

Our View:
New stadium more
a burden than a
blessing.
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Pan-African celebrations spark tensions

BETSY MARTINEZ
News Director

A list of scheduled events for this year's Pan-African Heritage Week celebration is causing some tension between black students and the Student Programming Council.

Students from several campus organizations, including the Black Student Union, the Haitian Student Organization and the Caribbean Student Organization, say they were not adequately involved in the celebration's planning.

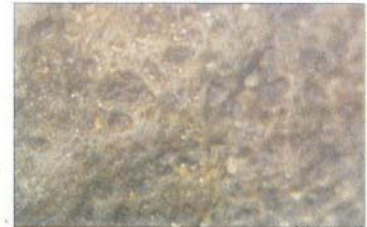
"Everyone wanted to get involved because we're part of the African diaspora," said BSU President Will Hatcher.

Hatcher feels that the Pan-African Week celebrations should unify and uplift both native Africans and those of African descent, something he says this year's celebrations lack.

"The main issue we feel is that they don't have events that represent Pan-African Students," Hatcher said.

Another problem: the Pan-African calendar of events has changed several times, according

OUT OF THIS WORLD



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CUTRO/THE BEACON

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER: After studying rare diamonds found in Latin America, Dr. Stephen E. Haggerty of the earth sciences department discovered they actually came from space. [See Story, page 3.](#)

Professor finds origins of rare diamonds — outer space

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Production Manager

After having a conversation with Stephen E. Haggerty, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, there will be no doubt in your mind that not only are diamonds forever, but, in some cases, they are from interstellar space, too.

In a paper published last month in the journal *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, Haggerty, along with a team of scientists from both FIU and Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, claim that carbonado diamonds — those diamonds more commonly yet incorrectly known as black diamonds — are actually extraterrestrial in origin.

"That's an extraordinary conclusion," Haggerty said about the theory. "That is the only conclusion that is compatible with the measurements that we've most currently made and reported."

To test his theory, Haggerty and his team first had to remove any trace contaminant minerals from the carbonado specimen they were testing, which otherwise could yield inaccurate readings.

Using the facilities at Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York, the scientists then used infrared synchrotron radiation to locate trace elements of hydrogen, an indicator that the mineral was formed in a hydrogen rich environment which Haggerty believes to be outer space, specifically a supernova explosion.

Carbonado diamonds have only been found in two locations globally — the Central African Republic and Brazil. Haggerty suspects that the diamond arrived while the Earth was still forming some 4 billion years ago, when Brazil and the Central African Republic were still part of the same landmass.

The idea ultimately corroborates Haggerty's theories as it explains how the diamonds could be found in locations oceans apart and still come from the same source.

Haggerty also points out that in the 600 million tons of natural diamonds mined in the twentieth century, not a single carbonado diamond has been found among them, not to mention the fact that the diamonds have traces of osborneite, a mineral that has only been known to exist in extraterrestrial sources such as meteors and comets.

"Surely, you could expect at least one if they are indeed terrestrial in origin," Haggerty said.

The significance of this discovery though, according to Haggerty, lies not so much in the discovery that carbonado diamonds are from space as it does in eliminating Earth and earthly processes as possible points of origin.

"Now most people have an obsession, and I don't, with its origin," Haggerty said.

"The reasons that drive me to try and understand where it comes from are twofold: One is if it's from the Earth ... then there has to be a new way in which Mother Nature has formed diamonds. The second reason is that the very unusual physical properties of carbonado means that although diamonds have been synthesized, carbonado has not."

Although carbonado diamonds are just as hard as regular diamonds, they are far tougher under stressful conditions than natural diamonds, making them extremely valuable for industrial drilling and cutting.

It is because of the vast practical uses of carbonado that Haggerty will now focus his efforts and research on trying to synthetically recreate the mineral in the lab, a feat that has yet to be achieved despite numerous efforts.

"My research is now dedicated to understand how nature put carbonado together," Haggerty said.

Famous photographer's grandson attending FIU

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supporter of Fidel's regime, he never put politics ahead of his professional endeavors.

"He would hardly ever talk politics," de la Nuez said. "There was a time when Fidel told him 'you should wear the green [military] fatigues of the revolution.'"

According to de la Nuez, Korda simply replied, "I am a photographer, not a soldier."

Korda was born in 1928 in Havana, and in 1956 opened a photography studio with his partner while Cuba was still under Fulgencio

Batista's rule.

Korda's main interest at the time was fashion photography, and he was greatly influenced by the style employed by Hungarian filmmakers and photographers Zoltan and Alexander Korda, hence his decision to adopt their name for his studio.

Korda was a natural, and gifted, at the art of photography, despite his admission that, "My main aim [in photography] was to meet women."

Korda happened to be at the right place at the right time, and his natural talent and vision

enabled him to capture perspectives of Cuban life that were unbeknownst to the rest of the world.

In reality, Korda never received much credit as the photographer, and apparently never received much, if any, in the way of royalties of "Guerillero Heroico."

The photo has been reproduced with such regularity that it is recognized throughout the entire world and can be seen on T-shirts, mugs, posters, ashtrays, album covers, even billboards and corporate advertising campaigns.



DE LA NUEZ

Anything essential is invisible to the eyes."

De la Nuez returned to Cuba on a regular basis to visit his family, including his grandfather, and recounts a vivid memory that helps to illustrate Korda's youthful heart:

"One time, I went back to Cuba and was visiting my grandfather at his house, there was an attractive young girl at his house, and I was thinking to myself 'Who is this girl?' I began to talk with her, and after a short time she left. After