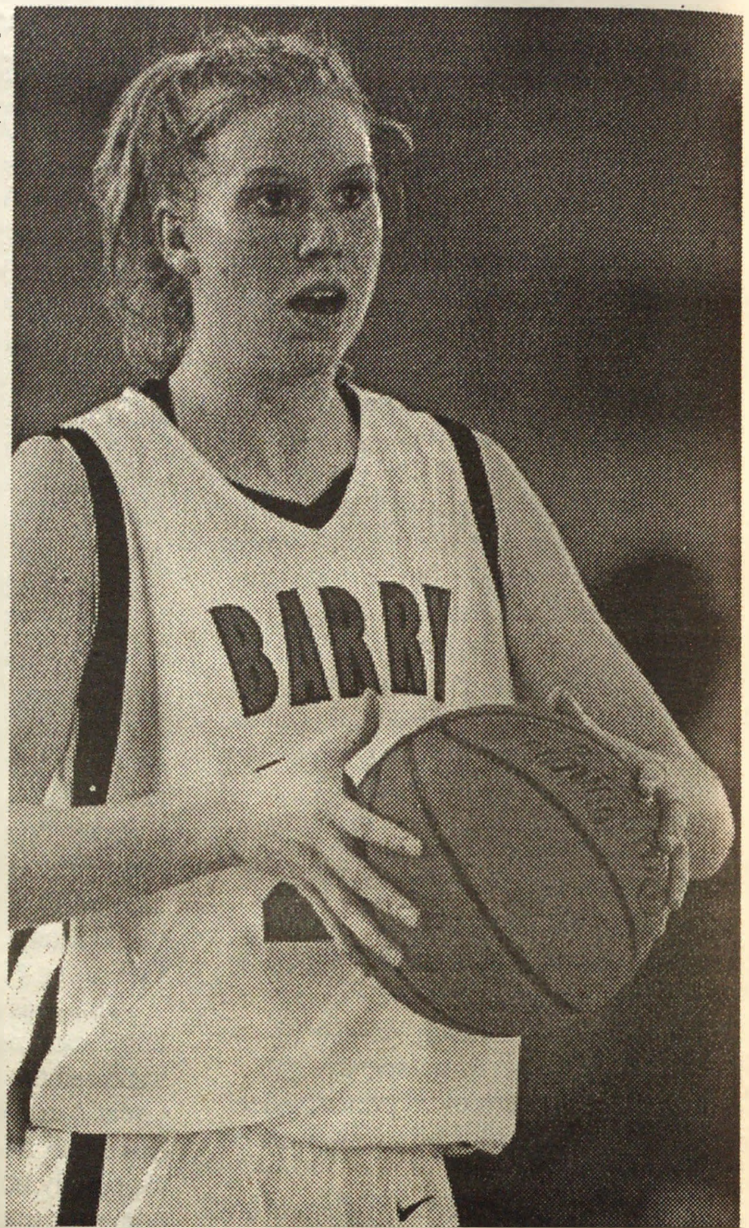
It should come as no surprise to anyone that Karla is a humble, team-oriented athlete. When asked which area of the game she needs to improve in, she says, seriously, "I think I can improve in all areas of my game." She does state, later, that her offense, specifically her shooting, needs more improvement. Everyone

around the team, however, admits that Karla does not lack heart. "I tell myself that my role is to play as hard as I can, on defense and offense, just to get everything going," she says.

Off the court, aside from being a good student-athlete, Karla is your average teenage girl. "I like to go shopping and I like to watch movies. Other than that, I like to hang out with my friends. I would also say hiking and going to the beach. I'm down in Florida, I want to go to the beach," the 5'8", blonde-haired, blue-eyed young woman says, laughing.

As far as plans for the future, Mast would one day like to follow in her father's footsteps and

become a basketball coach. "I'd probably start at the junior high level, get some experience there, and then coach a small high school because I came from a small high school."



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Nick Ellingsworth-Perez: Coming Into His Own

By Winston James
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Last year, Barry men's basketball coach Cesar Odio received a gift from a small NAIA

school in Mobile, Alabama. Spring Hill College has been known for producing good collegiate basketball talent. Nick Ellingsworth-Perez followed in that tradition.

After a productive freshman

season with a post-season berth at the NAIA tournament, the former Hollywood-Chaminade Madonna star Ellingsworth-Perez came home to play at nearby Barry University for Coach Cesar Odio.

"He's a player's coach," Ellingsworth-Perez said, in praise of Odio. "His style of play is tailor-made for me."

Apparently, the coach-player relationship is a match made in heaven. In his first year at Barry, Ellingsworth-Perez made an immediate impact, starting in each of the 27 games he played, scoring 10.4 points a game and lassoing a team-leading 7.6 boards a game. He showed improvement and seemed to play better as the year wore on, showing up as a great post presence at forward.

This year the improvement has continued. With the graduation of All-Region forward Luis Vazquez-Bello, Ellingsworth-Perez has stepped up at the power forward position, pouring in 15.9 points and 8.7 boards a game, which are definite All-SSC numbers, if not possibly receiving a nod or two for the All-America team.

The numbers reflect that junior forward has benefited from continued practicing of his craft in the off-season.

"I've done a lot of hard work in the summer," mentioned the junior forward. "I really wanted to make a name for myself in the Sunshine State conference."

Ellingsworth-Perez, as co-captain, has helped to galvanize a team that was supposed to be

in a rebuilding year. The loss of Vazquez-Bello, as well as Yorelli Calderon, Brian Mills and a whole freshman recruiting class had many write off Barry in the pre-season. Ellingsworth-Perez's commitment, as well as inspired play from others, (including former Spring Hill teammate Casey Johnson), has helped Barry maintain a plus .500 winning percentage, at 12-9, only six wins off last years pace in which the Bucs made it to the conference finals. Clifford Smith, who has stepped out of junior college to become the offensive sidekick of Ellingsworth-Perez with 14.6 points per game, was effusive in his praise of the junior.

"One of the best in the entire conference!" praised the shooting guard. "He is the leader of the team."

Nick Ellingsworth-Perez is not one to boast of his accomplishments, crediting freshman point guard Ryan Saunders' play as important to his success. Yet as he pours in double digit numbers on the court, his pride in the play he shows on the court certainly shows through.



Attn: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & STAFF!!!

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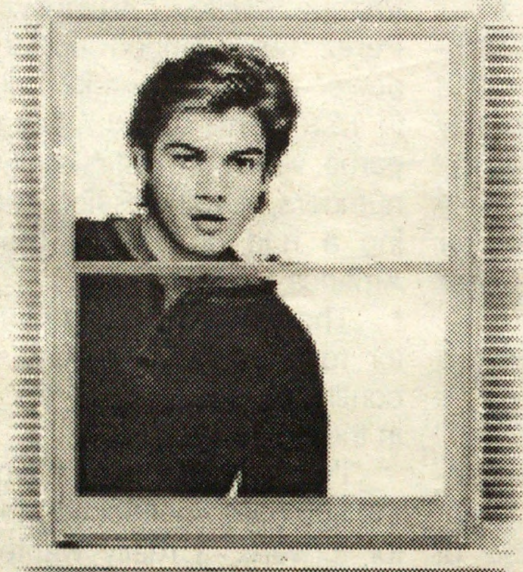
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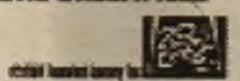


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