

the barry buccaneer

a student publication

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Campus News

Barack Obama
Student Visits Haiti
Black History Month
African American Studies
CAB Gives a Culture Shock
Mission and Ministry

Our Opinions

Irresponsible Drinking at Barry
Don't Forget Valentine's Day

Arts & Leisure

Volver Review
The Holiday
Will Smith and *The Pursuit*
George's Oscar Picks

Barry Sports

Basketball Wrap-up
Athletic Charity
Athlete Spotlights:
Ryan Saunders
Alex Fernander

World Religious Figures Speak at FIU Peace Conference

By Joe Boyer
Staff Writer

Throughout the day, how often is your mind at peace? A few hours? An hour? Maybe five minutes? This was the question Charitra Pragya, a Jain nun, proposed to the audience of a panel discussion entitled "Peace is Our Birthright: Creating a Unified Vision for World Peace." On Nov. 30, 2006, Florida International University's Center for the Study of Spirituality united with the Kriya Yoga Institute to present an evening devoted to discussing the role of spirituality in realizing world peace (The Kriya Yoga Institute is an international organization with U.S. headquarters based in Homestead, Fla. It is devoted to instructing devotees in the practice of Kriya Yoga, an ancient meditation focusing on breath and exclusive to no one religion.)

FIU welcomed the public to the Kovens Center on its Biscayne Bay Campus, and Dr. Nathan Katz, professor and founding chair of the FIU Department for Religious Studies, directed a panel of distinguished representatives from the world's major religious traditions: Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Protestantism, and Jainism (an ancient religion akin to Hinduism and Buddhism). A member of the Archdiocese of the Catholic faith was invited to join the conference, but could not attend.

The Center for the Study of Spirituality at FIU is not a department. It is, as Dr. Katz noted, a community that lives in the overlaps between all the departments. He

said, "If spirituality is anything, it's everything."

A major message of the conference was that peace is not merely the absence of war. Even individuals of nations at peace have not found peace in their own lives. Arun Gandhi, grandson of the "Mahatma" Mohandas Gandhi, was the keynote speaker at the conference. Gandhi attends many events around the country, speaking about his grandfather's philosophy of nonviolence. "If we know how much passive violence we perpetrate against one another, we will understand why there is so much physical violence plaguing societies and the world," said the

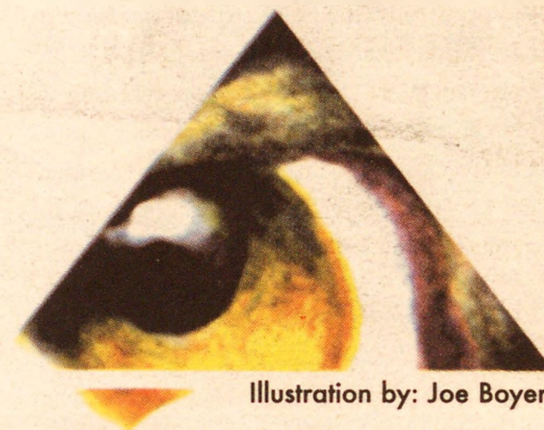


Illustration by: Joe Boyer

Mahatma. In other words, we must become aware of the underlying psychological distress that breeds physical acts of violence.

At the FIU conference, Arun Gandhi spoke of passive violence as driven by

(continued on page 6)

Racism Persists On and Off Campus

By Meghan Walles
Staff Writer

People tend to avoid the topic of racism. Is it because racism is gone? Or is it because people are not sure what racism really means anymore in everyday life? Or is it because racism is just ignored because people do not want to stir up problems? According to Barry University, it is the most diverse school in the South, so it is a perfect place to see if racism truly exists.

First, let's figure out what exactly racism is and if people think it still exists. When I asked Barry students what racism meant to them and if it was still around, I got a variety of answers. Third-year student, Alysha Casablanca said racism means, "any negative actions or thoughts based solely on an individual's race. I do believe it is around today, just not as obvious as before." To sophomore Kelly Ryan, racism is, "unjustified hatred against a specific race based upon predetermined misconceptions." She added, "It is definitely still around today."

When I interviewed Dr. Gary Grizzle of the Sociology and Criminology department, he defined racism as, "a belief of biological links between race and behavior." He also commented that today's

perceptions of racism and prejudice tend to meld these two related yet different terms into one meaning. Dr. Grizzle observed that if you asked almost anyone about racism, that they would not refer to biological differences, rather to the hatred that is at the core of prejudice. The two students above did not say anything about biological differences, so Dr. Grizzle may be on to something.

Sociology classes often debate hot topics. When I asked Dr. Grizzle about the reaction of the students in the classroom when the topic of racism comes up, he said, "There's a reluctance in the classroom, and students tend to talk in brackets so that no one can be blamed as a racist."

Now, the reason I chose to write about this issue was not because I felt like people around campus were acting racist, but more because I went to a Barry student get-together where there was some very foul and extremely offensive and inappropriate language being used. I was shocked by derogatory remarks about multiple groups of people: slandering African-Americans, cursing about Hispanics. It was horrifying. Everyone was in a backyard just relaxing, trying to have a good time and some I guess just

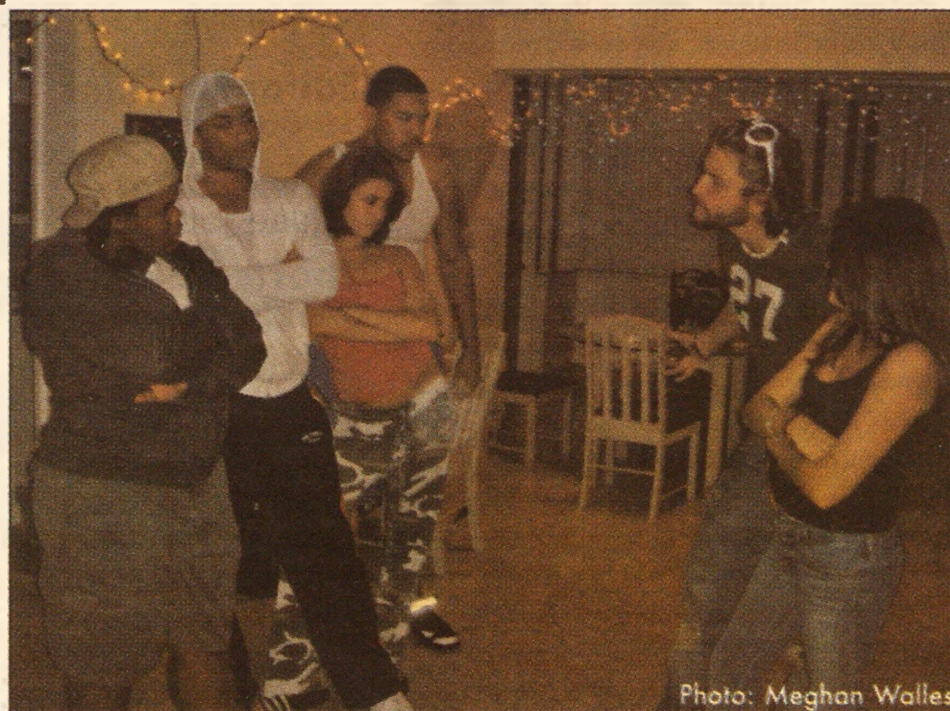


Photo: Meghan Walles

got way too comfortable, until it made others extremely uncomfortable. The fact that someone could look at a beautiful dark-skinned woman and slander that person, then look at the white woman next to her and say how gorgeous she is, blows my mind. Honestly, what is up with that? Such amazing people with fantastic personalities are being discriminated against and slandered because of their backgrounds. Slandering Hispanic people based upon their culture and their beliefs is disgusting and pure ignorance.

After that experience, all of these TV shows started examining racism, so clearly I wasn't the only one thinking about this subject. My experience at the student gathering made me question if political politeness was just a cover for people's true thoughts, and if these thoughts come out when things like alcohol enter the picture.

Mel Gibson doesn't like Jewish people, and Michael Richards doesn't like dark-skinned people, based on their widely

(continued on page 6)

Letter from the Editor



Hello Barry University!

Welcome back. The start of the spring semester has been hectic for us all, so the newspaper did not come out at the beginning of this month as it usually does. But perhaps now you too have time between classes to ponder the provocative range of articles our writers have worked hard on since our holiday issue. Fortunately, we will be back on schedule in March, and we have a new design that I hope you all enjoy as much as we do. Josh Tremper, the Layout Editor, has worked very hard to modernize the look of the paper.

I hope everyone had a relaxing winter break, regardless of whether you went home, traveled, or stayed here. We all needed some time to rejuvenate and prepare for this semester. And so far so good, pretty busy, but no major complaints. One thing is for sure: School gets much harder junior year—especially if you have changed your major and still want to graduate on time.

This year seems to be one filled with changes, and hard decisions. Or is every year that way, when you're growing up—which we all are, even though we may sometimes not want to acknowledge it. We are considered adults at the age of 18—well, legally at least—but we still make irrational split-second decisions that could have horrible consequences.

Each year we ask ourselves what we want. The truth is what we want now might not be what we want next year or the year after. The best we can do is take this moment and make the most of it. College is about living and learning. Here in pages of the *Buccaneer*, our writers share with you their diverse experiences, as they too are learning everyday—and prone to introspection upon the arrival of a new year.

Lauren Costa has written an editorial entitled "Wasted." Everyone should read it. Students should not consume alcohol or drugs just because "it's cool," or to gain acceptance from their peers. We should all be tolerant of people, and not judge them by something so petty as how hard they "party."

Other things to be tolerant about are peoples' differences. The month of February is designated as "Black History Month." Fernando Moura has researched the origins of this official month-long remembrance of African-American milestones, and gathered perspectives on what it means today. Nadege Charles gives us a firsthand look at a contender for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, Barack Obama, the African-American U. S. Senator from Illinois. Charles also spot-

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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 in the Landon Student Union, Suite 202-J, or through campus mail, e-mail or the suggestion boxes around school. All contributed material must include the signature and the mailbox or telephone number of the contributor.

The deadline for submissions is the 10th 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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lights a growing program at Barry that offers opportunities to explore African-American history and culture throughout the school year.

Meghan Walles, a sociology major, considers the issue of racism and how it is perceived today in America and among the Barry community. Interestingly enough, I recently saw a short news segment on CNN about how our generation, dubbed "Generation Y," is the most diverse in

the history of the United States. Think about that while reading her article at one of the most diverse college campuses in the Southeast.

Valentine's Day is also coming up on Wednesday, Feb. 14. It's a great time to hang out with the ones you love: friends, pets, maybe even a special friend. I personally enjoy going out to dinner with all of my closest friends: singles and couples alike. If you're still looking for inspiration, Danielle Reyes

offers some tips for festive outings around town.

Whatever you do... have fun and be safe. Good luck. I hope the semester is going well for all of you so far. We welcome your feedback and will publish letters to the editor.

B. M. Pelaez
PelaezB@bucmail.barry.edu

Wasted: Irresponsible Drinking Endangers College Students

By Lauren Costa
Staff Writer

Picture the Barry pool filled with beer, Corona if you will, or Bud Light, whatever it is that gets you going. I'd bet this same amount of beer circulates around the Barry campus every Friday and Saturday night. College students don't seem to know their limits and don't stop drinking until their bodies force them to by passing out, or losing consciousness – the body's way of calling for medical attention. This is not funny or "okay." In fact, it is extremely dangerous, and can cause many long-term effects, including a loss of memory.

For some reason, however, the motive for college students across the States is to do just that: consume such a large quantity of alcohol that they pass out. I asked a neighbor, one of my college peers, "What are you doing tonight?" Her response was, "I don't care, all I know is I want to get drunk, I want to be crawling back to my room, and tomorrow I won't care if I can't remember what happened tonight." After her response, all others involved with the conversation and in the area expressed their agreement with, "I second that"; "I hear ya there"; "Oh yeah"; and "Yup, yup."

This desire is shared by more and more college students, many of whom are not even of legal age. The Center for Science in the Public Interest conducted a survey among college students about drinking. Nearly half of them stated that they drink to get drunk. Others said the "status" of "fitting in" that they receive from drinking, makes them more apt to drink while still underage.

If 18-year-old college students cannot drink responsibly, why lower the drinking age? Over the years, 16-year-olds have not been able to drive responsibly, so many states have raised the driving age and toughened the criteria for obtaining a license. The drinking age follows similar logic; it all comes down to maturity and responsibility. According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), a study of fatal crashes in 2004 found that highest percentage of drivers with BAC levels of .08 or higher were between the ages of 21 and 24 (32 percent, followed by 27 percent of those aged 25 to 34 and 23 percent in the 35-44 age bracket. Such evidence of irresponsible drinking among college-aged drivers can hardly encourage lawmakers to lower the drinking age.

Personally, I've seen alcohol bring problems to many of my loved ones. As a result, I would like to offer some pointers on drinking responsibly.

Never put your drink down.

If you have a bottle, walk around with your thumb in the cover. This will prevent people from bumping into you and slipping something into your drink.

Leave with the people you came with, and never with someone you don't know or met under the influence.

Don't let your friends leave with someone intoxicated whom they just met. At this time, let us all remember Natalee Holloway, the girl who will never be found in Aruba. She left with a group of intoxicated young men whom she had just met at the bar. Scary situations like this should raise our awareness and spur us to learn ways to prevent this from happening to us.

Don't drink to get drunk!

Calm down and slow down. If you want to drink, go ahead; I do. But there is no need to pound down drinks until you're passed out and cannot remember. If this is always your mission and you don't see a need to change, in all seriousness you may want to talk to a professional and attend some Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

That's all the advice I have. I've learned a lot from my relations with others and their troubling experiences with alcohol, and I know what I am talking about. So please trust what I have said. Have a good time and enjoy the company of your friends, but drink slowly enough that you will remember those good times the next day.

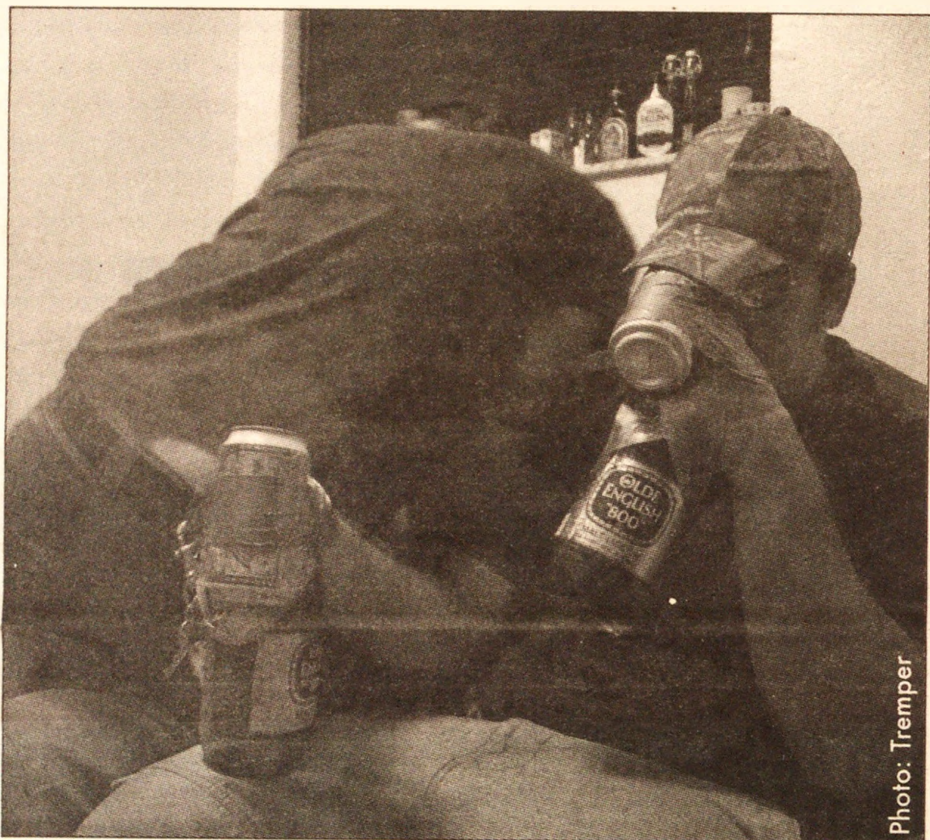


Photo: Tremper

Barry students, who are 21, engage in a game of "Edward Fortyhands"

On Matters of the Heart: Don't Forget Valentine's Day

By Danielle Reyes
Staff Writer

Candy hearts, boxes of chocolate, and teddy bears are the most common sights each year on February 14th. What else is expected in our culture, where the media expresses Valentine's Day as a holiday that requires a significant other in order to enjoy it? Couples are the main moneymakers for the restaurant industry on the 14th. The media may focus on the material aspect of this romantic holiday, but that does not mean that we should follow suit. We should not need an advertisement to remind us that love is a powerful force.

We should rarely second-guess love, and this Valentine's Day, it should be a priority to show everyone special to you that they are appreciated. Valentine's Day does not need to be about spending as much money as you can in order to prove that you love someone dearly. As psychologist Dr. Kanner said in *Psychology Today* magazine, "Love does not need to involve great expense, but it does require energy." This Valentine's

Day, let's focus on all the thoughts and actions that express the love that we are willing and ready to give to everyone special in our lives. We may have a tendency to hold ourselves back because we do not want to get hurt, but it is important to realize that loving is what makes life worth living.

On this holiday, love is what matters the most. This love can be expressed by bonding with the individuals that you consider to be dear to your heart. With that said, anyone can enjoy this special occasion, whether single or attached. If you are single, then don't be shy about calling a few friends to go out to dinner. Two of University of Barry's single freshmen ladies, Angela Dessables and Windele Jean-Pierre, are planning to spend Valentine's Day with each other. "We will probably celebrate over the weekend and have a singles' night out. We'll have dinner and go out to see a movie."

As a student, your budget may be limited; however, that does not mean that you need to spend Valentine's Day at

home. Restaurants can be overpriced in Miami Beach, but there are options even closer to campus that offer good food in creative settings for a reasonable price.

The delicious Chinese bistro, P.F. Chang's, has a location in Aventura that offers a unique environment with prices ranging from \$6 to \$20, depending on which entrées and appetizers you choose. Also on Biscayne Boulevard but even closer to campus, Steve's Pizza offers delicious pizza for \$3 a slice, and no reservations are required. After a nice meal, nothing beats going to the infamous beaches of Miami with a bunch of friends. Inexpensive restaurants and priceless hangouts can make Valentine's Day fun for students.

On this holiday, there should be no reason to hold back. In one way or



Photo courtesy of: Danielle Reyes

another, we are all vulnerable, and love is essential for us to grow and strive as individuals. It's important to remember what truly matters: the relationships in our lives, for those are what feed our hearts and souls.

Campus Ministry Needs More Space

By Virginia Clark
Staff Writer

I will never forget the day I first arrived at Barry University as a prospective student. What struck me most was not the gorgeous South Florida landscaping, nor the awe-inspiring architecture of Cor Jesu Chapel; it was not even the pleasant greetings from complete strangers. What struck me the most was the way that all of these things came together in a welcoming atmosphere that I have never experienced on any other college campus. I have spoken to many students who all agree that the welcoming experience at our beloved University is what makes us feel that Barry is truly "where we belong."

Once I was accepted to Barry, moved into the dorms, and settled into my new class schedule, I began looking for groups to join on campus through which I could experience more of that welcoming spirit that is so abundant here. As a spiritual person who loves my Catholic faith, one of the first organizations I looked into was Barry's Campus Ministry. Not only did I find that the spirit of welcoming acceptance extend to Campus Ministry, but it seemed to me that it was the very wellspring of that spirit at Barry. I can now understand why our founders placed the chapel at the very physical center of campus.

The students, faculty, and staff who come together here are exceptional in their attitude of acceptance. In Professor Alex Schlich's theology class, I learned that the total outpouring of each person of God into the other is termed kenosis. This is exactly what I see going on between those gathered here. It never ceases to amaze me how often total strangers will walk into Campus Ministry and instantly form fundamental connections.

Whether students wander in on their own, are brought in by others, or attend one of our many social events, the group of people congregating here is always growing. Consider our welcome back picnic as a model: During this past year's event, we went through 120 hamburgers and a substantial amount of hotdogs generously donated by TKE. I have personally witnessed the return of about a dozen of those who attended the picnic (probably a small fraction of the total number) to Campus Ministry for one of our many programs or just to assemble.

There is only one impediment that keeps Campus Ministry from growing by leaps and bounds. Time and time again, we are thwarted by our lack of space. I have seen our miniscule lounge area so crammed full that a person will have to go out one side door, around the building, and come in the other side door, just to reach a place to stand. During yearly events like the Thanksgiving food drive and preparations for our mission trip to the Dominican Republic, supplies spill out of the offices, down the hallway, through the copy room and onto the porch outside. I'm *not* exaggerating. The point is... we need more space — and not just any space, either. We need space where we can be central to campus and have our minister, chaplain, and other Campus Ministry leaders close at hand.

Every person who works at Campus Ministry seems to have a floor plan hidden in their desk drawers designed to expand the offices into a true center, just in case they receive an unexpected donation or win the lottery. I include myself in this list, and therefore decided to write this article to let the rest of campus know of our plight.

Virginia Clark is a student coordinator in Campus Ministry.

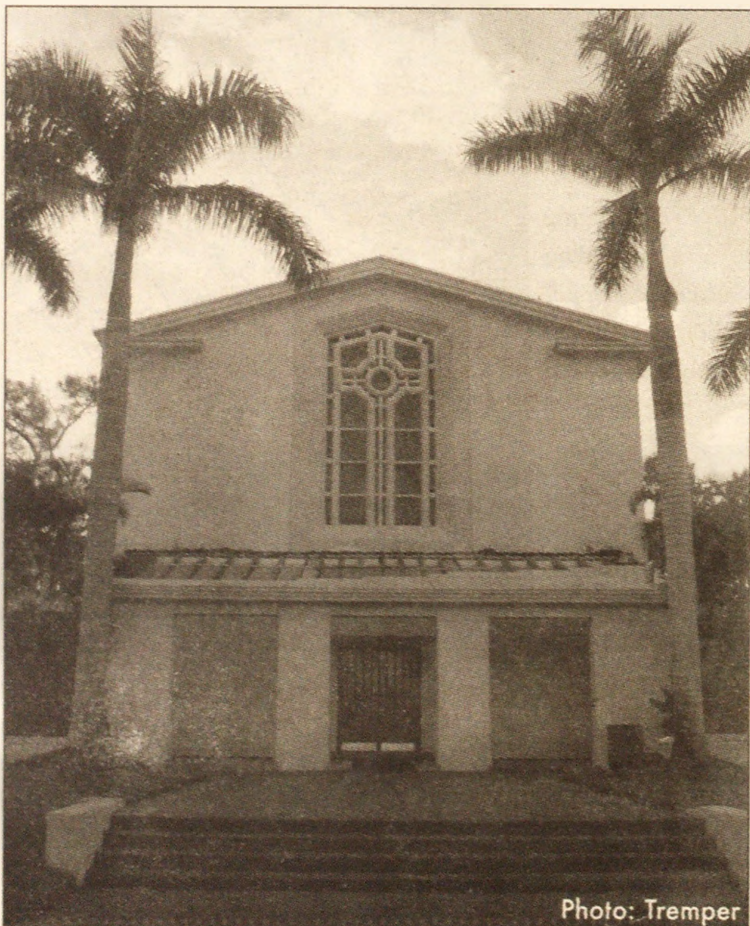


Photo: Tremper

campus ministry schedule

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	SUNDAY
Faith Sharing @ Thompson Dining Area, 5 PM	Meditation Study Break @ Cor Jesu Chapel, 9:15 PM	Pax Christi @ Powers 212, 5 PM (xanga.com/paxchristi) Spirit and Truth @ Cor Jesu Chapel, 7:30 PM	Student Mass @ Cor Jesu Chapel, 7 PM

daily mass @ cor jesu chapel, 12:05 pm

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Senator Barack Obama Brings His Message of Hope to Miami

By Nadege Charles
Staff Writer

I'm standing in line waiting and praying that I will get in. I've been in line for about two hours now and I know that all the tickets are sold out. Still, I have hope that somehow someone won't show up and I'll get a ticket to get in. The ticket-holders are walking into The Gusman Theatre, in Downtown Miami, and I'm across the street waiting in the stand-by line. So, here I am, standing by. The ticket holders are all inside now, and I'm in suspense.

One of the ushers is crossing the street and he's holding tickets. I count the people ahead of me: one, two, three, four. Please God, let him have five tickets. The usher reaches the line and says, "Okay, we have room for fifteen." Yes!

This sold-out event was not for Shakira or some other pop-star-headlined tour; it was for Barack Obama, senator of Illinois. Obama was the first African-American president of the *Harvard Law Review* and is the third African-American since Reconstruction to be elected to the U.S. Senate. He is best known for his

electrifying keynote speech, in support of John Kerry during the 2004 Democratic National Convention, and his growing popularity is undeniable as I look around the overflowing Gusman Theatre.

When Senator Obama walks onto the stage, the audience erupts into a deafening roar of claps, hoots and hollers. The welcoming of Senator Obama rivals that of a rock star. Obama opens his speech by giving credit to Rev. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., from the Church of Christ on the South Side, for introducing him to the "the audacity of hope."

The topic of his speech for the evening is "The Audacity of Hope", which is also the title of his *New York Times* best-seller, *The Audacity of Hope: Reclaiming the American Dream*. One of the key points in Obama's book and his speech is: In a time when world politics focus on our differences, he dares the American public to focus on our commonalities. Once we move past our divisions, we can tackle the real problems. In his book he writes, "...we'll need to remind our-

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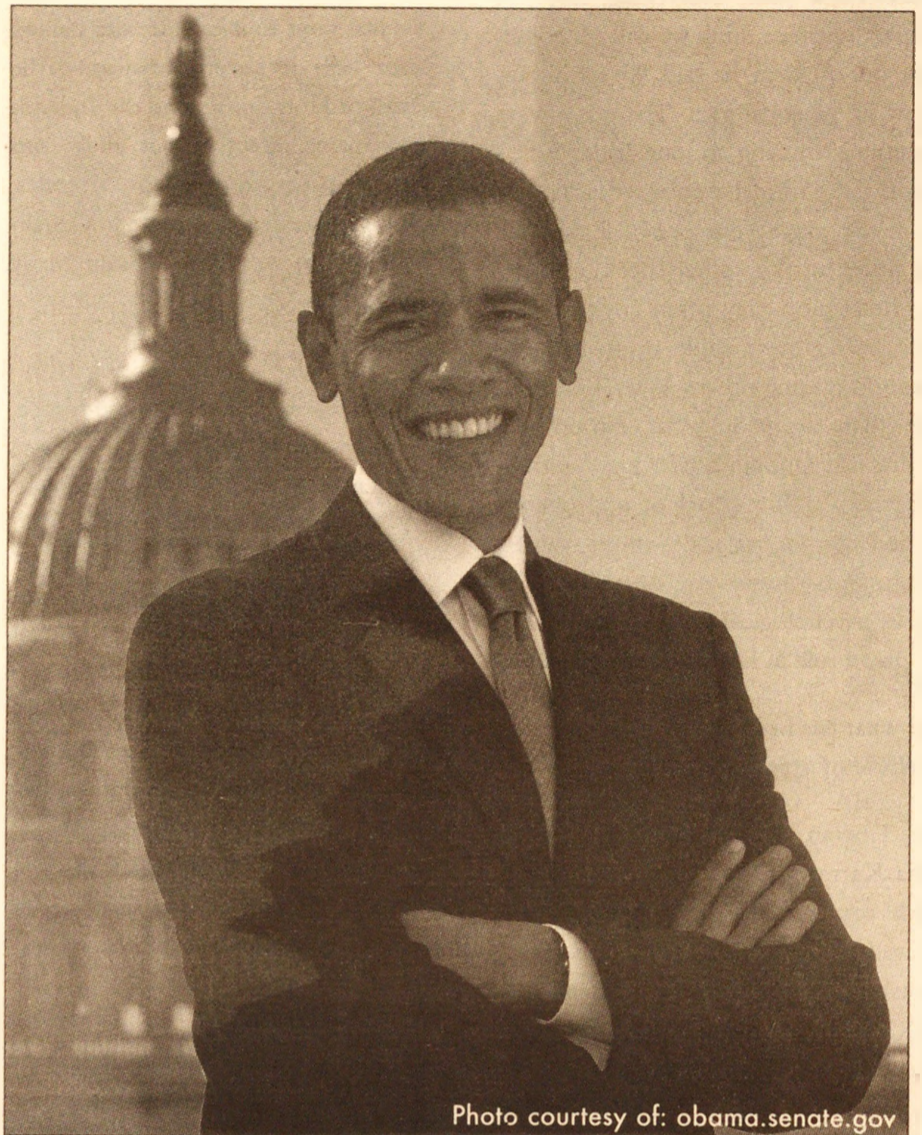


Photo courtesy of: obama.senate.gov

Discovering the True Meaning and Origins of Black History Month

By Fernando Moura
Staff Writer

With the progression of January comes the consciousness of a race that had to overcome many obstacles to achieve equal status in the United States. Black History Month, originally known as Negro History week, was founded by Dr.

Carter Woodson in 1926. Its purpose was to acknowledge the "lesser-known" beings, and help in fostering a more positive view towards black people; a view that cultivated the then foreign concept, that African-Americans were, and are, capable of labor that required the mind, beyond the cotton fields. Aside from

Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, figures like Zora Neal Hurston, who was the first black woman to graduate Barnard College of Columbia University, and Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, the first black doctor to perform open heart surgery in 1893, are revered in this month for touching new grounds, and challenging social boundaries.

But how many people are actually informed of the true meaning of this month? I can't say I was, and I wasn't surprised to find the many students on campus that didn't know either. When I asked why they thought this commemorative period was created, the vast majority responded that they felt it was created as a means for the United States to "apologize" for their wrongdoings in the past. Interestingly, when I asked what they personally feel about it, they responded that it *should* exist because black people have had it very hard, and they should be commemorated for it in some way. I sensed a negative insinuation towards the government's motives, which in these times, isn't too alarming. But has the United States *ever* done enough to promote the importance of this month? Aside from the HBO marathons of slave stories and accounts of the strife of blacks, and the occasional assemblies that take place in high schools or junior high schools in this month (where yawns prospered, needless to say), nothing is being done on a national level that promotes the true

meaning of this month. And why only a month? Shouldn't we teach our youth about all of the different people who have made the United States what it is today?

I'm a transfer freshman; this is my first semester at Barry. I can't account for what activity has taken place on campus in this month, but according to various African-American upperclassmen and graduate students who have been very attentive to what is or isn't being done, not much awareness is promoted. I find this a shock considering that 32 percent of the student body at Barry is black or non-Hispanic, according to statistics from the College Board.

Many wonder, or should wonder, why February? Dr. Carter Woodson chose the second week of February to celebrate Negro History Week because it marked the birthdays of two very influential beings for African-Americans, Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. When I asked this, no one knew, and the most prominent assumption was that February was the chosen month because it is the shortest, yet another negative overtone.

Is the thought that this honorary period was created by an African-American not plausible? If more people were aware of this, perhaps that negative overtone would dissipate, and African-Americans, as well as all Americans, would feel more comfortable embracing the essence of

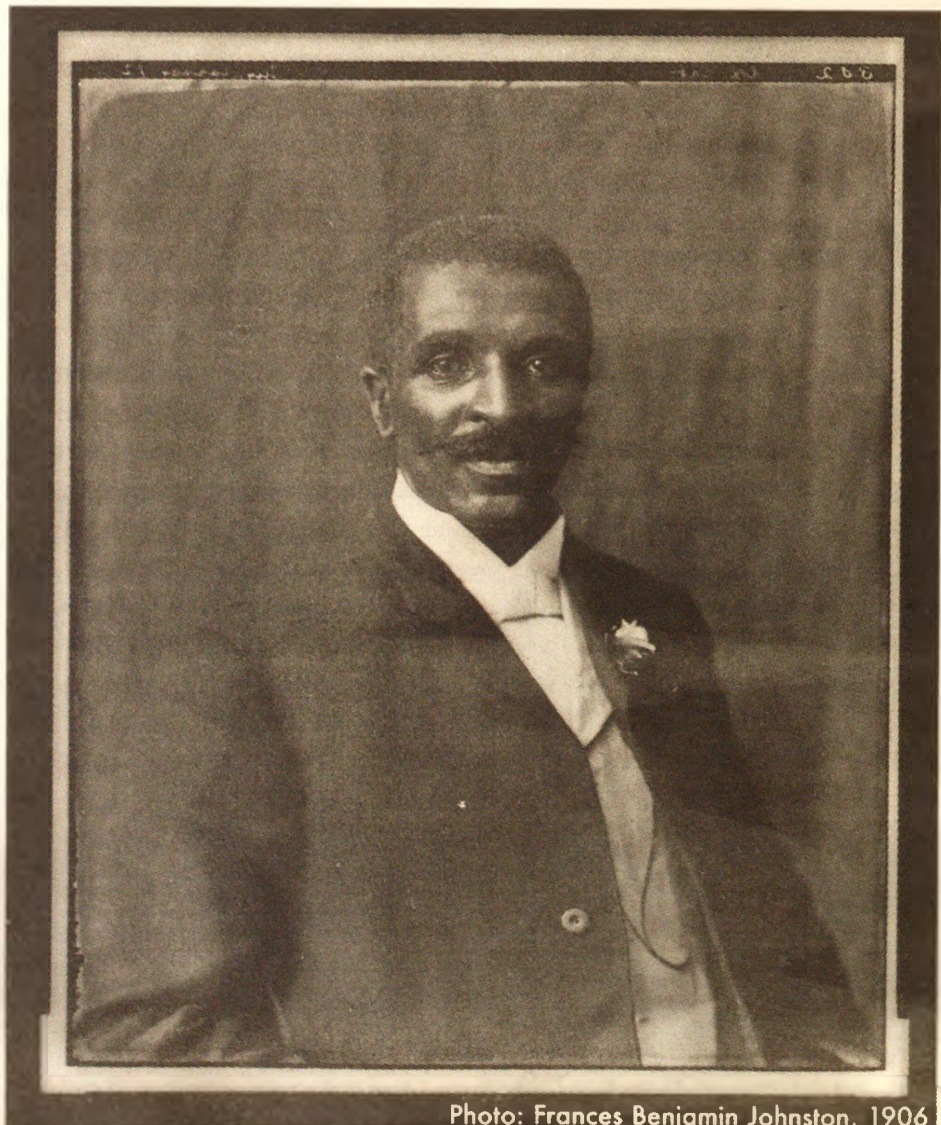


Photo: Frances Benjamin Johnston, 1906

George Washington Carver, peanut advocate.

World Religious Figures Speak at FIU Peace Conference

(Continued from page 1)

selfish personal gain. We tend to form relationships (with everything, not just people) when we think we will get something out of them, he said. We are always intent on personal gain. There is always something missing in our lives. When people make us feel even more lacking or get in the way of our personal gain, we can either turn the other cheek or retaliate. Retaliation can often involve violence. Sometimes people are maliciously intent on putting others down, but more often than not, people that step on others are just ignorantly striving for their own personal gain. A lack of understanding and consideration of others' values, culture and attitudes can cause social as well as psychological distress. Spirituality can play a role in healing these wounds.

And what has been the world's traditional vehicle of spirituality? Religion.

The Tibetan Buddhist on the panel, Lama Karma Chötso, related a story in which someone had asked her if she believed in God. "What is God to you?" she asked in reply. Her story underscores that God can be myriad things and ideas, depending on one's religion and perspective. But all the religions cannot possibly teach absolutely distinct versions of God. They must overlap. If they didn't, devotees of religions would never be able to find a common ground and participate in a peace conference at FIU.

Yet the diverse panel at the conference did not argue about who was right and who was wrong, who had the answer to violence and who did not; they fit together seamlessly, even in the face of their obvious differences. "Religion is a manifestation of spirit in the individual," said Swami Yuktatmananda of the Hindu

faith. We are united by fundamental qualities, such as the ability to love and to hate. We all share the divine spirit within us; we just refer to it by different names. Judaism calls it *ruach*, Christianity, the *pneuma*, or Holy Spirit. And our individuality remains intact in our souls: our interests, desires, mannerisms, attitudes, abilities, and tendencies. This individuality is known as *nefesh* in Hebrew. Many know it as the ego.

So how can religion help to bring everyone together in spirituality and peace, rather than segregating us in ignorance and violence?

Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz compared the world religions to the sides of a mountain. At the base, they are very spread apart and different, but as one climbs the mountain, the differences diminish and communication becomes easier. The terminology is still different, but an understanding develops that these terms describe the same fundamentals. Swami Yuktatmananda described a similar idea by using a circle in place of the moun-

tain: All religions start on the circumference of the circle and travel inward, converging on the center and becoming essentially one.

So, a goal of religion is to move toward understanding, unity and peace. But, as Rabbi Chefitz said, "It is not our task to go down the mountain and tell people that every religion is the same." Still, he counseled, "We go back down to the base and we work with people who are ignorant that there are other paths up the

mountain. We have to build stepping stones for each of them in our various traditions." Religions accommodate the individual's natural interests by providing different options, different languages and paths. (The individual should exert no effort in choosing a path. The path should feel right, almost as if it's speaking directly to the person.)

Religions are not designed to leave individuals segregated at the base, suspended on the circumference. Imam M. Zakaria refuted the current stereotype that equates Islam with terrorism. "There is no religion that teaches violence," he said. Yet, we might find ourselves thinking and acting violently toward Muslims. If an individual can only see differences, the result is often selfish disregard and violence for others.

But moving from violence to peace is not only attaining knowledge about unity. It's not enough to know that Islam promotes peace just like Christianity or Buddhism or Judaism. True peace means experiencing the same comfort, the same harmony in

True peace means experiencing the same comfort, the same harmony in the presence of people from other backgrounds as you would in the presence of your closest family.

the presence of people from other backgrounds as you would in the presence of your closest family. As Albert Einstein said, "[We are] restricted to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty." Peace harmonizes how we think about each other, and therefore, how we interact—the way we look at one another, talk to one another, and touch one another.

Toward the end of the conference, Kriya Yoga master Paramahansa Prajnanananda stressed the importance of activating knowledge of peace into daily practice. He asked the audience if we had heard of the so-called "peace movement," and suggested that instead we "move in peace." Peace is not merely a conceptual third-person account or a story someone told you; it is a first-person realization, a play in which you take part. Peace is not something you look at; it's the lens through which you see the world.

Charitra Pragya, a dignitary of Jainism on the panel, reinforced the importance of converting knowledge about peace into a daily life-practice of peace. "There should be a bridge between the knowledge and the practice," said Pragya. And as expressed by Rabbi Chefitz and Swami Yuktatmananda, of the Hindu faith, the distance of that bridge is equal to your individual path up the mountain, the radius of your own personal circle. And when you reach the center of yourself,

you will transform a knowledge of peace into a passion for life, and unearth a relentless motivation to carry the world up the mountain.

The Center for the Study of Spirituality at FIU has a number of upcoming events. Among them is "Can There Be a Jewish Theology of Indian Religions?" presented by Professor Alan Brill on Feb. 22. Many more events are posted at <http://cas.fiu.edu/SpiritualityCenter/lectureseries.htm>

Racism Persists On and Off Campus

(Continued from page 1)

reported comments. A quick recap of what happened: Mel Gibson was stopped while driving drunk and started making ignorant slurs about Jewish people. To atone for his sins, he went to rehab to work on his drinking problem. How about working on that closed mind? Michael Richards onstage at a comedy club screaming at dark-skinned people in the balcony—are you kidding me? Get some new material.

After the events of September 11th, people who appear to be of Middle Eastern descent have also become major targets

of racist comments. A recent episode on *The Tyra Banks Show* focused on racism. Banks did a mini-experiment with women from five different ethnic backgrounds. The show reported that since September 11th, anti-Islamic hate crimes have increased by 1,600 percent. Can you believe that? Bank's ongoing series on racism also revealed that people who were of the same background also discriminated against one another. So if racism is supposed to be one race against another, why are people of the same race essentially discriminating against themselves?

On CNN's special "Skin-deep: Racism in America," Paula Zahn questioned the difference between attitudes about race today and those of past years. Dr. Jack Dovidio, a psychologist who studies racism, said, "Contemporary racism, it's not conscious. So people are not aware they have it. It's not accompanied by feelings of dislike. But what happens is, it gets expressed in subtle, indirect and rationalizable ways." So what does this mean for all of us Barry students? What can we do to help get rid of these mindsets and actions? Especially since the war is still going on in the Middle East, especially since we just observed Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. Day, especially since it is Black History Month, what can we as Barry Students do now?

Students from all over the country have organized a group that connects civil rights advocates. The Student Activist Network unites students battling racism through Civilrights.org. This website hosts online discussions about what is happening around the country and also helps to organize communities that strive to end racism. So I ask you: What do we here at Barry think racism means? Does racism exist here, and is there anything students like ourselves can do to change these racist attitudes and behavior? I want to hear your thoughts, Barry.

For more information on how you can make a change to end racism, go to: www.civilrights.org.

"There's a reluctance in the classroom, and students tend to talk in brackets so that no one can be blamed as a racist."

--Dr. Gary Grizzle

Africana Studies Program Explores Cultural Traditions

By Nadege Charles
Staff Writer

"It's a subject that has been excluded from my education, and I'm happy I took the courses offered by the Africana Studies program."

--Cristine Parmigiani

For a long time, the study of black history has been limited to the coverage of select pioneers and events during Black History Month. Over the past decade however, Africana Studies has broadened the conversation about the African Diaspora and its influence worldwide. Africana Studies is the study and understanding of the vast experiences, history, culture, political perspectives and theoretical underpinnings reflecting people and nations of African descent around the world.

Barry University's Africana Studies program belongs to a consortium of Florida schools that is taking part in the interdisciplinary teachings of the African Diaspora.

A popular course offered by Barry's Africana Studies program is Cultural Studies: Roots, Rap, and Reggae. Music's role as an outlet to political, social, or

economic issues is not uncommon. Bob Marley's "Get Up, Stand Up" is still an anthem for many. This class discusses, among many things, the implications of history and politics on music. Cristine Parmigiani, a student who took Roots, Rap, and Reggae, said, "The class left me wanting more."

In addition to offering courses, the Africana Studies Program also hosts events that are open to all students, faculty, and staff. This past fall, the program hosted a tribute for Xavier University, to raise funds for repairs after the campus was ravaged by hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana. Xavier University is a Catholic University and holds the distinction of the only black Catholic university in America. The event featured guest artists singing harmonious gospel music.

The Africana Studies Program also held a Kwanzaa ceremony before the winter break. The Kwanzaa ceremony consisted of poetry readings, dancing, live drumming and great food. For this year, Dr. Shani Mott, head of the Africana Studies program, promises much more in store. An ongoing project is the Hekima Series, which is open to all students. *Hekima* is



Photo: Nadege Charles

the Swahili translation for learning. For the *Hekima* Series, interested students put together a presentation correlating any aspect of the African Diaspora to a topic of their choice, for example a presentation on current dances and how they tie back to traditional African dance. The presentations will be open to the Barry public and will serve as a forum for the chosen topic.

In honor of Black History Month, the Africana Studies Program, in collaboration with Department of Fine Arts and

the Sociology and Criminology Department, will be hosting events for the entire month of February.

Thursday 15th - Saturday 17th Dance Performance

Performances in modern and African inspired movements will take the audience on an exhilarating journey through the timeline of Genesis in the first act and the second act's lyrical and modern pieces will leave the audience breathless. Barry University Broad Auditorium at 8:00 P.M.

(continued on page 8)

Campus Activities Board Delivers a "Culture Shock" to Students

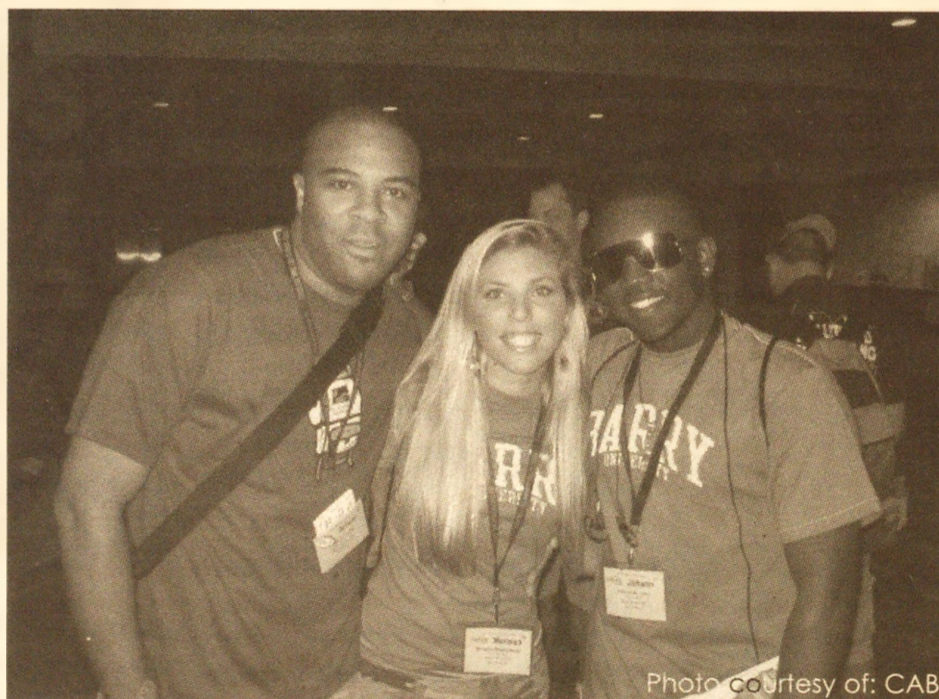
By Shannon Spillman
Staff Writer

It's the second month of the semester, and we are all finally settled into our classes. Things aren't quite as hectic as they were in the first few weeks of school, and some of you might be getting bored. Well, no need to fret any longer! The members of the Campus Activities Board (CAB) have been working hard to make your life as a college student more enjoyable. According to Cliffy Gayle, president of CAB, they are trying to change things up a bit this year. This student-run group has put together a slew of events for the spring semester on and off campus. Don't have a car? Transportation will be provided.

This month, some really exciting events will be taking place. A new series of programs called "Culture Shox" are designed to help students learn about different cultures and engage in conversations about hot topics, such as interracial dating. In February there are two cultural events: "The Art of Making Sushi" and "Que Hablas Espanol?" The Art of Making Sushi participants will learn how to make sushi from a chef. "Que Hablas Espanol?" will feature the movie *Spanglish* and a discussion about Latin culture. This event will also include language lessons, discussions on some controversial issues facing the Latin community in America, and var-

ied activities aimed at helping students learn about the different Latin cultures.

Some other events taking place this month include a Mardi Gras party on the 16th, a movie night on the 27th, and a game night on the 28th. "I'm excited about all the new events and activities



From left to right: Anwar Cruiter, Marissa Wiganowske, Johann St. John

this semester. There is so much more of a variety of activities on campus. From comedy shows to fashion shows and an off-campus trip every weekend, there is something that everyone can enjoy," says Lakima Garnett, the CAB advisor and assistant director of student activities.

February 19th marks the beginning of Homecoming Week. Various activities will take place during this week, one of which is the Barry Beauties on the 22nd. This is a yearly tradition that takes place during homecoming in which the guys dress up like girls. Be sure to come out and show your support for Barry and

CAB and be a part of the tradition. The last night of Homecoming week will be celebrated at a night to remember called the Extravagant Affair. This is an outrageous party thrown at a hotel, a chance to dress your best and socialize with friends old and new.

Some upcoming events in March to look forward to are a St. Patrick's Day Party on the 16th, a Wake-Boarding Trip on the 17th, a Dance-Off Competition on the 22nd, and a trip to the Rapids Water Park in West Palm Beach. Danielle Jackman, a sophomore, says, "I enjoy attending CAB events, especially the comedy nights. It's a great outlet. I'm so busy all the time with school work, it's nice to laugh away my stress for an evening."

The Campus Activities Board is always open to new people and new ideas. If you ever want any information on an event or how to become a member, stop by Landon 206 or Landon 2021. The best part about CAB is that it is student-run. Some of the members of the club include: Marissa Wiganowske, vice president of administration; Candi Whittic, chair of marketing and publicity; Serkan Sener, chair of travel and tours; Johann St. John, chair of on-campus events; and Tiffany Moody, chair of cultural awareness. If you are interested in an executive position on CAB, the applications will be available in the beginning of March, so just stop by the office to pick one up.

For a list of events being offered by CAB and other Barry organizations, or events around Miami please turn to this month's calendar on page 12.

Senator Barack Obama Brings His Message of Hope to Miami

(Continued from page 5)

selves, despite all our differences, just how much we share: common hopes, common dreams, and a bond that will not break." His idea of audacity is that it requires boldness. That boldness is found in each and every one of us.

With the war in Iraq, genocide in Darfur and the many other problems in the world, it's the easiest thing right now to be cynical and to lose hope. What is there to hope for? We can't do anything about war, murders, or famine. Isolating ourselves is the best we can do. Or is it?

This is where the audacity of hope comes into play. Audaciousness begs the question: Why not? Why can't we do anything about war, mass murders and famine? "If we can imagine a better world and apply hope, we can make a change," says Obama, prompting a long round of applause from the audience.

His message is not about partisanship, race, or class, it's about a unified America and hope.

There was a time when people said we couldn't do anything about slavery. There was a time when people said we couldn't do anything about women's rights. But there were people who were audacious enough to hope. "If we can imagine a better world and apply hope, we can make a change."

Looking around in the audience, people of all colors and in all stages of life are attentive. We hear him loud and clear. Senator Obama exudes an air of familiarity and openness that is refreshing to find in a politician. His message is not about partisanship, race, or class; it's about a unified America and hope. Perhaps that's why the audience is so diversified; hopefulness is something we all can relate to.

As I walk out of The Gusman Theatre, I feel exhilarated. The audacity of hope is now anchored in my mind. I went to hear Senator Obama speak because I heard he was different from your run-of-the-mill politician, but I really didn't know what to expect. After experiencing Senator Obama's speech myself, I can agree that he is simply majestic, charismatic, and connected to his audience. I stood in line for hours with no real expectations, hoping to hear Senator Obama speak, and I left hoping for change.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we honor all the pioneers past and present who had and still have the audacity of hope.

Africana Studies: Reflecting People & Nations of African Descent

(Continued from page 7)

Friday 16th

African-American Performing Arts Theatre Production, *The Great White Hope*

The Great White Hope is a Pulitzer Prize-winning and Tony Award-winning play written by Howard Sackler. The play is about the life story of boxing champion Jack Johnson. *The Great White Hope* explores how segregation and prejudice created the demand for a "great white hope" who would defeat Johnson and how this, in turn,

affected the boxer's life and career.

Vans leave campus at 7:00 P.M. - please RSVP with smott@mail.barry.edu

Monday 19th

A Lecture on Slavery in Benin, West Africa

Founder, Carmen Morris will speak about her organization, Sanctuary of Moses, which combats child slavery in Benin. This event is also a part of anti-slavery week at Barry University.

Library Room 308 at 5:00 P.M.

Thursday 22nd

Tennis Tournament Fundraiser

Faculty, staff, and community participants play tennis to raise money for the Sanctuary of Moses.

Barry University's Tennis Courts at 6:00 P.M.

If you are interested in learning more about Africana Studies Department feel free to contact Dr. Shani Mott via email at smott@mail.barry.edu

Island Optimism: A Visiting Student's Reflections on Haiti

By Nadege Charles
Staff Writer

Horns honking, people talking, *kompas* music blaring from speakers, the smell of fried meats and plantain, street hustlers, colorful store fronts, and herds of goats and cattle in the distance, all set against the backdrop of the never ending mountains. *Byenvini a Ayiti*. Welcome to Haiti.

The first time I visited Haiti I was thirteen years old, and I didn't have much fun because I was young and couldn't appreciate the outdoors and organic living. All I remember is missing Burger King and MTV. But this trip, I was actually looking forward to a lot of the activities I refused to appreciate at thirteen years old. In anticipation for my visit to Haiti over the winter break, I purchased a tourist guide to aid me in locating places of interest, I was so excited.

The Haitian people are hopeful that the government will straighten up its act and restore the country to its former beauty.

I arrived to Haiti December 17th, 2006 and I was really eager to start my vacation. I had all these plans to visit the National Palace, museums, and handicraft stores, but I would soon learn this was not to be. I couldn't go venturing too far, *paske lari yan cho*—the streets were hot. Kidnappings for ransom are common on the streets of Port au Prince, so I had to be very careful about what type of clothes I wore and avoid any jewelry. The key was to blend in, so I wouldn't become a target. This wasn't hard at all considering I had only packed jeans, t-shirts and my trusty Converse sneakers. Yet, despite my ability to blend in, my tour of Haiti was limited to a few city blocks and I had to be in before dark.

As I spoke to various people about life in Haiti, I was greeted with a lot of joking banter about the way I speak. Okay, so my Creole isn't that great, but once the locals got past my slightly American-accented Creole, the tone became serious. One of the recurring themes in my conversations was optimism. The Haitian people are hopeful that the government will straighten up its act and restore the country to its former beauty.

To be honest, I found it difficult to be as hopeful. From my viewpoint, the state of the country seemed hopeless. Electricity, running water and a good education are as scarce as the rotating government. Yet, if you looked at the faces of the little boys playing soccer in the fields, or at the merchants selling vegetables in the market, there was an unmistakable sparkle in their eyes. They knew something that I didn't, and I felt left out. I asked my 75-year-old grandma what it was that I was missing, and

as she smoked her tobacco pipe outside by the banana trees, she replied, "*Fwaye*"—*faith*.

I came to Haiti expecting to immerse myself in tourist-like activities. Perhaps it was fate that made my plans impossible. I would have been too engrossed in my own personal agenda to see what was going on around me. I would have never looked into the eyes of the little boy playing soccer or wandered through the fields to see the animals roam.

The first and only black republic to set itself free from slavery, Haiti has had a tumultuous pass. Once the envy of many Caribbean islands Haiti is now one of the

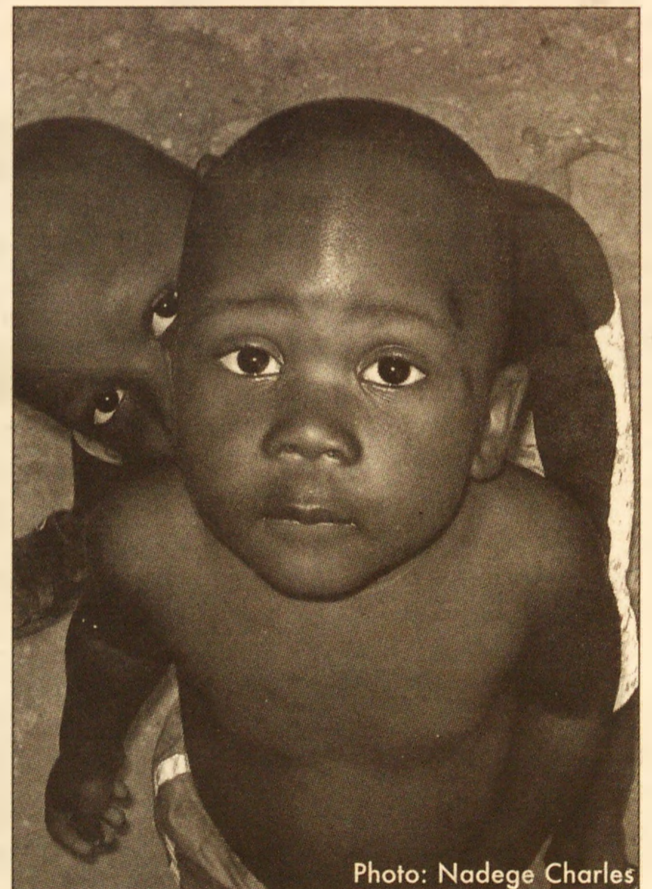


Photo: Nadege Charles

Haitian boys pose for a photo.

poorest countries in the western hemisphere. Plagued with mismanagement and violence, Haiti is almost always portrayed negatively in news coverage. Yet, despite its unsteady past and unseen future, there is hope. The hope can be found in the people who call Haiti home. Their spirit of optimism is contagious.

My trip to Haiti wasn't like a trip to Disney World—the happiest place on earth—but it did make a lasting impression on me. I didn't leave with a bag of souvenirs, but I did leave with hope.

Will Smith Brings *The Pursuit of Happyness* to Our Attention

By George Alpizar
Staff Writer

It's three inches wide by three inches deep. Nine cubes in six colors comprise the six sides. The 54 pieces are somehow interconnected to form a three-dimensional square. What is it? Whether or not you guessed a Rubik's Cube doesn't matter; the real question is: Have you ever been able to solve it? How about in a moving taxi while being timed by a businessman who can literally give you the chance of a lifetime? If you answered yes, then perhaps Warner Bros. should make a movie about your life. Until then, we have Will Smith playing self-made millionaire Chris Gardner in a film adaptation of his memoir *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

"It was such an incredible story of courage. This is the idea that our country was designed around," said actor Will Smith during a press conference in Miami last December. Smith saw a seg-

ment about Chris Gardner on *20/20* and immediately became interested in recreating his story on film. "I wanted to make that movie about that promise in a time when we need to turn that promise into practice," said Smith. Indeed, Smith went on to describe how Gardner's story would only be possible in America, because no other country can evoke such spirit and courage out of its citizens.

In the movie, Chris Gardner sells portable bone-density scanning machines door-to-door to hospitals and clinics. Though the movie takes place 25 years ago, it's hard to really tell what time period this movie takes place in. Aside from the older-looking cars and fashion styles, it's hard to tell the time period because Chris Gardner's journey is timeless. His journey, his pursuit of happiness, is familiar to everybody. Even Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of striving for personal fulfillment, as included "the pursuit of

happiness" among the "inalienable rights" of man in the Declaration of Independence.

Chris and his wife Linda (Thandie Newton) live a meager existence. After dinner, Linda collects the cups and places the remaining tea back into a pitcher. While Linda works double shifts washing bed sheets and towels, Chris spends the workweek trying to sell those portable medical machines. This entails carrying a big, heavy box up and down the hilly streets of San Francisco, hoping to sell at least one each day, which becomes more and more daunting. Without enough money to pay the bills that seem to come quicker and quicker, this type of life is more than Linda can handle. She leaves Chris and their son.

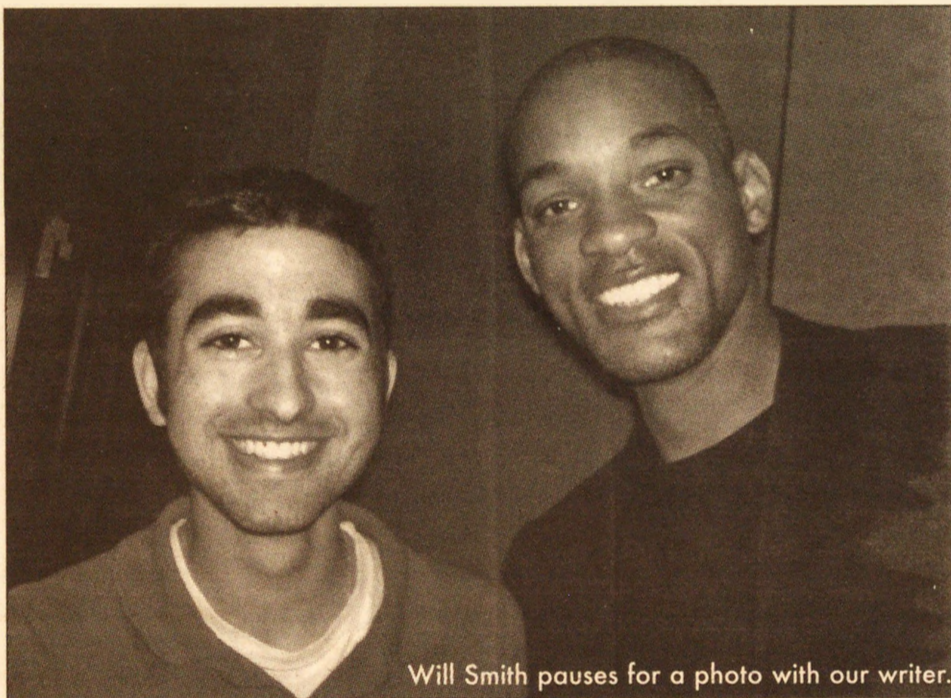
The movie touches slightly on ideas about education, though only a minor theme; hence the misspelling of 'happy-ness' in the title. It is obvious in the movie that Chris Gardner is a big proponent of education. Chris and his wife Linda, who are barely able to keep food on the table, sacrifice enough money each month to send their young son to a daycare in San Francisco's Chinatown. Chris is very concerned about what his son does at daycare. After discovering that his son has been watching *Bonanza*, Chris angrily asks when he watches this show, to which his son replies, "after *Love Boat*," which according to the old Asian owner of the daycare, "shows the history of the navy."

Smith, who is nominated for an Oscar for his performance, is nearly upstaged by his real son, Jaden, who portrays

Chris's son in the movie. But during his appearance in Miami, Smith insisted he didn't actually bring his son into the movie. When Smith was reading the script to his son in bed, Jaden said, "I can do that." He auditioned for the part, just like any other child actor, and landed the role. Smith said that at first it was difficult to work with his son, because he had to separate his onscreen and off-screen roles as an actor and as a father. After Smith's paternal behavior toward his costar started to affect his work, he was approached by the director, Gabriele Muccino, who told him, "Let me worry about Jaden." And apparently it worked.

The film has received both critical praise and commercial success, and it's not hard to see why. Smith's charisma translates through the silver screen, and is even palpable in person. When he entered the conference room, this glow about him made him seem surreal, and almost every journalist in the room appeared momentarily star-struck. Here before us was a man worth millions of dollars being closely watched by two bodyguards, yet still cracking a joke when someone's cell phone went off. He transformed the mood from anxiousness and nervousness to that of excitement and, ironically, happiness.

It is this characteristic that makes Smith's characters relatable and likable. Even while portraying a man who is down on his luck, he can shift from frustration and anger to the wit and cleverness of his breakout role on the TV show *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Perhaps that is why he is perfect for the role of Chris Gardner; as an audience, we know Gardner can make it because we have faith in Smith.



Will Smith pauses for a photo with our writer.

Photo: George Alpizar

The Holiday Brings a "Trading Places" Twist to the Average Romantic Comedy

By B.M. Pelaez
Editor-in-Chief

Of all the holiday movies this season, the only one I saw was—*The Holiday*. The plot was a bit contrived, but it was entertaining. It is the typical run-of-the-mill romantic comedy — with a small twist. The cast is powerful: Cameron Diaz is Amanda, a Los Angeles entertainment executive who composes movie trailers; Kate Winslet plays Iris, a meek English woman who works in publishing. Jack Black, as Miles, is entertaining as a film composer in Los Angeles. And Jude Law, as Graham, is Iris's brother, a suave ladies man.

Amanda and Iris are unlucky in love, and both decide they need to get away from

their lives and the men in them, during the Christmas holidays. They find each other on a website where people can exchange houses. Amanda and Iris decide on a whim to switch locations, houses, cars, everything for the holiday break. The film goes back and forth between Iris and Amanda's respective storylines.

The story is cute and extremely palpable; remember, it is still a "chick flick." Amanda and Iris both go through a journey of rediscovering themselves, and learning what they want from life, or at least for right now. The story is somewhat original, yet the ending is mildly corny. All and all any one can wait for HBO on this one, as you should since it is not a major release anymore.



George Alpizar's Oscar Quick Picks

Best Actor

Forest Whitaker, *The Last King of Scotland*

Best Actor in a Supporting Role

Eddie Murphy, *Dreamgirls*

Best Actress

Helen Mirren, *The Queen*

Best Actress in a Supporting Role

Jennifer Hudson, *Dreamgirls*

Best Animated Feature Film

Cars

Best Directing

The Departed

Best Picture

Babel

Best Writing (Adapted Screenplay)

The Departed

Best Writing (Original Screenplay)

The Queen

The Past Returns to Haunt a Spanish Family in *Volver*

By George Alpizar
Staff Writer

The women in Pedro Almodovar's films exemplify the best and worst qualities of humanity. Some of his previous women characters have included a pregnant nun with HIV, a transvestite prostitute, and an aging theatre actress who is involved with a drug-addicted lesbian. It is not uncommon for this celebrated Spanish writer-director to put his lovely leading ladies in unique situations. And *Volver* is no exception.

In his latest masterpiece, Almodovar's muse Penelope Cruz (who has been in three of his movies and claims she will do anything for his pictures) plays Raimunda, mother to an adolescent daughter named Paula and wife to a beer-chugging husband who enjoys laying about the couch watching soccer. While working two jobs and complaining that she lives like a poor person, Raimunda has enough on her plate. Raimunda's sister Soledad runs an illegal hair salon from her apartment in Madrid. The sisters are orphans, their parents having died from a fire years ago.

After a day of cleaning the burial plots of their parents (which appears to be the custom in some villages in Spain), the sisters and young Paula drive to see their

Aunt Paula. To the dismay of the women, especially Raimunda, Aunt Paula is extremely shaky, uncoordinated and confused. She even goes on to talk of Raimunda's mother, Irene, as though she was still alive. According to Agustina her neighbor and good friend, Aunt Paula

What I most enjoy about Almodovar flicks, aside from the clever premise, storytelling and acting, it's that they offer a view into the daily lives of Spanish citizens.

can't accept the fact that her sister is dead. But, even in her senile state of mind, could she be telling the truth?

Almodovar seems to enjoy tricking the minds of his audience. As a viewer of his strange world, we are often trapped between the fantasy world and the real world. Take, for example, the scene when we first meet the terminally-ill Agustina. While discussing how she faithfully watches over frail Aunt Paula each and everyday, she walks outside and smokes a joint, even offering one to young Paula in front of her mother. One is not sure how to take this scene: as funny (because of the light banter about the subject of marijuana) or serious (because they are discussing the imminent death of Aunt Paula)? That's the predicament in which viewers find themselves when watching an Almodovar flick. Do you feel pity for

Raimunda's neighbor, who leaves every night to prostitute herself, or laugh when she offers Raimunda sexual favors at a discount for being such a good friend?

What I most enjoy about Almodovar flicks, aside from the clever premise, sto-

even foreign audiences can still relate to the characters.

After the death of dear Aunt Paula, Soledad goes back to the village to attend her funeral. After this ordeal, Agustina shares some startling informa-

rytelling and acting, it's that they offer a view into the daily lives of Spanish citizens. In *Volver*, the sisters live in urban Madrid, while Aunt Paula resides in rural La Mancha. While it may be intentional or unintentional, Almodovar could perhaps direct his films knowing that an international audience will watch them. For this reason, he subtly shows his native Spanish culture. In the beginning scene, Almodovar pans the camera to show groups of woman vigorously cleaning, brushing and washing the tombstones in a graveyard. Likewise, we get a taste of the food and drinks they enjoy without having the characters calling undue attention to them. These authentic details give us a better sense of the culture that these characters have. But even while Almodovar's movies are very much Spanish-oriented, it is interesting how

tion: Aunt Paula was convinced that Irene's ghost came to visit her many times before she died. In fact, many villagers have claimed that the spirit of the dead came back to fulfill goals or missions they weren't able to complete during their lifetimes. So what is Irene's mission? Why is she coming back?

Volver, which means "to return" in Spanish, comes to signify many things in the movie. Foremost, the return of Irene's ghost, played by Carmen Maura, sets the plot in motion. Why does the mother come back? What does she have to tell her daughters? Along with the return of the mother comes the return of the past. As in many movies by Almodovar, the past is something to contend with, not to forget. But the lingering question is: How much do you let the past affect you?



Sigma Tau Delta
the international english honor society



Writing Contest

Categories

Poetry

400 words or less

Short Fiction

2,000 words or less

Essay (Creative Non Fiction)

2,000 words or less (opinion pieces, literary or film criticism, scholarly papers, etc.)

Children's Literature

2,000 words or less (preferably accompanied by art work)

DEADLINE:

**03
17
07**

Awards

First Place and Honorable Mention

in each category

Inscription on departmental plaque

for each First Place award

Certificate of Award

from the Department of English
(at Spring Honors Convocation)

\$50.00

for each First Place Award

Publication

in the next issue of "what Oft Was Thought"

Rules

- Contest is open to all registered Barry University students
- Maximum of 3 entries per person.
- Entries must be typed. Please do not use bold or unusual typeface or graphic decoration.
- Submit 6 typed copies (in Word format) as well as a diskette or compact disc
- Entries are judged anonymously by Sigma Tau Delta members.
- Entries will not be returned. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.
- Results will be announced by late April.

Mail entries to:

Dr. Lillian Schanfield
Sigma Tau Delta
English Department
Barry University
11300 N. E. Second Avenue
Miami Shores, FL 33161

Please include the following:

- Name & Student number
- Address (permanent or family address)
- Telephone number
- E-Mail address
- Academic Major
- Short biographical sketch
- Disc with submission and sketch
- 6 typed copies of each submission

For further information contact Dr. Lillian Schanfield, Faculty Sponsor: lschanfield@mail.barry.edu
Sponsored and judged by Barry members of Sigma Tau Delta, The International English Honor Society

Men's and Women's Basketball Teams are off to a Fresh Start

By Alisha Sanford
Sports Editor

Men's Basketball

Head Coach: Cesar Odio (12th season)

Record: 12-3 overall, 4-1 conference*

Key Players: Ryan Sanders, Felipe Barrios, Eddie Young

Next home competition: Wednesday, February 7th vs. Palm Beach Atlantic at 7:30 P.M.

The Bucs have had an impressive season so far and teamwork truly seems to be the name of the game. There are 7 players averaging over 20 minutes per game and every time a player hits the floor he plays hard for how ever long he is on the court. Guard Phil Puccia (10.3), forward

Felipe Barrios (12.4) and Eddie Young (12.9) are three players averaging in the double figures for the Bucs, while the team has held opponents to less then 65 points nine times this season. Freshman guard Brain Chiverton has turn out to be a nice surprise for the Bucs posting a game-high 16 points in the Bucs 67-61 win over Florida Memorial on December 30th, with two starters out due to illness. Chiverton is also averaging 1.5 steals per game with 21 steals so far this season. For the Buccaneers the beginning of this season was just the tip of the iceberg, if this talent team continues to play well, there is no tell how far they may go. Coach Odio says "We started off pretty well this season, but we refuse to be com-



Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

placent with out winning record. Our expectations this year are to make it to the NCAA tournament and be successful."

Women's Basketball

Head Coach: Bill Sullivan (1st season)

Record: 8-6 overall, 4-1 conference play*

Key Players: Alexandria Fernander, Princess Bailey, Christina Thompson

Next home competition: Wednesday, February 7th vs. Palm Beach Atlantic at 5:30 P.M.

As of January 16th, the Lady Bucs really have made their presents know in the Sunshine State Conference so far this season. They have won six out of their

last eight games including four straight conference wins. Some of the biggest keys to the Lady Bucs success is their tenacious defense and unstoppable inside presences of center Alexandria Fernander. Fernander is averaging a double-double, 13.1 points and 11.2 rebounds followed by guard Princess Bailey averaging 10.4 points, 6.7 rebounds and 3.4 steals per game. On the defensive side, the Lady Bucs are holding their opponents well below there average making them work for every basket. Sophomore guard Kristy Singletary says, "as long as the team plays together, we will continue to be successful together."

* as of January 17, 2007



Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

Student-Athletes Share Holiday Spirit and Gifts with Youth

By Kristy Singletary
Staff Writer

On Saturday, December 9, 2006, Barry University showed that Christmas is truly the season of giving.

Through the Champs Life Skills Program for the second year in a row Barry University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) paired up with the Safespace Foundation, a non-profit organization helping victims of violent crimes to host a holiday party for over 50 local children who have lost loved ones due to violence.

Every athletic team participated during the holiday party. Each team was assigned a group of children for whom to purchase gifts tailored to the children's ages. The ages of the children ranged from 6 months to 15 years old. Kelli Welch, a junior on the women's basketball team, said, "Purchasing the gifts was just as fun as giving them away. It was really exciting running around the store trying out all the toys in order to find the perfect gifts."

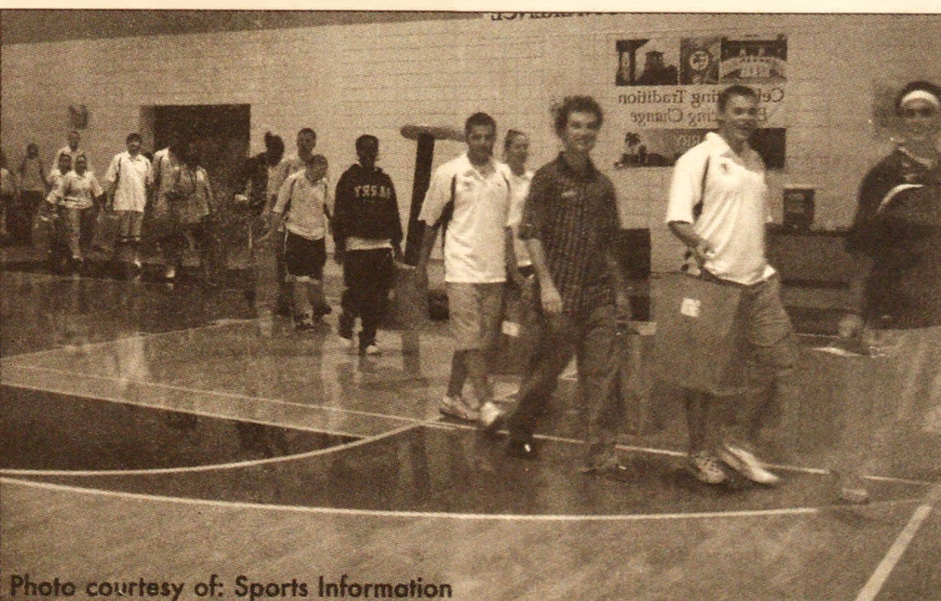


Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

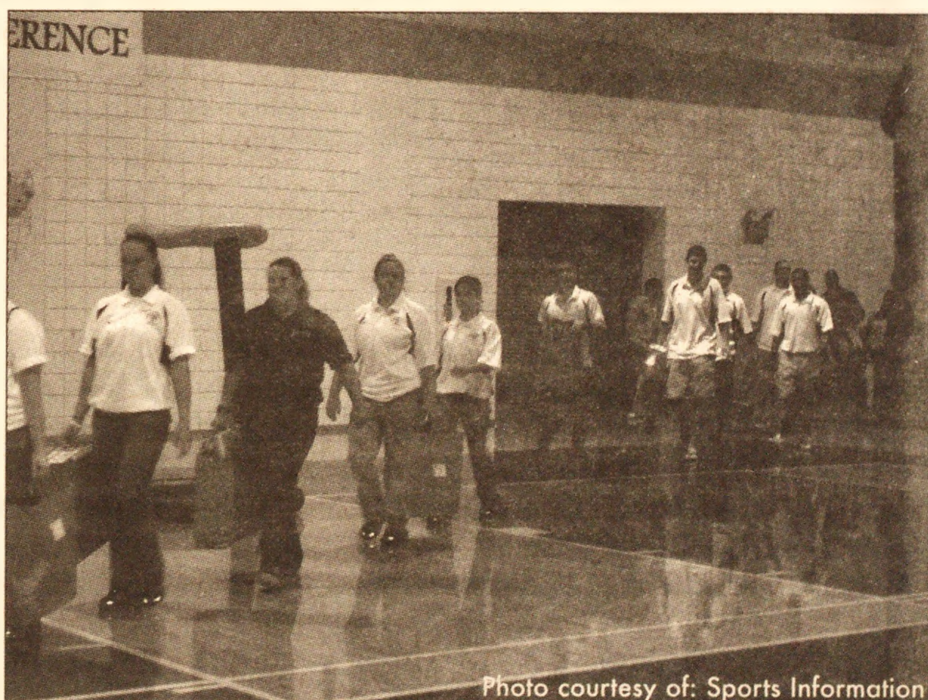


Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

Athletes bring cheer as well as toys to local youth.

During the event, the kids and their families enjoyed free food and snacks along with a day of fun activities, including face-painting, designing Christmas picture frames, and having their caricatures professionally drawn. Furthermore, Barry mascot Bucky worked alongside Santa Claus and his elves to hand out bags of gifts to all of the children.

Barry's on-campus radio station, WBRY, provided music, and Barry University's

dance team and cheerleaders performed. In the beginning of the holiday party, the student-athletes spent time dancing and playing various games with the kids and their families. "It felt good to help these children out, especially those who are underprivileged," said Eddie Young, a senior on the men's basketball team. "I'm happy to be in a position where I can help kids in need enjoy the Christmas season like they should."

calendar of EVENTS

P. 12

1]

Baseball vs. Florida Gulf Coast, 6 PM

2]

WEAR RED For Women's Heart Disease Awareness

3]

Alligator Boat Trip

4]

Super Bowl XLII: Colts vs. Bears, 6 PM
Vizcaya Museum Trip

5]

6]

"A Festival of Hymns" @ the Cor Jesu Chapel, 7 PM

7]

Baseball vs. Florida Gulf Coast, 6 PM

8]

9]

10]

Busch Gardens Trip
Two-Tone on Two Ten Ska Festival @ St. Stephen's Church in Coconut Grove, \$5

11]

12]

Greek Week Begins (through 16th)

13]

14]

Valentine's Day
Men's Basketball vs. Florida Tech, 5:30 PM
Women's Basketball vs. Florida Tech, 7:30 PM

15]

The Pacemakers with Buddha Gonzalez @ Transit Lounge, 21+ free

16]

Mardi Gras Party
Softball vs. Nova Southeastern, 5:00 PM
Softball vs. Valdosta State, 7:00 PM
Women's Tennis vs. Southeastern, 3:00 PM

17]

Paintball Trip
Softball vs. West Florida, 10:00 AM
Softball vs. Florida Tech, 12:00 PM

18]

Softball vs. Valdosta State, 12:00 PM
Softball vs. Lynn, 6:00 PM
Men's Tennis vs. St. Leo, 11:00 AM

19]

Presidents Day!
Homecoming Week Kickoff (through 24th)
Men's Tennis vs. Palm Beach Atlantic, 3:00 PM

20]

Fiji Fashion's Rip the Runway Show
Baseball vs. Palm Beach Atlantic, 6:00 PM

21]

Ash Wednesday
Women's Basketball vs. Lynn, 5:30 PM
Men's Basketball vs. Lynn, 7:30 PM

22]

Barry Beauties

23]

24]

Alumni and Family Tailgate Party
Men's Basketball vs. Rollins, 2:00 PM
Women's Basketball vs. Rollins, 4:00 PM

25]

26]

Men's Tennis vs. Siena, 3:00 PM

27]

CAB Movie Night: *Dreamgirls*
Baseball vs. Palm Beach Atlantic, 6:00 PM
Men's Tennis vs. Dowling, 3:00 PM

28]

Softball vs. Lemoyne, 5:00 PM
Women's Tennis vs. Lynn, 3:00 PM
Bob Marley Festival @ Barry, sponsored by J.A.

the month of **FEBRUARY**

Leader Ryan Saunders Earns Team's Respect On and Off the Floor

By Kristy Singletary
Staff Writer

Ryan Saunders epitomizes the saying, "All things great don't come in big packages." Saunders, standing only 5-foot-9-inches in a position usually filled by players at least 6 feet tall, has made a huge impact throughout his four years at Barry University.

Saunders' small size has turned out to be an advantage, as opposed to the limitation many thought it to be. Saunders' size allows him to weave in and out of traffic on the court, while brilliantly delivering the ball to the open man. "When I was coming out of high school, I was barely recruited," said Saunders. "Coaches told me that I would never play Division 1 basketball because of my size. For some reason, Coach Odio took a chance on me." Coach Odio's faith in Saunders' potential has paid off. "Ryan has been a blessing to Barry's men's basketball team ever since he stepped on to the hardwood," says Odio, who entrusts Saunders with leading the team.

Saunders quickly became an irreplaceable asset to the Men's Basketball team,

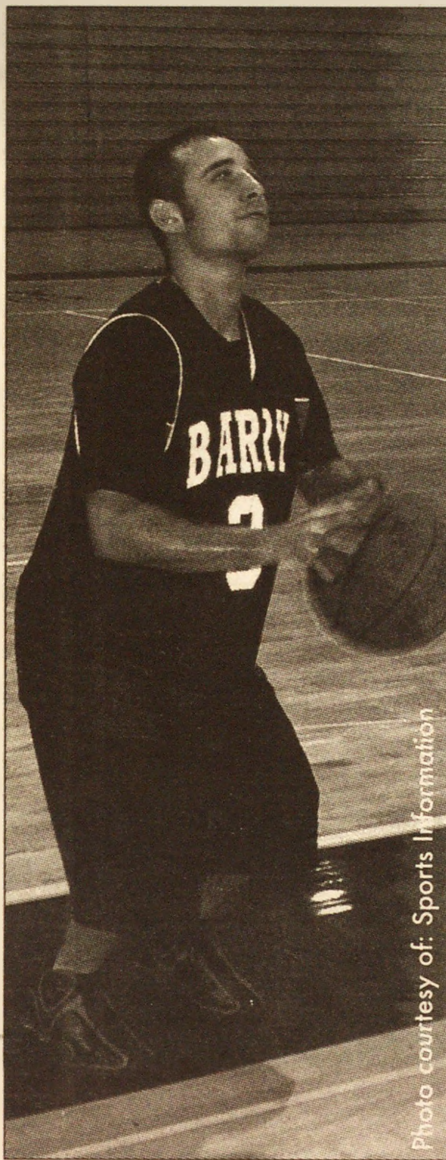


Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

starting every game since his freshman year. His calm demeanor brings serenity to the floor that helps prevent calamity when the ball is in play. Saunders often controls the ball and the games, but he doesn't stop there. Saunders makes sure that he does the best for the team and gets everyone on the floor involved. This was truly evident on December 15, 2006, when he surpassed the career assist record Nelson Fonseca set in 1995 after passing to senior guard Otis White, who connected with an outside shot from the wing.

White, a part of the Tri-captain squad including Saunders, believes that Saunders is the best point guard in the nation. White and Saunders have become close friends over the years, and White exhibits a great deal of respect for Saunders. "I love playing with him because he makes the whole team better," says White. "When you are on the floor with him, you feel this sort of connection, and that chemistry works well with our team and a huge reason why we are successful. He deserves everything that he has accomplished. He is a silent leader who leads by example. I can't even

describe him in words as a player and a person. I just love him."

Basketball has been a part of Saunders' life ever since he began playing in a league when he was just five years old. His ability to handle the ball has always been a major asset to his game. Saunders recalls "I remember I used to get mad because the other kids would double-dribble, and I would be the only one who didn't. I used to go up to my father and ask why the other kids were able to double-dribble the ball."

Saunders' father has always been one of his biggest fans. For more than four years, he has driven 235 miles from Orlando to watch his only son play basketball in almost every home game. Family is very important to Saunders. He is the middle child between two sisters.

Saunders' laid-back personality, charming smile, and desire to always have a good time make him a pleasure to be around. "He is everything you want in a player and a friend," says Coach Odio.

Alexandria Fernander Takes Center Court as Driving Force

By Taisha Coombs
Staff Writer

With new coach Bill Sullivan at the helm, the women's basketball team has taken on a new identity, one centered on what he calls "hard-nosed defense and a winning attitude." Another factor in the team's renewed focus this season is the outstanding play of senior center Alexandria Fernander. The well-traveled Bahamian criminology major has emerged as the team leader in many ways.

The squad has shown obvious signs of improvement after last year's disappointing season, when the team began the season 3-11, losing their first three games in the Sunshine State Conference, and ending the season with a dismal 10-19 record overall. However, this year the team has started the season with a 6-5 record and has flipped their conference record, starting out 3-0. The general consensus among the team regarding last year's woes

is there was a lack of consistency. Sophomore guard Kristy Singletary said the team "never had a go-to player or a guaranteed presence. Missing that court leader caused us to lose a lot of games". She leads the team, averaging a double-double with 13.1 points per game and 11.2 rebounds per game. Fernander also has posted 9 blocks, 14 steals and a 67.2 free-throws percentage in 13 games.

Fernander, like many people in the Bahamas competed in track and field. She ran the 100 and 200 meters, as well as competing in the long jump and high jump. It was not until the 9th grade, when a girl from the basketball team at Fernander's high school approached her about playing basketball. Fernander responded that "only guys play basketball." The girl assured Fernander that because she was so tall, she would definitely make the team—and that's exactly what happened when Fernander went to

try out for the team. From then on, she put in work every day trying to better her game.

Not too long after joining the team, Fernander was given the opportunity to hone her skills and build her confidence while working with one of the top national coaches in the Bahamas, Fernander played high school basketball during the school year and devoted her summers to playing for the National Team of the Bahamas. During Fernander's first season playing for the Bahamas Junior National Team, they placed second, and by her senior year in high school she was invited to join the Senior National team. Donned "Baby Shaq" by her high school basketball coach, Fernander earned the Most Valuable Player award her senior year and was also named one of the Bahamas' top 20 athletes in 2001 and 2002. At graduation, Fernander, won the most acclaimed award, the Principal Award, and numerous academic and athletic awards.

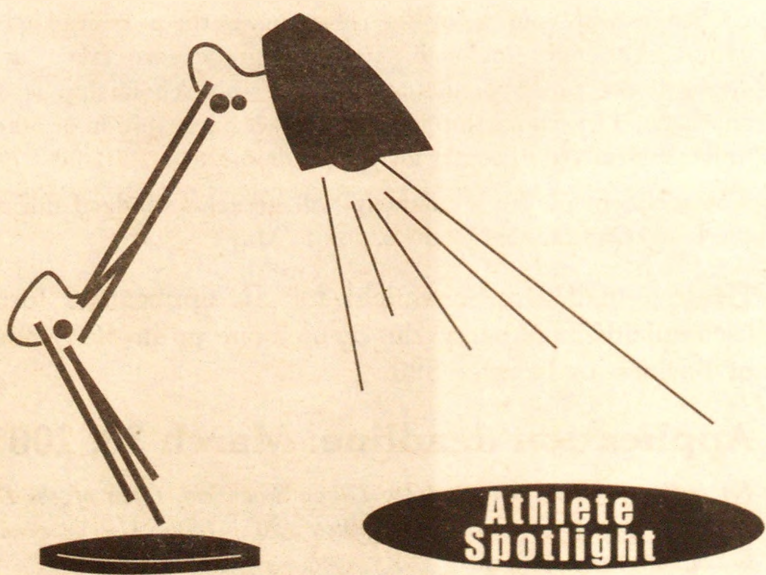
After graduation, Fernander came to Miami, where she played for Miami-Dade College for two years. During her freshman year, she helped lead MDC to win their conference, while also being named

to the All-Freshman team. Her second year at MDC she was recognized as an All-Conference player.

In 2004 Fernander, transferred to the University of Miami, where she was slated to be a real impact player for the Canes, but tore the meniscus in her right knee for the second time and was forced to red-shirt the 2004-2005 season. Fighting disappointment, she had to overcome all odds and focus on playing basketball again. After rehabilitating, Fernander decided she needed a fresh start and made the decision to transfer to Barry for the 2005-2006 season.



Photo courtesy of: Sports Information



Fernander

(Continued from page 13)

Fernander explains, "For me it was trying to find a home again. I wanted to play with a team that I can trust and love, like past teams I played with." She said that the team at Barry welcomed her, and the genuine attitudes of the players and staff allowed her to make the decision that Barry was where she wanted to play. Her first season in a Buccaneer uniform, Fernander was fourth on the team in scoring while coming off the bench. However, this season it seems quite clear that Fernander is the anchor of Barry Women's basketball team,

which is currently trying to rebuild itself into a winning program.

Not only a leader on the court, Fernander is the team captain and "the mama of the house," according to sophomore guard Christina Thompson. She has a special bond with her teammates. "I love playing this game, and I love playing with my teammates everyday." Fernander says, "I know it sounds cheesy, but they are the ones that drive me to want to work hard." She leads by example on the court and in the classroom, where she proves to be just as focused.

When the NCAA Division II rankings were released this season, Fernander was ranked ninth in the nation for averaging 11.4 rebounds, and first in the same category for the Sunshine State Conference. Before the Christmas break, Barry participated in the *Cruzin Classic* tournament, in which Fernander was named to the All-Tournament team, and the acknowledgments and accolades just keep on coming.

Not only a leader on the court, Fernander is the team captain and "the mama of the house," according to sophomore guard Christina Thompson

"I'm looking forward to having a great season, and I'm anticipating leaving my mark if we can manage to win the conference championship, which hasn't been done in over 15 years," Fernander said. "Basketball is about commitment, and once you have that solid commitment to something, anything can happen."

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Bill Marsilii
on the set of *Déjà Vu*

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Bill Marsilii is a professional screenwriter and performer. He co-wrote the 2006 romantic thriller, *Déjà Vu*, released by Touchstone Pictures, which was produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and starred Denzel Washington. Marsilii's many stage credits include the original Off-Broadway production of *Tony 'N Tina's Wedding*. He has also appeared on television pilots for the Hallmark Channel. He has written screenplays for Walt Disney Pictures, The Samuel Goldwyn Company, TriStar, Warner Bros., and Paramount Pictures.

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For further information contact Dr. Lillian Schanfield, Chair of the Dr. Lloyd D. Elgart Scholarship Committee: (305) 899-3419 or e-mail lschanfield@mail.barry.edu



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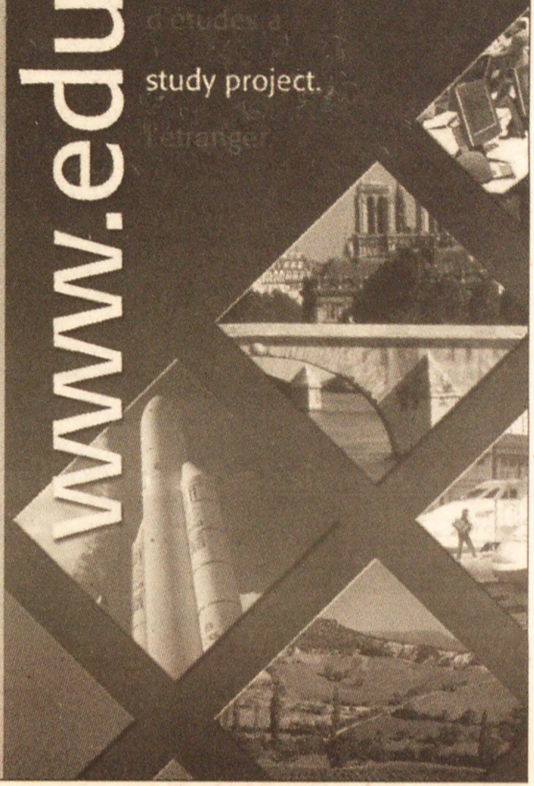
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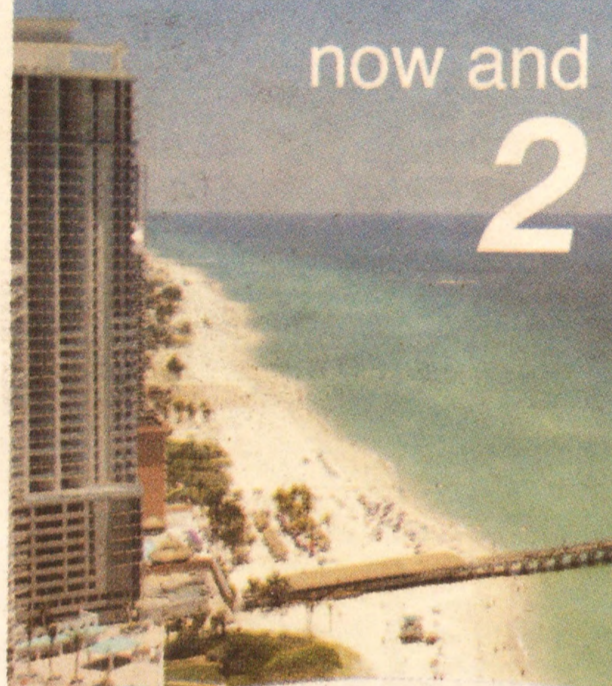
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