

the barry buccaneer

a student publication

OCT
2007
VOL
74.2

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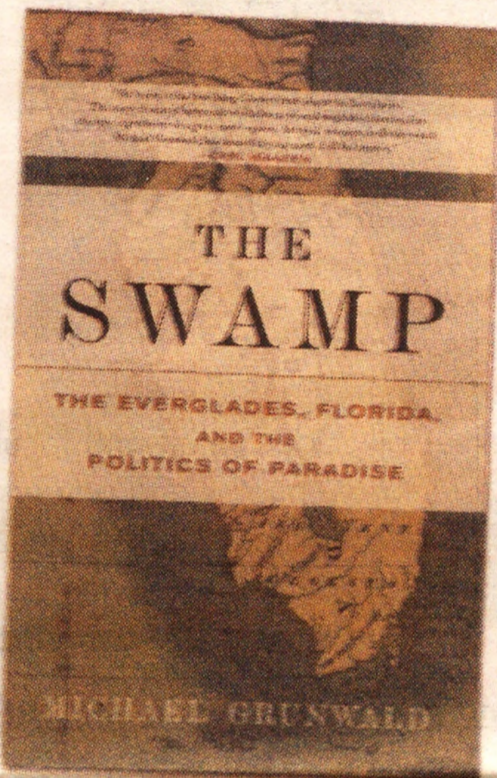
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Reading *The Swamp* Ties Students and Water Conference

Laura Drew
Staff Writer

For the first time in the school's history, all first-year students attending Barry University are required to read the same book before, or shortly after, their arrival on campus: Michael Grunwald's *The Swamp*. Transfer students are encouraged, but not required, to read it as well.

This summer, Barry University's General Education Distribution Requirements Committee worked together to update the curriculum. Over the past few years, the university has become increasingly diverse, and the committee responded to this change in the new curriculum. "With so much diversity, we have to emphasize what we have in common," says Dr. Jesus Mendez, co-chair of the committee. They felt that a shared read-



ing experience would create a link between students coming from all parts of the globe. "The common reader adds focus," Mendez explains. "It cuts across all different majors.... It also creates a commonality in the curriculum."

To encourage that commonality before the students set foot on campus, the committee introduced the common reader. After hearing that the Center for Earth Jurisprudence was holding a water conference on campus, they wanted to choose a novel that tied into the conference. *The Swamp* is about the Everglades, the politics that surround it, and its damage and potential resurrection. "The story begins with the natural Everglades ecosystem, which covered most of south Florida, from present-day Orlando all the way down to the Florida Keys," writes Grunwald in the

introduction. "For most of its history, it was virtually uninhabited. As late as 1897, four years after the historian Frederick Jackson Turner declared the western frontier closed, an explorer marveled that the Everglades was still 'as much unknown to the white man as the heart of Africa.'" The novel explores the roles that the Spanish, English, Americans, and the soldiers who fought in the Everglades played in its ruin "It is relevant to all students," Mendez says. "Directly or indirectly, you are drinking water from the swamp."

Not only is it relevant, but it appeals to many subjects. Professors from departments such as psychology, photography, biology, English and Spanish have made a commitment to use the book in class. Dr. Tom Ferstle is having the students in his

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Pals 4 Paws Helps Campus Cats and Community

Julia Lethbridge
Staff Writer

Over the summer, a couple of dogs managed to get onto the Barry University campus and kill several cats who had been living on the grounds. The exact number of cats on campus is unknown, but it has been estimated that at least five cats were killed by these dogs. Guards on campus scared away the mutts with noise and attention, and the dogs have not been seen on campus since then. Where they are now, or where exactly they came from, is still unknown.

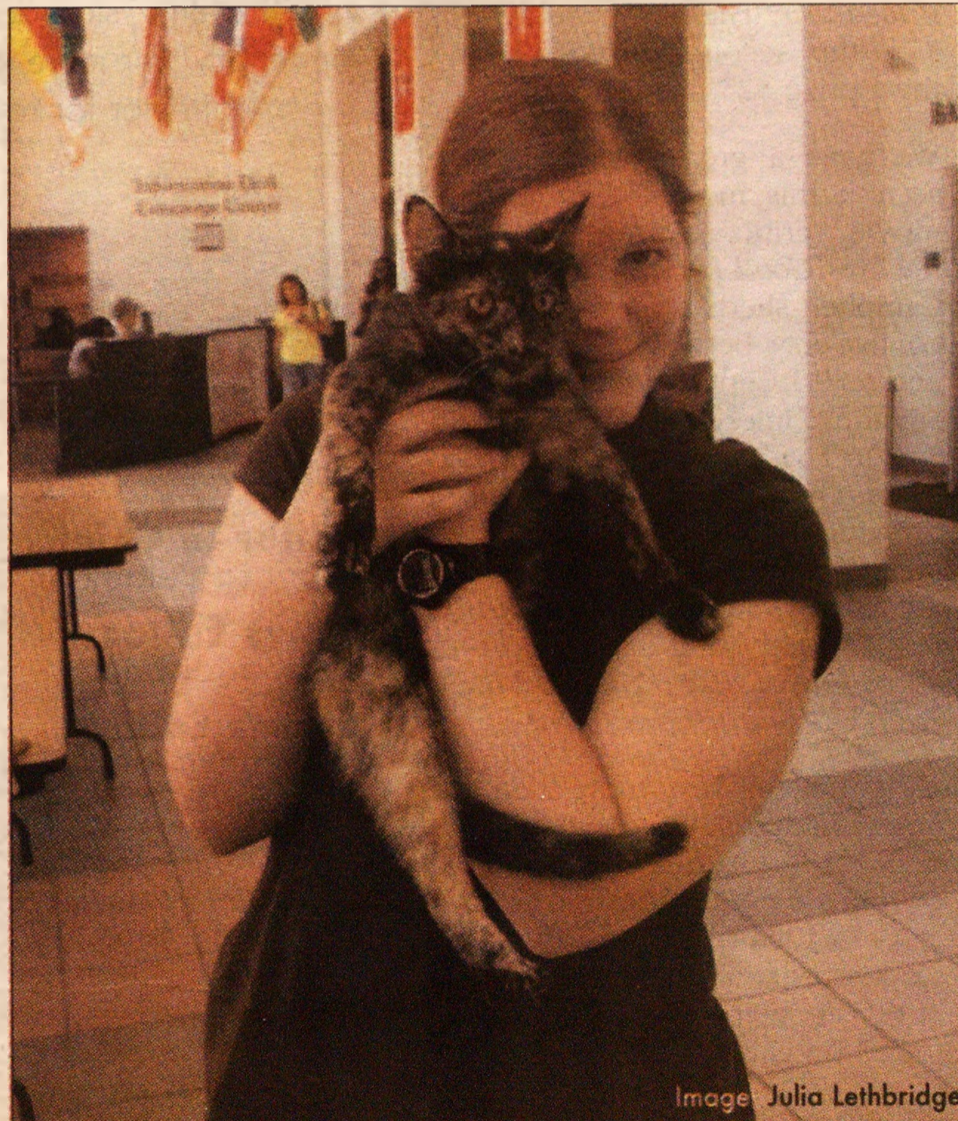
But the important thing is that the remaining cats are now safe. While some people may not think this is a very big deal, in reality, the cats on our campus serve a purpose. The cats help to drive away pests like mice and rats, as well as other stray cats. Cats are territorial, and so caring for the ones that are currently living here keeps the campus from being overrun by too large a population of cats. These are some of the main reasons why the Barry staff likes keeping a few cats healthy and happy on our campus.

The cats on campus are fed daily and cared for by members of the student organization Pals 4 Paws. The

cats are given initial shots, and all cats that are old enough are spayed and neutered. All medical procedures are done by a local veterinarian who helps out by offering lower cost treatment. "We trap the cats on campus with a regular metal trap and tuna fish. That's how we can get their medical treatment," says junior Amy Hudnall, president of Pals 4 Paws. For a long time, cats have gotten dumped on campus, or strays naturally come here because it is a nice living area. Currently, one of the biggest problems is people dropping their cats off because they know there is an organization that cares for them. One issue this causes is that often the new cats aren't neutered or spayed; therefore, they reproduce and the stray population increases. Pals 4 Paws holds adoption fairs to try to find homes for the friendliest cats and kittens on campus.

"There is no need to worry about walking near any of the cats or being attacked, because they are only aggressive towards the mice and creatures that they hunt", says Hudnall. "Most of the cats are friendly; some are just a little shy towards people from the lack of interaction."

Paula Rodriguez, the club's vice president, pointed out Pals 4 Paws'



Shannon Olesky poses with one of the kittens for adoption through Pals 4 Paws.

vital role on campus. "Pals 4 Paws is an important club, and without our intervention, the campus could have a very large population of feral

cats. One cat can turn into about 420,000 in seven years, and they would end up in the pound and

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Letter from the Editor



October is finally here! I love the month of October: Fall is slowly coming, along with my best friend's birthday, and then at the end of the month my favorite holiday, Halloween! I still don't know what I'm going to be this year.

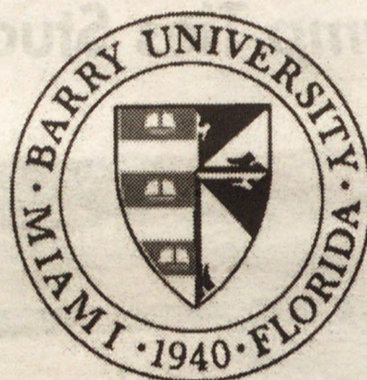
October is also a busy month around campus. Barry University is hosting a conference with the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, "Water World: H2O, Life, and the Future." In conjunction with the conference, the Oct. 23 event will feature Michael Grunwald, author of *The Swamp*, which all first-year students were assigned to read. In this issue, Laura Drew discusses how classes are using the book and preparing for the event. Barry is also inviting students to write about the subject of water for a campus competition. The deadline is Oct. 15, and the winner's work will be published in the *Buccaneer*. The first prize awards \$75, the second prize \$50, and third prize \$25.

We have a great Arts & Leisure section this month. Our resident movie critic, George Alpizar, reviews *Good Luck Chuck*. Jessica Campbell sheds some light on the controversy between Kayne West and 50 Cent, while Paulina Stefanek interviews Miami band Say It Twice. Kristina Matos also shares her first experience at a growing cultural event held on the second Saturday of every month at art galleries in the Design District and neighboring Wynwood—a short drive up North Miami Avenue from campus.

Of course we have more than just entertainment. We also have the first in a series of political columns by Matt Berkshire, and a story by Julia Lethbridge about the student organization Pals 4 Paws' efforts to help the cats and dogs found on campus.

If there is anything else you might want to find in our pages, please don't hesitate to send me an email at Pelaezb@bucmail.barry.edu. I am always looking for ideas, writers, photographers, and illustrators.

the barry buccaneer



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, or e-mail. 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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Sex Signals Program Entertains and Informs Students

Matthew Berkshire
Staff Writer

On Sept. 4, more than 400 Barry students packed into the Broad Auditorium to watch and participate in Sex Signals, an improv comedy presentation. Although sex is a common topic for educational presentations at most universities, this program was quite different.

Ben Murrie and Kelly Hayes of Catharsis Productions performed as a duet. Gone were the routine charts, videos, and props that form the basis for so many of these functions. Instead, the duo relied mainly on audience interaction for keywords and pick-up lines that were then used as a prompt for the skits.

At one juncture, the audience was asked to hold up paper "STOP" signs when they thought that the advances of one of the performers had gone too far. During another improvised comedy skit, students held up their "STOP" signs, but the performers seemed not to notice. Later, the performers equated the situation that had been acted out onstage with sexual assault.

Hayes and Murrie covered some really tough topics; and, along with the students, defined things like rape and society's views of "sexy." The audience interaction created an open and fun environment, which

might not have resulted if the subject matter been presented in a different manner. "I really expected the textbook sex talk, but when I saw people laughing and participating, I found myself really focused in on the presentation," says James

Scopetta, who attended with his fraternity Alpha Delta Gamma.

Along with members of student organizations, athletes made up a large part of the attendance, with over 150 Buccaneer sports men and women in attendance. Sex Signals is one of eight development programs this school year, where athlete attendance is mandatory. "Originally we felt that we would have a pretty good turnout, but even we were surprised by how many students actually came out," said Candice Hill who helped to organize the event.

Ultimately, while the improv and audience participation made for a fun time, the presenters did cover some really tough subjects. In one skit, Murrie played the part of a college student who was essentially on an ethics trial after he had been accused of raping a friend. Murrie described how things had escalated after meeting a friend for some studying. More than half of the students ended up taking the side of Murrie's character, only to find out



Photo: Berkshire

Ben Murrie and Kelly Hayes perform a skit about driving home from a party.

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Barry University The Center for Earth Jurisprudence Water World: H₂O, Life and the Future October 23, 2007

This all-day conference on water and environmental justice will feature presentations and workshops by Barry faculty and by environmental organizations. Students will be exposed to a series of interdisciplinary activities, lectures and workshops geared toward helping them understand the critical role water will play in

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Water, Climate Change, and the Florida Everglades

Water as a Literary Motif

Water Wisely: Water Conservation starts in your backyard!
What you can do!

10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.


Water As Moral Exemplar In Taoism

Water Quality – Testing Local Sources

Friends of the Everglades

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch/Keynote Session

 Michael Grunwald, author of the Barry Common Reader, *The Swamp - The Everglades, Florida and the Politics of Paradise.*


1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Neoliberalism and the Commodification of Water

A Gathering and Filling of Waters: God and the Liquid of Life

Operation Green Leaves

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

 Florida's Wild Waters: Sanctuaries at Risk
a presentation by famed Everglades
photographer Clyde Butcher

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**Deadlines for Spring Semester 2008 are this
month, so see Dr. Schanfield A.S.A.P.**

Pals 4 Paws Helps Campus Cats and Community

(Continued from page 1)

may eventually be euthanized due to [lack of] space."

Dr. Gary Grizzle, a sociology professor at Barry for 23 years, is the new faculty advisor of Pals 4 Paws. "Supporting a cat colony on campus benefits the cats in that it increases the chances that they will live safe and healthy lives. It also benefits Barry University because it helps to keep the cat population at a manageable level," says Grizzle. "My wife and I have a number of cats of our own and are very concerned about controlling cat populations in a humane way."

Grizzle noted a few significant benefits for students who are in this club. "It is an opportunity to contribute to both wildlife and the Barry Community, it is an opportunity to work with other students and faculty members in a meaningful endeavor, and it is an opportunity to acquire important interpersonal and organi-

zational skills." So Pals 4 Paws is a club that will give back to its members just as much as they put forth.

This year Pals 4 Paws is planning many community service events for their members that are not only going to be helpful, but a lot of fun.



Photo: Julia Lethbridge

Rodriguez is organizing a volunteer event in October with the SPCA Wildlife Care Center in Fort Lauderdale. Says the senior "I think it would be fun for our members to help out a large range of species." Pals 4 Paws has branched out from cats, and works with all sorts of

other animals in the community. Members interact with dogs at various shelters, or at dog washes (when water restrictions permit), and work with several different animals at the wildlife center such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and small reptiles.

The Barry senior also added that Pals 4 Paws "doesn't require too much time, the community service is fun and very simple, and it benefits more than just the organization." The main purpose of Pals 4 Paws is to rescue the animals on campus by getting initial veterinary care for the cats living on the grounds, and fostering the friendly ones and finding them loving homes. Members get to work hands-on with animals as well as with the community. Members of the club will be fundraising at Dolphins Stadium where they will be working in the concession stands, volunteering at dog shelters and spreading awareness at SOC fairs, all of which will take place various times throughout this semester.

Reading *The Swamp* Ties Students and Water Conference

(Continued from page 1)

English 112 Techniques of Research course compose a research paper on the subject. "The paper is an exploration," says Ferstle. Each student will examine one of the constituents in the debate, such as the governor, the legislature, or the Sierra Club, identify how they are characterized by the author, and find two sources that either support or oppose the book. For some classes, professors are making extra credit available for students who attend the conference.

Despite the positive views of the committee, the book is getting many mixed responses from the students. "It was boring and complicated," says Deanna Derbish, a first-year student. "It was all I could do just to get through it."

Alicia Ann, a transfer student who read the book for her Political Science 201 class, had a more positive outlook: "I began to understand the cause and effects expressed in the book, and I think

that it will be very informative to attend the mini-conference."

The conference, "Water World: H₂O, Life, and the Future," will take place on Oct. 23. The main speaker, Grunwald, will talk about his book, while famed Everglades photographer Clyde Butcher will show his works. Others will present on topics such as climate change, the Florida Everglades, water as a literary motif, and water as a moral exemplar in Taoism, along with many others.

Students who attend the conference will benefit from hearing the author speak. Mendez says, "It will help them to gain a new understanding of the novel... Often students don't know the personality of the author [or] comments he would make. Seeing the author adds that dimension."

Mendez adds, "The hope is to make students proactive. The novel underscores that the actions of people matter. By attending the conference, students will see that their actions matter."

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Know Before You Vote

Matthew Berkshire
Staff Writer

While the 2008 presidential election is still a ways off, it is drawing closer with every passing day. Even though the primaries haven't even happened, the race has long since passed its early stages, and is really starting to heat up, making now a great time to begin some discussions on the election.

Everyone already knows the textbook reasons why voting is important. As an American, we are indoctrinated with the gospel of patriotism from an early age. Thousands of people have died for our right to vote. Voting is nothing less than the cornerstone of the very democratic system that we Americans hold so dear. Voting is fulfilling one's civic duty. Variations of these statements are always there, but around the winter season every four years, their presence becomes a consistent bombardment.

While reading this article you should remember that the rest of the country, and quite possibly the world have some pretty bad views about our generation. Namely it's a popular belief that we are a generation who cares about nothing except money, and ourselves and while we may just as quickly dismiss these thoughts as the out dated ramblings, consider this. I recently polled ten of my co-workers, who are all students at a Catholic international university in Miami Shores, with the question of "Are you for or against women's suffrage?" I had two who were undecided, but 7 including 6 young women and one political science major who were strictly opposed to women's suffrage. If during the course of this article you find yourself wondering why this is important,

please put down this paper and pick up a textbook immediately.

Enough with the opinions on our generation, lets get on to the facts. Voting among the 18-30 year old demographic, however, has consistently experienced a decline since 1972. Civic Youth, an organization dedicated to tracking and analyzing voting data, reports that, "in 2007, 42 percent of people in the 18-30 age demographic cast a presidential ballot." www.civicyouth.org. At first glance, 42 percent may not seem horrible. Put in the context of a student, 42 percent is a failing grade. It's not even close to a D-, and when compared to the more than 70 percent turnout of those 65 years old and over, 42 percent seems even worse.

According to Youth Vote, there are 42,834,082 people in the United States between the ages of 18-30.

Beware of anyone whom you do not know trying to tell you how to vote.

This makes up about a quarter of the eligible voters in the United States, but only 64 percent of the more than 42 million young adults are actually registered to vote. It appears that while some are questioning why the voter turnout is so meager, the 18-30 generation is questioning why it's important to vote at all. So, why is it important to vote? Aside from the textbook reasons, there are some compelling facts. A quarter of the national vote is a stunning percentage. A percent this large would be enough to swing a vote either way. If this group had a larger voter turnout, politicians would be forced to cater toward the youth in the United States. In recent years, however, our generation has been more content to not vote, and complains later.



let's get **political**
monthly politics with matthew berkshire

At Barry, we are able to see this as well. How many times have you been drawn into a passionate political debate with a classmate, only to find that when they are asked whom they voted for, their only reply is, "I don't vote"? It sometimes seems as though not only does everyone have an opinion, but also most people's beliefs are either so far to the left or right that they sometimes place the focus on the extremity of their beliefs rather than the reasons for having them. Beware of anyone

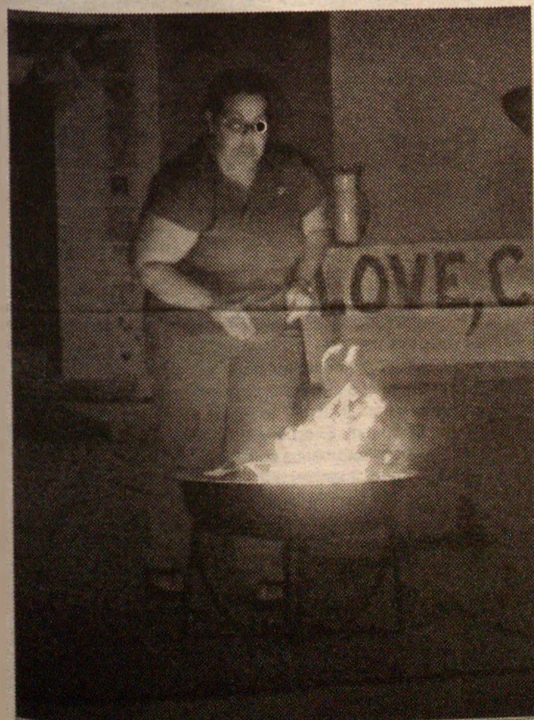
whom you do not know trying to tell you how to vote. When the big election comes around, every celebrity magically turns into an expert on how you should vote. While Diddy did provide some momentum with his "Vote or Die" campaign, his fellow-voting campaigner, Paris Hilton, might have countered the momentum by not actually registering to vote. Remember that these trendy people have agendas too, and even if they don't, when a stranger talks to you about politics, what they say is usually biased; get the whole story before you make your own decision.

Never overlook the fact that politics is a money game. Don't assume that just because a Republican and a

Democrat win their respective primaries it's because they are the best candidates for the position. More often than not, those who are able to raise the most money go farther. As of right now, Barak Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mitt Romney, and Rudy Giuliani are leading the money trail. Don't be surprised if at least three of the four get on the ticket as either a vice or presidential candidate. Dissect your beliefs. The candidates could very well be wise people, but just because they say something, that doesn't mean they have any credibility. Everyone has a different perspective and background, but that doesn't mean that the context in which your parents live, and upon which they base their vote, is indefinitely going to be your reality.

Lastly, now that the election is heating up, look for the diehard Republicans and Democrats to do battle. But before the mud starts to fly, I have a little secret that I want to let you in on; Republicans and Democrats are a lot more similar than they are different. Now I won't go as far as to say they are the same, but if you take a look at the issues, the differences are in many cases pretty small. In the meantime, take a good look at some of the candidates, and really ask yourself why you believe what you believe. If you think something is wrong because that's what your parents believe, it may be time to do some questioning.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE SEPTEMBER 21, 2007



Jean Hock (left) symbolically burns negative ideals that discourage peace, while Mary Leonard (right) gives a speech on the topic. At center, all who attended gather for a group photo.

photos by paulina stefanek

Sex Signals: Entertains and Informs

(Continued from page 3)

that what had occurred was actually considered rape.

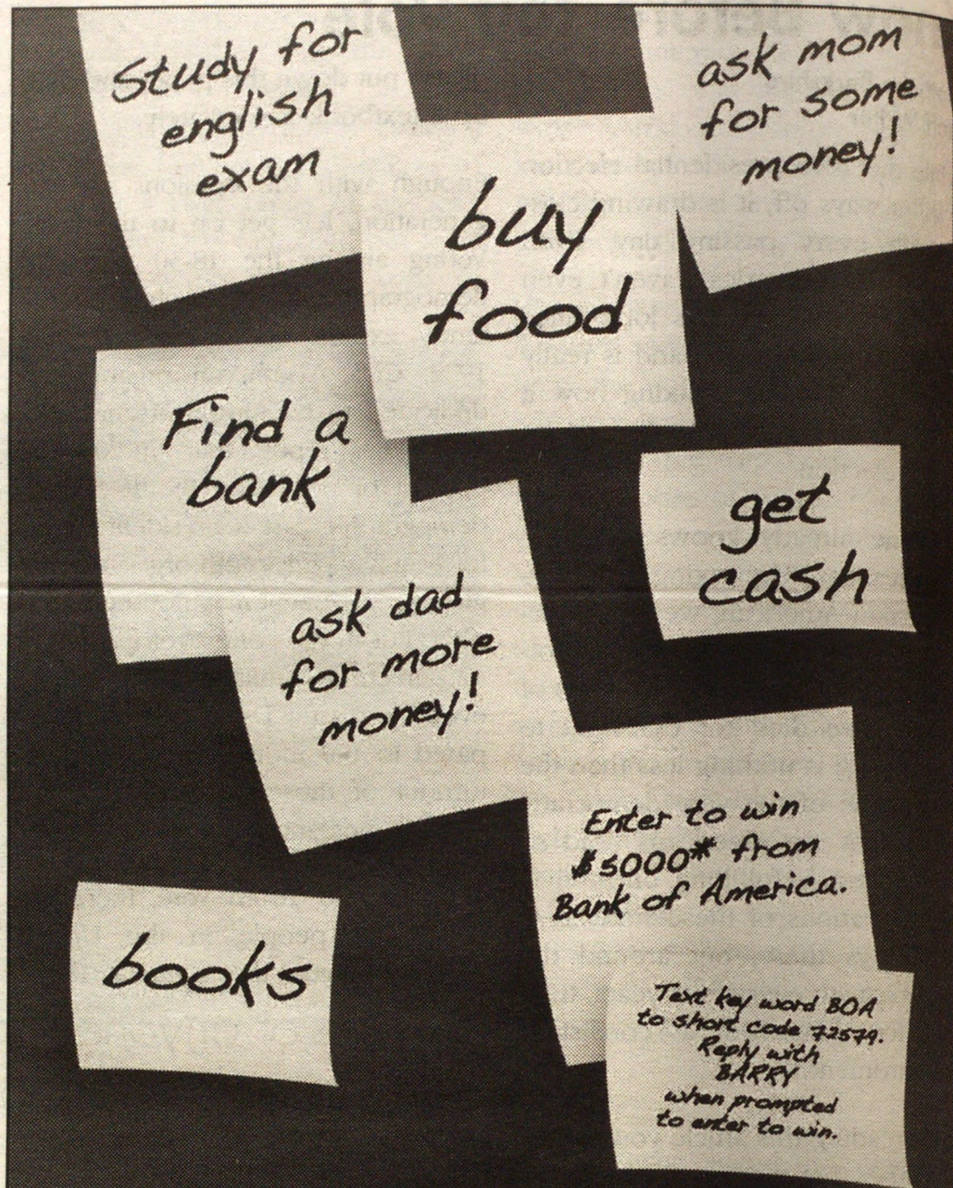
"It is important to really define things like assault and rape in a society where these topics can be awkward and taboo," explains Murrie. "A large percent of rapes occur among friends, and in many cases, an alleged rapist does not realize that they have committed a crime. On TV and in the movies, we see the

images of brutal sexual abuse in a dark alley, but in reality it doesn't usually happen like that."

Ultimately the Sex Signals program gave Barry students an opportunity to discuss some tough topics in a setting that was not only comfortable, but fun. Not only did over 400 Barry students have a good time, but they all walked away from Broad Auditorium a little wiser as well.

"I really expected the textbook sex talk, but when I saw people laughing and participating, I found myself really focused in on the presentation"

-James Scopetta



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Kanye West and 50 Cent Face Off for CD Sales

Jessica Campbell
Staff Writer

One of the most publicized brawls in music right now is based on sales between two of hip-hop's biggest artists. If you haven't heard, Kanye West and 50 Cent both released their highly awaited albums on Sept. 11. The hype behind it all is about a bet between the two heavy hitters. In what could be the biggest gamble since Britney Spears' wardrobe change at the VMAs, rapper 50 Cent reportedly vowed to not make another album if opponent Kanye West outsells him.

More detailed investigation tells us that 50 Cent actually said he would not make another *solo* album. Alright, so he loses and he starts making collaboration albums. No big deal. Producer Timbaland, who worked with Fifty on his latest hit, "Ayo Technology," has made an amazing success of his collaboration albums. So is this just another marketing scheme? Could it be a trick we're falling for to pump up their bank accounts, an undercover attempt at stopping the piracy of their songs, or it could simply be a way to give hip-hop a better name while we're lost in a sea of two-stepping one-hit wonders?

With that aside, let's size up the two. Kanye has already released two songs from his latest album, *Graduation*. His track "Stronger" offers complete proof of his genius that he'll never let

you forget. Whether you agree with sampling or not, "Stronger" is an innovative creation between the worlds of techno and hip-hop. Kanye tastefully mixed Daft Punk's "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" with his own style. That's what Kanye has: style. He never fails to differentiate himself through fashion, producing, and lyrics. Keenly nicknamed the Louis Vuitton Don, his album booklet is reminiscent of Louis Vuitton's line designed by Japanese artist Takashi Murakami. Featuring collaborations with Chris Martin of Coldplay, Mos Def, and Dwele, his album is flourishing with alternate sounds.

But then there is his strong competitor, Mr. 50 Cent. Kanye is going to catch a whiff of Fifty's even stronger collaborations with accomplished artists such as Mary J. Blige, Justin Timberlake, and Robin Thicke. Fifty's album is a true revelation of his musical expansion. His softer side surfaces on the newly released track "Follow My Lead" with Robin Thicke, as he tries what so many rappers have also attempted—singing. Fortunately it's less cringe-worthy than past attempts. His obstacle in winning the race might be the fact that a good number of his songs were unintentionally leaked. Apparently he responded by pulling plasma televisions off the wall in his office and smashing them in a rage. Take it easy, Fifty, and leave that to Merriweather, the heavyweight champ whom the rapper ran alongside with during his notorious boxing career.



The truth of the matter is, this isn't a real beef between 50 and Kanye. This is a playful rivalry between two comrades, so whatever the aim is, you're most likely not going to hear another diss track from whomever has weaker sales. Kanye proudly used a line from one of 50 Cent's past songs in his latest hit "Good Life": "Fifty told me/go 'head switch the style up/and if they hate, then let them hate/and watch the money pile up." Currently, Kanye is actually outselling him worldwide. Deservedly so; with Kanye's pulling from different genres, he's snatching fans from every niche. Nevertheless, 50 Cent is trying to make you

bounce, and he does a good a job at it. The socially conscious rapper vs. the hit maker—maybe that's the best collaboration yet.

Follow up:

The battle ended with Kanye outselling 50 Cent with numbers of *Graduation* selling 930, 251 copies and 50 Cent bringing in 659, 682. Kenny Chesney who was expected by some to outsell both only sold 400, 202 copies of his latest release. With the face-off ended, 50 Cent took his respective place as runner up. Hip hops limelight shone a little brighter in this occasion; let's hope it shines itself into a better direction.

Listen Up: Local Band Say It Twice Mixes Rock with Pop Hooks

Paulina Stefanek
Staff Writer

From: Miami/Tampa

Suggested listening: *Jetset Trends*

You might have heard of them, you might not have, but they are the top-selling unsigned band on www.smartpunk.com, an online marketplace for CDs, clothing, shoes, and more. Many bands sell their merchandise here, and that makes the fact that Say It Twice is the site's number-one-selling unsigned band something to talk about.

Localist-guitarist John Schaefer, bassist Carlos Cacciamani, and guitarist-vocalist Matthew Eustace have been friends since they were 9. The full lineup, however, started in 2006, when they added Phil Derochemont on drums and Matt Farmer on guitar and keyboards. The members of Say It Twice love what they do, and enjoy seeing people singing or dancing along with them. Eustace told me that after a show, "If a kid is

too shy to talk to us, we go up to them. It makes their day, and ours too." They're all-around nice guys who took their time out to talk to me. They respect their fans and want to touch the fans' lives just to show how thankful they are for the support. I asked Eustace why they made music in the first place and he told me that, "It honestly makes us feel good. It's hard to explain, but it's not at all selfish."

Check out their MySpace page at www.myspace.com/sayittwicerock. I suggest listening to the song "Annie." As soon as the first word comes out of his lips you're hooked, "Annie, come home/I'm wondering where you've been" John's voice is rough and melodic at the same time, something that sets this band apart from others because it's not something you hear. Most bands in this genre don't go with

the coarse sound, but after hearing Say It Twice, I think maybe they should. Their new album is *Jetset Trends*, which was self-released on Aug. 28, and can be bought at www.smartpunk.com for \$6. The band says they couldn't be happier with the new record. They will be on tour nonstop from now until December, and they've even played on tours like the Honda Civic Tour with Fallout Boy, The Academy Is... and Cobra Starship.

Why you should listen to them:

Schaefer's voice is refreshing, gravelly yet easy on the ears. Say It Twice's five-piece band blends together nicely, bringing their pop-dance sound together well with that hint of rock that most bands lose. Their music is just the thing to bring you up on a bad day or make you dance, and the lyrics are meaningful too.

Sound like: Mutemath, The Killers, and Panic at the Disco



Photo courtesy of: Say It Twice

Good Luck Chuck Needs All the Luck It Can Get

George Alpizar
Advertising Director

One thing that truly annoys me about movies is when the trailer used to advertise the film is totally misleading. The trailer for the movie *Disturbia* presented itself as a good thriller, even a borderline-scary movie. Although an excellent film, the last 15 minutes were actually the only pulse-pounding part. *Zodiac* seemed to be about a journalist trying to uncover the identity of an infamous serial killer, with the killer stalking and following the reporter at his every move. It was actually more like an episode of *Law and Order* in which the police used clues and evidence to try to solve the murders—and the killer never even stalked the journalist. And now *Good Luck Chuck*. The trailer appears to advertise a romantic comedy about a man who falls in love with a cute yet accident-prone girl. But that is a small fraction of a movie that throws out several ideas that it can't quite develop properly.

Charlie (Dane Cook) is a young dentist who has just been dumped by his girlfriend. While somewhat saddened by this, he attends the wedding of another ex-girlfriend. During the toast, the bride proclaims Charlie to be her lucky charm. Although confused, Charlie ignores the comment and tries to have a good time. It is here at the reception that Charlie meets Cam (Jessica Alba), just as she knocks a tray out of a waiter's hand, causing the glasses and beverages to spill on some guests. After a brief and somewhat memorable introduction, Charlie and Cam go their separate ways.

After the wedding, Charlie's dental office is suddenly filled with gorgeous woman. His answering machine at home is filled with mes-

sages from women who want to go out with him. After some investigation, Charlie finds out the truth. It seems that any woman who sleeps with Charlie will find true love with the next man they meet. Although at first put off, Charlie enjoys this newfound attraction and begins sleeping with every woman who approaches him, prompting the movie to become a soft-core porn flick, going beyond the tamer sex scenes found in your typical romantic comedy.

Eventually, Charlie quits his night job as a walking STD and begins dating Cam. But Charlie thinks he can never sleep with her, for fear she will fall in love with the next man she meets. What's a guy to do in this position?

Good Luck Chuck has all the elements of a romantic comedy: an unusual situation, goofy friends who try to help the couple in distress, and a reason why one person can't commit to the relationship. Yet, the movie also has many elements of a typical R-rated comedy: a lot of nudity, strong cursing, and sexually perverted scenes.

Perhaps *Good Luck Chuck* has created its own unique film genre: the R-rated romantic comedy. This movie is similar to *Wedding Crashers* and *The 40-Year Old Virgin* in that a relationship builds amid sexually charged scenes. But unlike in the aforementioned movies, the premise and story development don't work.

Movies such as *The 40-Year Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* work so well with both audiences and critics not only because they break new ground with untapped material, but also deliver those dirty jokes with heart. The characters in these films almost seem to reflect people we know in our own lives. While



watching these movies, we feel so close to the characters because we can understand what they are going through. *Good Luck Chuck* tries to reach this level of intimacy with its audiences, but fails. The beginning of the film features pre-teens at a party playing spin-the-bottle. Those who wrote the film must have believed a scene from Charlie's childhood would make the characters more relatable, but this one doesn't resonate.

The film touches on too many themes and isn't able to properly develop each of them. The movie could have expanded on the idea that while Charlie sleeps with dozens of girls in a short period of time, sweet Cam refuses to date him and proclaims she isn't into "dating as a sport." The story easily could have developed into this battle between promiscuity and chastity. Likewise, Charlie can't bring himself to say, "I love you," and Cam claims she isn't

"emotionally available" to date at the moment, but the audience never finds out why. Instead, we have a plot with too many side stories that aren't being explored, and acting that is at best mediocre. Sure, Alba is adorable as this hapless girl, but am I expected to believe that she is emotionally unavailable one day, but doesn't mind sleeping with Charlie the next? I was led to believe she wasn't into that type of behavior, but I guess I was misled, as with so many aspects of this film.

Like Lindsay Lohan's lucky-turned-unlucky heroine in the romantic comedy *Just My Luck*, the idea of an unlucky, accident-prone girl looking for love doesn't seem to make much sense in Hollywood or resonate with audiences. Maybe the chance to see Dane Cook and Jessica Alba practice the fine art of comedic acting will bring enough people to the theater. Good luck with that.

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Arts and Design Night Draws Crowds to Culture

Kristina Matos
Staff Writer

Every second Saturday of the month, galleries and restaurants in the Design District and neighboring Wynwood area, just north of Downtown Miami, host a gallery walk open to the public. The initial idea behind this event was to create an ambience where both art aficionados and the common folk felt welcome and able to have a good time. Likewise, it aids in generating exposure not only for the artists whose art is being displayed, but also for the galleries, shops, and restaurants that make up this artistic locale. In essence, this event has established a trendy art scene in the district.

The galleries found among the home design showrooms that make up the District generally feature "new talent," giving exposure to artists who are just emerging on the scene. These galleries welcome this raw talent by opening their doors, and displaying their work to the public. There is a tremendous amount of vision behind these walls.

Apart from the art, the sidewalks and galleries are filled with music. DJs spinning the latest hits to musicians

playing their bongo drums, violins, and bass. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres are readily available, as well as several bars introducing the latest wines and liquors out on the market (all on the house). From friends and couples to families, everyone can find something that catches their eye at the gallery walk.

Upon arriving in the Design District, I was greeted by a smiling face holding out a ticket: "Valet is free before 10:30 p.m." On my way, I met up with a few friends and

agreed on the first show of the night, "Obscura," in a glass-walled showroom on the second floor of the Newton Building at 3901 N.E. Second Ave. As we walked up the steps, the music was clearly pounding, the room was filled with people wearing simple T-shirts and jeans mingling with women wearing colorful cocktail dresses, all conversing about the latest pieces being displayed. "This is a fabulous way to combine new art and new friends" says Gino Campodonico, an Art History grad-

uate from Florida International University. With a DJ in one corner, bar on the other, and servers passing out canapés and bruschetta, the spacious second floor of the building was now converted into an open social gathering.

"Five Brave New Visions" was the theme of the exhibition at "Obscura." Artists Jan Hungerland, Laura Tillinghast, Jeffrey Irwin, Daniel Clavero, and Sam Beasley displayed their art in various forms. Hungerland's combined images of race and sex were projected onto a white backdrop, while Irwin's colorful photography hung amid a yellow brick road. Tillinghast's *Kama Sutra* based portraits were housed in a separate lounge-style room adorned with couches and pillows, beckoning the crowd to sit and enjoy. Clavero's "Color" series hung suspended from the ceiling, whereas Beasley's *Women and Weapons* film—portraying the different parts of the female anatomy as crossbows, guns, and brass knuckles—played in a dark room dead-center in gallery.



Photo: Kristina Matos

(continued on page 10)

Afghanistan's Women Come to Life in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Ashlee Jabbour
News Editor

Khaled Hosseini's second novel, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, is another awe-inspiring narrative set against the last 30 years of Afghanistan—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban and post-Taliban rebuilding—that puts the violence, fear, hope and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. Whereas *The Kite Runner*, his 2003 debut, focused on the bond between two men, particularly fathers and sons, Hosseini's deeply moving sophomore effort focuses on Afghan women and their lot in life as poor, uneducated second-class citizens who have to endure the slights of men, the scorn of society, and the constant triviality of life.

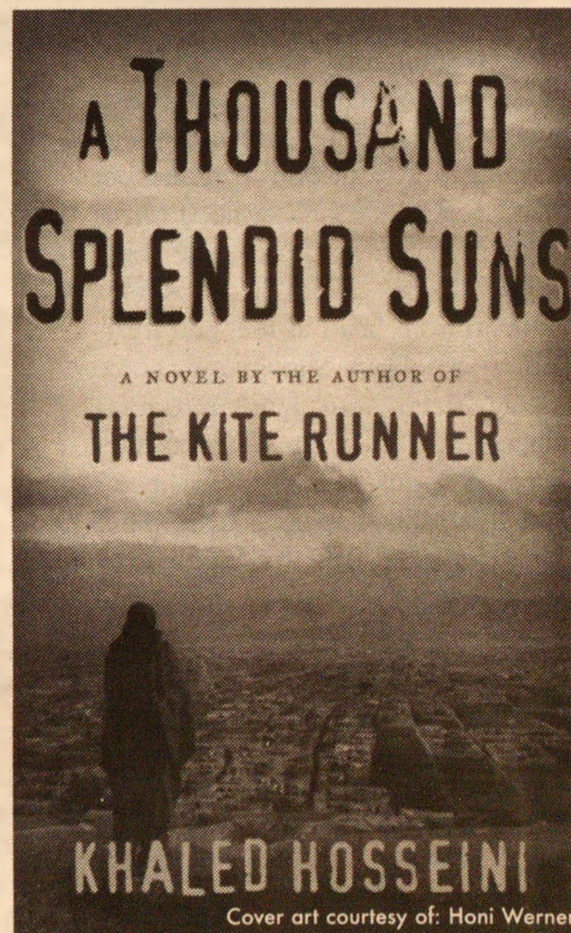
Hosseini was born in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul in 1965. His father, who worked for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, had to relocate the family to Paris for work in 1976. Although the family was ready to move back to Afghanistan in 1980, the bloody situation back in their homeland forced them to seek a better life elsewhere. In September of 1980, Hosseini's family was granted asylum by the United States, where they settled in San Jose, California. As a novelist, Hosseini draws upon his Afghan background to capture the attention

of readers around the world, as he tells the story of Afghani characters like Miriam and Laila.

From the first chapter, Hosseini makes it clear that he is dealing with the everyday troubles of Afghan women and how they are viewed by society. In that same chapter, he also introduces Miriam, the illegitimate daughter of a wealthy Afghan man, Jalil, and her mother, Nana, a former servant of her father. He sets the tone as Nana explains to Miriam, "Learn this now and learn it well, my daughter: Like a compass needle that points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman. Always. You remember that, Miriam."

At this point in the story, they are living West of Kabul in Afghanistan's third-largest city, Herat. Meanwhile, Miriam is becoming extremely curious about her father and his love for her, questioning if he really did turn his back on her. This curiosity deeply bothers Nana, who feels that he does not deserve Miriam's love or respect since when Nana became pregnant, he made them move into a stray area of Herat where no one would see his illegitimate sin. Miriam. "Rich man telling rich lies. He never took you to any tree. And don't let him charm you. He betrayed us, your beloved father. He cast us out. He cast us out of his big

fancy house like we were nothing to him. He did it happily," says Nana as she scolds Miriam for believing her father's reassurances. But Miriam is determined to be loved and accepted by her father, and one day she leaves her mother to visit Jalil. Yet the reality of what Nana has been trying to protect Miriam from, Jalil's shame about his illegitimate mistake, is exposed as he turns his daughter away from his home while his three wives and many children look on. Jalil's driver escorts Miriam home, where she finds her mother hanging from a tree. After Nana's suicide, Miriam is sent to live with her father. Miriam does not stay there long, as her father's three wives will not stand to have this "harami," or illegitimate child, living in their house. Pressured by society and its expectations, Jalil gives permission for the 15-year-old Miriam to wed a much older shoemaker, Rasheed. In reaction to this incident, you feel bad for Jalil because it's apparent that he does not want to give up his daughter for this old man to marry, but because of his situation and his wives, he must do what will look best to the outside



world. Hosseini sheds light on the situation, describing how Miriam is feeling as her father and his three wives tell her about marriage: "They had been disgraced by her birth, and this was their chance to erase, once and for all, the last trace of their husband's scandalous mistake. She was being sent away because she was the walking, breathing embodiment of their shame."

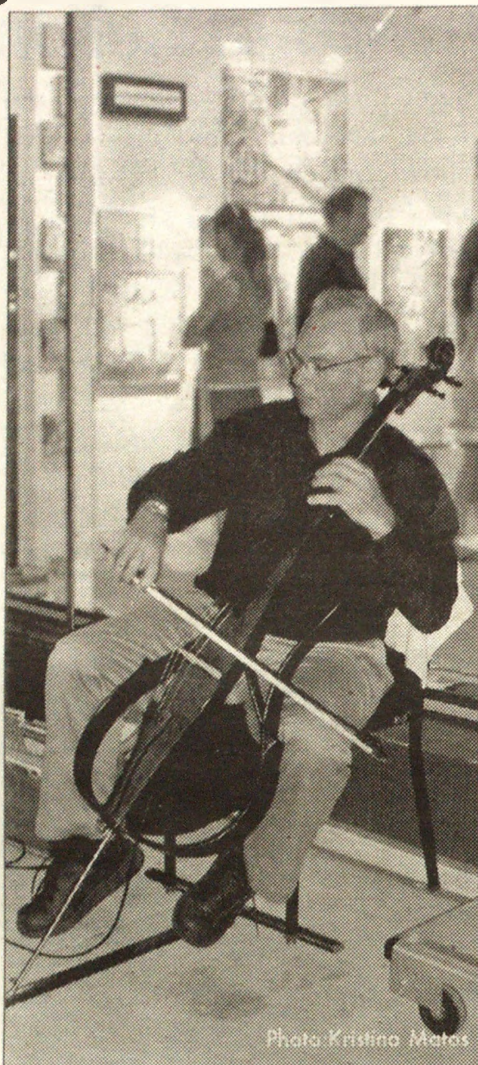
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Arts and Design Night Draws Crowds to Culture

(Continued from page 9)

Walking toward my next stop, the Steve Martin Studio at 66 N.E. 40th St., I witnessed dancing, some more music, several open bars, and balloons for the kids, all along the sidewalk. It was nice to see so many different people coalescing in one place.

At Etra Fine Art Gallery, at 50 N.E. 40th St., I was able to speak to the artist, who happened to be showing her work in Miami for the first time. Admiring a beautiful painting of two scenes—one featuring soldiers and the other, a man and woman embracing—divided by a broken wall; I asked Mari Valentin what was her vision behind it. “At the Sundance Film Festival this past year, I saw a film where war was the cause of everyone’s problems but these two people still had each other and were not letting the war



tear them apart.” In essence, the painting sought to capture the breaking down of barriers between love and war.

The Moore Space, a nonprofit art organization located on the second floor of the Moore Building at 4040 N.E. Second Ave., attracted attention to its group exhibition “Hurricane Projects: Outburst of Energy” with the TM Sisters’ art performance, “Things Will End Before They Start.” The TM Sisters’ performance against the backdrop of a video projection drew a large crowd; this was definitely one of the “it” places of the night. Visitors took turns playing the TM Sisters’ video game, projected in a darkened gallery, proving that art also can be interactive.

With many other venues in the District’s tight grid of streets—including “Urban Manifesto” at The

Buena Vista Building, the Diaspora Vibe Gallery in the Madonna Building, and MAG Gallery, to name a few—the walking distance between galleries proved to be short. I also learned that the Miami Metro Public Transportation Department provides free transportation, via a shuttle bus, to the farther galleries in the Wynwood area for those attending the gallery walk.

Superb ambience, insightful art, plenty of lively music, and free cocktails provided me with a great night out. The event listing claims the opening hours to be from 7 to 10 p.m., but many galleries remain open after-hours and there are plenty of great restaurants, clubs, and lounges in the surrounding area. There’s no telling what you’ll see or what to expect, whom you’ll meet, or where the night will take you.

A Thousand Splendid Suns Brings Afghan Women to Life

(Continued from page 9)

The new husband, an overweight 40-year-old, quickly sets the rules for her as they venture back into Kabul, where the rest of the novel will take place. Rasheed informs her, “I’m a different breed of man, Miriam. Where I come from, one wrong look, one improper word, and blood is spilled. Where I come from, a woman’s face is her husband’s business only. I want you to remember that.” From then on, Rasheed forces Miriam to wear a burqa, the traditional Islamic sheath that covers a woman from head to toe, and treats her as an object. Miriam is to cook, clean, sleep with him, and most importantly, bear him a child. After multiple miscarriages, Rasheed’s temperament changes, and at times he takes out his frustrations by punching, slapping, kicking, and verbally assaulting her.

Hosseini now introduces the novel’s other heroine, Laila, the cherished daughter of an intellectual who encourages her to have an education and to not lead the life of a typical Afghan woman, in a patriarchal paradigm where a woman’s every move is controlled by her husband. With the Soviets’ recent departure, the citizens of Kabul are initially thrilled. Then, another civil war ensues as warlords begin to fight over control of the capital. As the situation worsens, Laila’s friends—including Tariq, her childhood boyfriend, start to leave Afghanistan in search of safety. Within days, Laila’s family has realized the severity of the situation going on outside

their doors, and decides they too should leave. But Laila’s life takes a tragic turn when a bomb thrown by one of the warlords lands on her house, killing her parents.

Laila awakens to find herself in the home of Rasheed and Miriam, who had found her lying unconscious outside after the bomb hit. While Laila regains her strength, Rasheed begins to consider taking a second wife. Miriam does not react well to the idea of having another woman around, but she has no choice. Laila is frightened by the idea, until she learns that she is pregnant with

up a long time ago as a result of all the pain and abuse that she had encountered in her lifetime. In the end, while Miriam was not able to have her own child, she becomes a mother figure for Laila and Aziza, as she sacrifices her life so Laila can live in happiness.

Hosseini conveys the bitter emotional reality of Miriam and Laila’s lives so skillfully that it becomes tangible to the reader. The author’s craft at telling a story is obvious as he creates a melodramatic plotline filled with vivid and descriptive language that enables viewers to feel as if

As Hosseini describes a country that has been at war for over 30 years, readers can truly be grateful for the freedom and safety which they’ve been granted.

Tariq’s child. Realizing that she and her baby will never survive on the streets of Kabul, she agrees to marry Rasheed. After a few months, she announces that she is pregnant, but does not tell Rasheed or Miriam that it is Tariq’s child. While Rasheed is delighted at the news of Laila’s pregnancy, Miriam, who is not able to have a biological child, is not as excited. Miriam does not talk to Laila throughout her pregnancy and makes it clear that Laila will do housework just like Miriam. It is not through the baby’s birth, but rather the husband’s abuse, that Miriam’s initial anger turns to love. A bond like that between a mother and daughter forms, breaking down the wall that Miriam had put

they are watching a movie, or they are right there with the women. The reader will feel the pain of Miriam being abused both physically and mentally by her husband, feel the happiness as Laila gives birth to a healthy baby girl, feel the sorrow when Laila has to bring her child to an orphanage because she can’t afford to feed her, then again feel the guilt of a mother lying to her daughter saying she’ll be coming back to get her soon, and they will feel the frustration of these two women as their every action is controlled by the society they cannot escape. This best-selling author has the ability to convey the rawest of emotions so realistically. It is Hosseini’s gifts as a writer that

brings to life the day-to-day realities of these two women and their daily lives in Kabul—both before and during the harsh reign of the Taliban.

Further, Hosseini’s writing also brings to light some issues affecting American readers. In a country where we are granted the rights to freedom of speech and to vote, it is appalling how many individuals don’t take the time to exercise them. We take this all for granted, while people in places like the Middle East, and most recently, Burma, are unable to speak out against the corruption taking place in their country without being imprisoned or even killed. As Hosseini describes a country that has been at war for over 30 years, readers can truly be grateful for the freedom and safety in which they’ve been granted.

As a senior, my head is filled with thoughts of graduation, when I and the other graduates will step across that stage into a new chapter of our lives. This sense of a future and freedom to do what I want with my life is something foreign to Afghans, especially the women. As Hosseini puts it, “There, the future did not matter. And the past held only this wisdom: that love was a damaging mistake, and its accomplice, hope, a treacherous illusion.” This book is a great read for people of all ages because it not only brings to light the Afghan experience, but allows us to see how sometimes we take for granted our freedom, something that our leaders fought for and currently are fighting to protect.

Teams Fight to Make Their Mark in Fall Season

Alisha Sanford
Sports Editor

Men's Soccer

Head coach: Steve McGrath
(ninth season)

Current record: 5-3-1 (overall),
0-1-1 (SSC)

Key players: Giovanni Cobielles, Devala Gorrick, Vuk Kojic, Diego Lucio, Julio Amaiz, Bachelor Jean Pierre, Paul Harleman, Stephen Hume, Tommy Nodland, Emmanuel Miranda, Rolando Vazquez, Mirza Halilbasic, Chris Dappen, Marcus Reynolds, Henry Apaloo, Samuel Fesshazion, Lee Yakubowich, Pedro Petris, Nenad Savic, Andres Perez, Mark Kilpatrick, Ryan Alexander, Corey Harding, Daniel Walsh, Andres Velez, Martin Tuesta

Next home competition: Tuesday,
Oct. 16 vs. Florida Tech at 7 p.m.

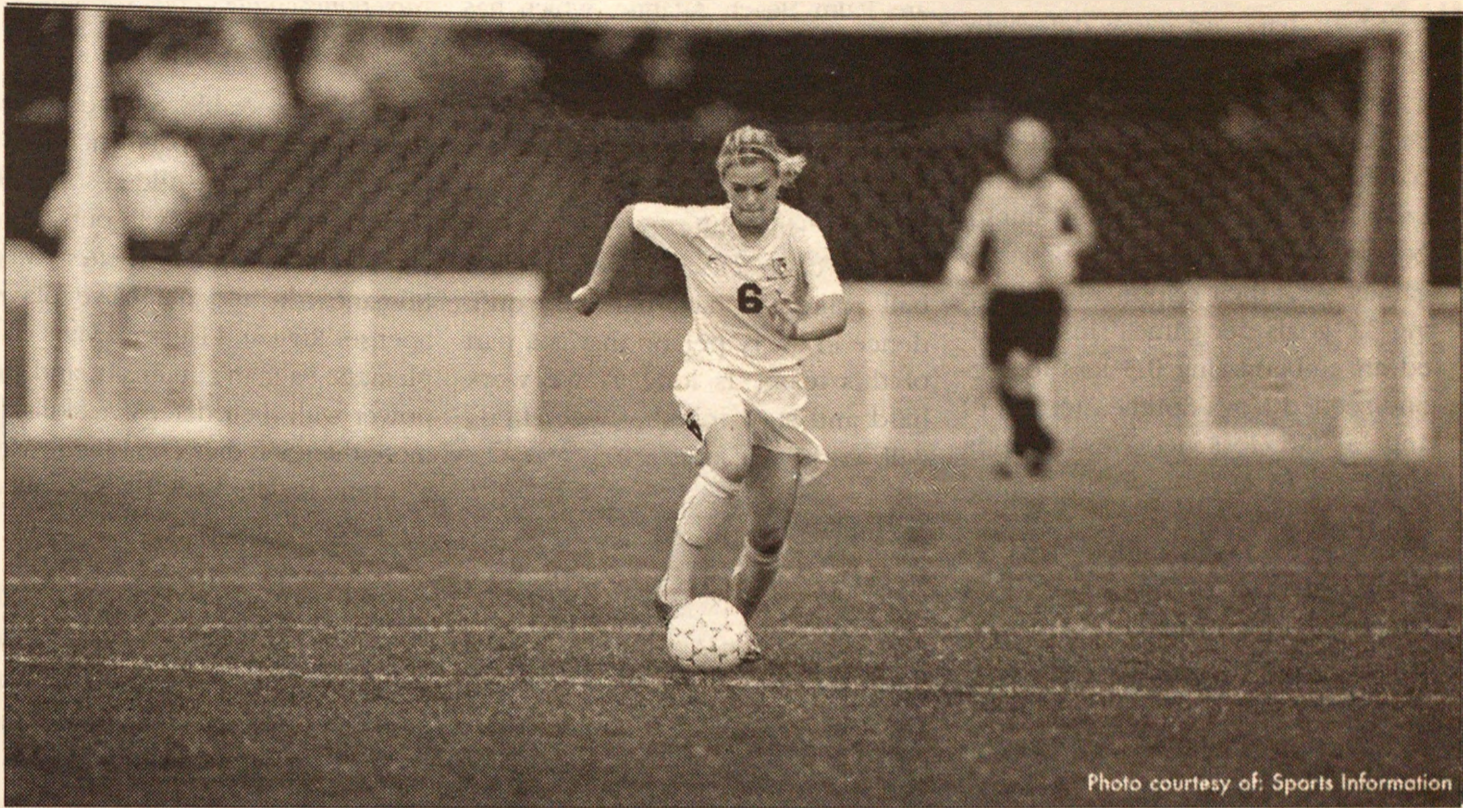


Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

As the 2007 soccer season began, the Bucs seemed to be on top of the world. Thirteen new players joined the 2007 roster, creating a team full of fresh faces and adding more diversity to this year's lineup. During the preseason, the Bucs finished an amazing two-week training camp in Costa Rica, where they had the opportunity to train while learning about a different culture.

After their trip, they seemed to come back stronger than ever, winning

four out of their first five games, including an impressive 3-0 win over nationally ranked Lincoln Memorial University. On Sept. 7, the Bucs once again proved to be a team to reckon with by winning against St. Thomas University in a dramatic 4-3 win. While the Bucs began the second half with the score at 0-3, they came back and won the game in overtime.

Yet a team that is no stranger to adversity seems to have hit another brick wall. Both the offensive and defensive sides have been plagued

with injuries. "So far we have played nine games, and I have had seven different lineups due to injury," says Coach McGrath. "Everyone is vital this year: the veterans, freshmen, newcomers, red shirts.... Everyone has to step up, and everyone has." In time, we will learn what the Bucs are truly made of and how much these injuries will affect their season.

Women's Soccer

Head Coach: Fred Jungemann
(first season)

Current Record: 3-2-0 (overall),
0-0-0 (SSC)

Key returnees: Tiffany Roling,
Carley Radcliff, Maya Ozery

Key newcomers: Emily Bourgoine,
Michelle Tarasiuk, Morgan Ault

Next home competition: Friday, Oct.
12 vs. Florida Tech at 7 p.m.

Last season the Lady Bucs finished seventh in the Sunshine State Conference with a 2-4-2 record. If they continue down the path they're

(continued on page 12)

Camilla Pagnan Brings Skills and Intensity to Volleyball Lineup

Kristy Singletary
Staff Writer

One of the most energetic, intense and dominant additions to the Barry University women's volleyball program is as passionate and enthusiastic about life as she is about her sport. One cannot help but notice her powerful skills and extraordinary jumping ability, yet what attracts people to her is her genuine spirit and passion for the game. Junior Camilla Pagnan is a positive prospect who dominates the floor and is a key factor in the future of Barry's volleyball program.

Pagnan was introduced to the game when she was 11 years old. "I began playing volleyball because my older sister, Priscila, played. Growing up, I wanted to do everything that she did. I have fallen in love with the game ever since."

In Brazil, Pagnan's native country, teams from all over the country compete with each other. Pagnan played for Elase, a standout team located in her home city of Santa Catarina. Her most memorable moment playing volleyball came at the age of 17, when Elase won the National Championship, beating hundreds of teams from across the nation.

Pagnan comes to Barry as a transfer student from the University of

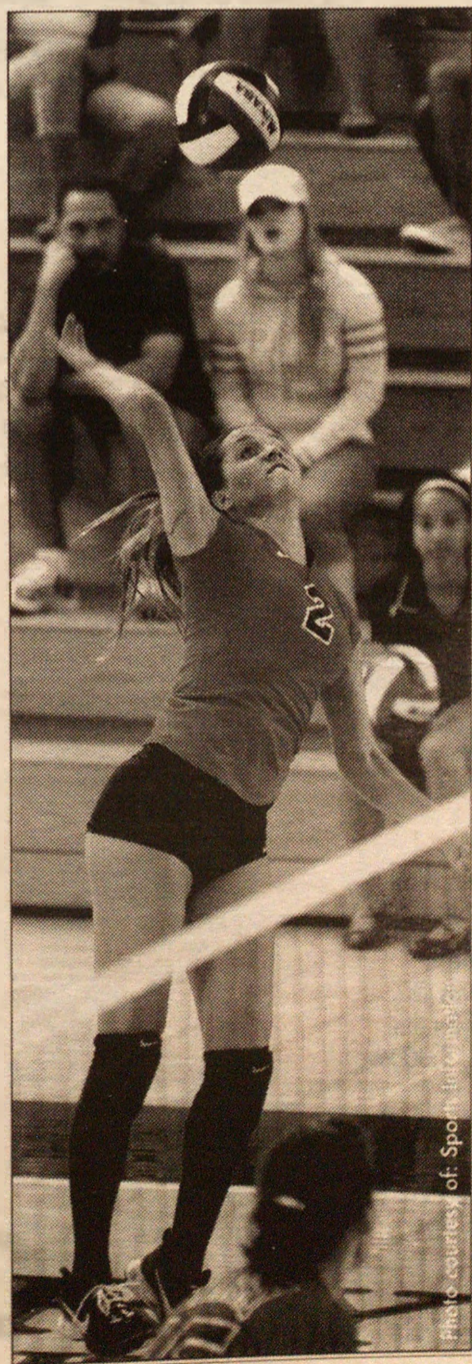


Photo courtesy of: Sports Information

Arkansas-Fort Smith with an impressive background as a four-time All-American: two awards from the National Junior College Athletic Association and two from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. In her two years with the Lions, she logged 1,135 kills, 209 service aces, 499 digs, 71 blocks and a .292 hitting percentage.

Most recently, Pagnan has earned Sunshine State Conference Player of the Week for the week of Oct. 1. She averaged 6.0 kills and 3.31 digs per game to earn Barry's first Player-of-the-Week award in volleyball this season.

Pagnan, an international business major, was attracted to Barry's location because Miami is similar to her home in Brazil. "I absolutely love it here at Barry: the professors, my coach, classes, everything!" she says. "I love the diversity; it is like a melting pot, so you can learn so much about people. You get so much from the culture established in the city of Miami. The weather is great, unlike in Arkansas, where the winters are terrible and you can get sick."

Pagnan is currently ranked 45th in the nation with service aces. Even though the Buccaneers (6-9) are having a slow start, Pagnan is very opti-

mistic about the team's performance in future games.

"We had a hard beginning, but we are getting better. It was difficult to find lineups, because everybody was hurt," she says. "So we had trouble finding people to go in the right spots, but I am positive that we are going to turn it around."

Pagnan's passion is easily ignited by the constructive attitude of Coach Dave Nichols, who has racked up 11 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, three NCAA Elite Eight appearances, two national championships, one national second-place finish and three Sunshine State Conference titles.

"I love playing for Coach Nichols, because he is such a great motivator and possesses such a good heart, says Pagnan. "He really appreciates his players. He puts our lives before his. So it is about much more than just volleyball."

Coach Nichols can only speak optimistically about a player who brings so much intensity to every moment of the game. For Coach Nichols, Pagnan's contributions, spirit, skills and intensity can be broken down to a simple sentence: "Pagnan is a passionate and all-around great player, but an even better person."

Teams Fight to Make Their Mark in Fall Season

(Continued from page 8)

on, this season doesn't look as if it is going to shape up much differently than the last, despite this season's team makeover, which includes eight newcomers and a brand new coaching staff. As of Sept. 24, the Lady Bucs had hit a serious slump, getting shut out of 4 of their last 5 games, with their opponents averaging 3.6 goals per game. This included an embarrassing 0-3 loss to second-seeded Nova Southeastern (2-0) and a 0-6 loss to West Florida University (4-2).

"We have the talent, and we have so much potential to play better," says head coach Jungemann. "The season ahead depends on if we can figure out how to play to our full potential."

For the Lady Bucs, there is no place to go but up. Their next opponents are Palm Beach Atlantic, which has recently fallen victim to three SSC teams and Eckerd College, which finished last place in the SSC last season.

Senior midfielder Maya Ozery added, "Hopefully over the next couple of weeks, we can get the ball rolling. I have all the confidence in every person that is a part of this team; as long as we work hard and stick together, everything will work itself out."

Volleyball

Head Coach: Dave Nichols (12th season)

Current Record: 6-9 (overall), 0-2 (SSC)

Key Returnees: Maria Romanowski, Samara Ferreira

Key Newcomers: Stefanie Sveiven, Camilla Pagnan

Next home competition: Tuesday, Oct. 9 vs. St. Thomas University, 7 p.m.

After a respectable 8-8 conference finish last season, Coach Nichols and the Lady Bucs have added some firepower to the lineup with outside hitter Camilla Pagnan. Setter Maria Romanowski and defensive players Spenser Rigg and Lauren Evans complement Pagnan's intensity and firepower with their defensive skills, for more than 550 digs combined.* Now it is time for the Lady Bucs to put all the pieces together.

"All the girls are working hard and staying positive," says Coach Nichols. "This has been a difficult process.... We are taking our lumps and trying to stay healthy."

Despite their current 0-2 SSC record,* including a loss to second-seeded Nova Southeastern, this is a tough team with a lot of potential.

During the first half of the season, the Lady Bucs have played many different teams outside of the conference, giving them a look at different competition and preparing them for the tough SSC competition. The next several matches, including strong opponents such as Rollins College and Saint Leo University, will be a true test of whether the Lady Bucs will sink or swim this season.

*as of September 24, 2007

For the most updated information, visit www.barry.edu/athletics.

calendar of EVENTS

14]

Women's Soccer vs. Florida Tech, 7:00 PM

15]

16]

Men's Soccer vs. Florida Tech, 7:00 PM (Sunshine State Conference Match)

17]

18]

Independent Filmmakers: screening of *The Guestworker* @ The Art & Culture Center of Hollywood, 7:00PM, \$6

19]

Dead Ringers (Horror) by David Cronenberg @ Miami Beach Cinematheque, 8:30 PM \$6

20]

Hot Hot Heat @ The Culture Room, 8:00 PM

21]

REO Speedwagon & Styx @ Sound Advice Ampitheatre, 6:30 PM

22]

23]

24]

Women's Soccer vs. St. Thomas, 7:00 PM

25]

26]

Men's Soccer vs. St. Leo, 7:00 PM (Sunshine State Conference Match)

27]

Women's Soccer vs. Saint Leo, 4:30 PM (Sunshine State Conference Match)

Volleyball vs. Lynn, 2:00 PM (Sunshine State Conference Match)

28]

Comandante by Oliver Stone @ Miami Beach Cinematheque, 8:30 PM \$6

29]

30]

Volleyball vs. Eckerd, 4:00 PM (Sunshine State Conference)

MTVU Presents: Motion City Soundtrack, Mae, Anberlin & Metro Station @ Club Revolution, 5:30 PM

31]

Carve a jack-o-lantern! It's HALLOWEEN!

Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals @ Gusman Center for the Performing Arts, 8:00 PM