



2010 PREVIEW

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The fitness assessment program has returned to the BBC Wellness Center.

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SGA debates bill to reform public education in Florida. Why should SGA have a say in all of this?

OPINION PAGE 10



The marijuana debate continues after New Jersey moved to legalize the drug in late January. Why is it time for this debate to end?

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Coconut Grove Arts Festival: Artists from all over the world come together in Coconut Grove for the 47th annual festival.

LIFE! PAGE 12



Panel Panel: A new series, Sweet Tooth, debuts with great art and a well-told story line.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Organic Farmers Market, Feb. 17, 12 - 3 p.m. Enjoy local, organic food for sale at the weekly farmers market held by the Central Fountain at MMC.

Miami Heat Invasion Pep Rally, Feb. 17, 12 - 2 p.m. Get pumped up at the GC Pit, part of FIU's Take-Over of the Miami Heat.

Game Night, Feb. 18, 6 p.m. Compete and have fun with fellow students at the Porter Davis Game Room in GC. Hosted by International Students Club.

— More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
LOW: 46 HIGH: 69



THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 48 HIGH: 67



FRIDAY
Cloudy
LOW: 51 HIGH: 68

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Heat partners with University

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

With the pro basketball season in full session, students at FIU will be turning up the heat sooner and closer to campus than they think.

In support of the first FIU Take-Over Night with the Miami Heat, the FIU Foundation is hosting a pep rally at both the Modesto Maidique Campus on Feb. 17 and

Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 24, from 12 - 2 p.m. on both days.

Students will be able to purchase discounted tickets for the game March 14 against the Philadelphia 76ers.

"We're just trying to get the students to go out there and see that this is a great opportunity to get together, to show just how dedicated you are to the school," said development assistant of University Advancement, Marla

Baldomero.

Through the purchase of each ticket, a portion of the funds will be used to support the First Generation Scholarship Fund. They will also receive free giveaways at the Graham Center Pit while getting a chance to meet the Heat Dancers and their mascot, Burnie.

"This event [Take-Over Night]

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SGC-MMC

Senate confirms elections committee

JORGE VALENS
News Director

The Student Government at Modesto Maidique Campus senate approved two elections committee members and amendments to the elections code in their Feb. 15 meeting.

Monique Rodriguez and Alessia Torres were both confirmed at the beginning of the meeting, joining Miriam Blasco and Elections Commissioner Christy Flores on the newly appointed committee.

Rodriguez outlined the committee's goal to bring 3,100 students to the polls this election by focusing on marketing the event through flyers, T-shirts, slogans and the use of a Facebook group.

Rodriguez added that the committee plans on utilizing the newly installed televisions downstairs to market the elections as well.

Torres, a freshman, addressed the senate's questions regarding the board's preparedness for possible problems that would arise, mirroring last year's elections problems.

She responded by saying that the committee had "planned on different solutions for different [possible] occa-

SGA, page 2

NEWLYWEDS



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

(Left) Freshman Gisselle Arriete and (right) freshman Jaife Gonzalez get married on Feb. 12 in the GC Lawn as part of Alpha Omicron's Pi "Marry Me Valentine" fundraiser for Relay for Life.

Lecture series spotlights exiles, literature

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Contributing Writer

FIU's newest certificate program in exile studies is aiming to tackle stimulating questions surrounding the exile community, with its ongoing Exile and Literature Lecture Series.

All throughout the Spring semester, a series of lectures, headed by the Exiles Studies Certificate Program, will educate students on the struggle and journeys faced by exiles.

As a new component of FIU's global learning initiative, this four-part series focuses on a global experience — transplantation, or relocation to a new culture, a new world.

These lectures can provide a unique opportunity for those

personally attached to the exile community to learn about the lives of other immigrants but particularly to learn more about their own journey.

At least this is the hope of Asher Milbauer, director of the ESCP and main proponent of the lectures.

Having immigrated to the United States from the former Soviet Union, Milbauer was fascinated by the idea of living in a city and working at a university built and run by exiles.

His fascination propelled him to recently head start the ESCP.

"The history of humanity is the history of exile. In order to understand the world today we need to understand the world of a stranger," Milbauer said.

By focusing on what it means to be en exile — experiencing loss of

UPCOMING LECTURES

The Age of Exile

- Gustavo Perez Firmat, Columbia University
- March 22 at 7 p.m.
- Where: GC 243

Panel on Exile and the Academe

- Asher Z. Milbauer, Department of English
- April 12 at 7 p.m.
- Where: GC 243

home and identity, this interdisciplinary program is the starting point for what is hoped to be a nationally recognized center of exile study.

"There really is no other program focused on the issue," said James Sutton, the chair of the FIU English department.

"Miami is a community of exiles and it makes sense for an institu-

tion of higher learning to develop a program that centers around this."

His support, along with that of University President Mark Rosenberg, has allowed Milbauer to create a groundbreaking program that focuses on events that have affected the majority of students at

ESCP, page 2

HEALING ART



On Feb. 10, The Frost Art Museum and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Clinical Art Therapy Department opened their exhibition ARTWORKS!: The Inner Journey. The show inspires students and the audience to labyrinth their inner being and create personal reflections through mandalas. M-DCPS clinical art therapists use art therapy to relieve students from emotional and behavioral conflicts to succeed in class.



PHOTOS BY LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Series aims to educate, motivate attendees

ESCP, page 1

FIU.

As a module for the certificate program, FIU is currently hosting a four-part lecture series that will be given by some authors focused on the implications of being an exile.

Carol Rittner, from the Catholic order of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, gave the first of the four lectures, “Exile, Holocaust and Genocide,” on Jan. 25.

She spoke to the more than 200 attendees and mainly focused on the effects of the most recent genocides in Rwanda and Yugoslavia.

Rittner discussed the unfortunate engine that has driven so many into exile – not just physical dislocation but emotional as well.

Although this lecture series is meant to educate, it is the hope of both Milbauer and Sutton that it will also inspire those interested in exile studies and literature with exile history to pursue the ESCP.

“The ESCP has already

attracted strong interest across the campus and, in the years to come, I have no doubt it will develop a national and international reputation reflecting the exceptional rigor of the program and the outstanding quality of its faculty and students,” said Michael Gillespie, the speaker at the “Exile and Creativity: James Joyce and the Problem of Exile” lecture on Feb. 15.

His lecture centered around the contradicting yet realistic feelings of nostalgia and animosity that conflicts an exile.

Gillespie focused on the evaluation of the works of James Joyce.

“I discuss how an awareness of these two attitudes enhances one’s understanding of specific stories and of the collection as a whole,” Gillespie said.

The upcoming lecture, “The Age of Exile,” given by esteemed FIU Cuban-American professor Gustavo Perez Firmat will discuss the life and journey of an intellectual Cuban

exile in America.

The final lecture, “Panel on Exile and the Academe,” will involve a panel of nationally renowned scholars on the subject of exile, and chaired by Milbauer himself.

While many speakers are still confirming, Martin Tucker from Long Island University, Uva de Aragon from FIU – a noted novelist and social director of the Cuban Research Institute, and Guy Stern, a retired professor, will join Milbauer in questioning the lack of generosity from the democratic U.S. toward intellectual immigrants.

By providing an insight into the journey of an educated exile, Milbauer wants this entire series to explore why an exile’s dislocation from home results in creativity and intellectualism.

The ESCP along with the Exile and Literature Lecture Series hopes to provide a program that not only educates but sparks interest in the minds of FIU students.

Elections committee aims to bring 3,100 to the polls

SGA, page 1

committee had “planned on different solutions for different [possible] occasions,” but she did not go into detail.

Rodriguez was confirmed through an attendance vote made up of 20 yea and five nay votes and Torres was confirmed unanimously through acclamation.

The SGC-MMC senate also deliberated on and passed a reform on SGC-MMC elections code, named the “Student Democracy Act of 2010.”

Among the changes passed include the correction of grammar and syntax errors, the incorporation of the elections code into the SGC-MMC statutes, and the provisioning of a vice-elections commissioner to replace an outgoing elections commissioner.

The bill would also add two new members to the elections committee, raising the number of members from three to five.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda told the senate later in the meeting that he would work with Flores to nominate two additional elections committee members for senate approval by Feb. 17.

According to the newly changed elections code, a vice-commissioner will fill a

possible vacancy in the elections commissioner position until one can be elected and confirmed by the senate.

The senate’s deliberations regarding the bill for the revised elections code also included the power of the judiciary to review the elections board.

According to the bill, no later than two months previous to the day of elections, the judiciary must review the elections committee “to ensure that he or she is living up to the responsibilities.”

Rionda interjected during deliberations, saying that this measure was “for posterity’s sake” as the deadline for judicial review of this year’s elections committee has passed by approximately two weeks.

The senate also discussed a clause in the elections code, which would prevent someone who was previously impeached from a student government office to run.

“Five people shouldn’t determine who can run,” said Senator at Large Yuniel Molina.

The specific amendment ultimately went to vote and was not removed from the elections code.

The bill was passed by attendance vote, 23 yea and two nay votes.

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Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Miami

Law students win civil trial against Liberian commander

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

Two University law students were selected to represent five victims in a civil lawsuit against Chuckie Taylor, the son of former Liberian dictator Charles Taylor.

Following the 2008 criminal court case, the College of Law Carlos A. Costa Immigration and Human Rights Clinic sought monetary compensation for the victims he had tortured in Liberia.

Taylor's father is currently being prosecuted in The Hague, Netherlands.

In 1997, Chuckie Taylor was appointed by his father to the position of commander of an elite special forces group known as the Liberian Anti-Terrorism Unit, according to the press release.

The civil trial seeking monetary damages for the victims lasted about five days in total, beginning Dec. 15.

The student lawyers in charge of this civil trial were Michelle Gonzalez and Elia Covino.

In the criminal case against him, he was found guilty of severe human rights abuses against innocent individuals and was sentenced to 97 years in prison, Gonzalez stated.

"When we learned of what had happened to them, our hope was that we could help them achieve not only

a reasonable amount of closure but also faith in humanity that justice does exist. This victory is important not only for the victims of Chuckie Taylor but also to other victims of human right abuses. This victory is the voice of hope," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez explained that she and Covino were not fearful of this man, they were only seeking justice for their clients.

"It is not about fear of Chuckie Taylor. Our clients, who have been permanently tainted by their plight, are brave individuals who took their fear and used it to show the world what they went through and to bring Chuckie Taylor to justice," Gonzalez said.

Covino also shared a similar sentiment for their clients.

"I never had once been fearful for my safety throughout my involvement in the case. Not to say that the situation was not potentially dangerous, however, I think when you are involved in such a cause, your desire to seek justice outweighs any of your own fear," Covino said.

Gonzalez and Covino explained how they came to be selected as the student lawyers for this case.

For Covino, the Taylor case was one that he had been familiar with since 2008.

"I had taken a human rights law class through American University's Washington College of Law in

the summer of 2008 during which my professor had alerted me to the fact that the case was being tried in Miami in October of that year," Covino said.

Eight students had applied to participate in this specific civil trial case concerning Taylor. Covino and Gonzalez were picked based on their strong interest and familiarity with the case.

In the end, Covino and Gonzalez were able to defeat Taylor in this civil trial and win \$22 million in damages for their clients.

Assistant Clinical Professor Troy Elder explained how proud he was of his students at the conclusion of the case.

"The victims have finally had their day in court in this case. It also is amazing that our student lawyers were able to defeat in civil court someone who was once so feared," Elder said.

Gonzalez and Covino explained how important it was to them to give their clients what they deserved.

"I think that no amount of money or time could completely repair the lives of neither these five victims nor any of the other victims of torture – what they endured was too great.

"However, I do think the damages they were awarded will be instrumental in helping them get the medical treatment they have been denied all these years," Covino said.

Students get a chance to meet Miami Heat dancers at pep rally

HEAT, page 1

is to show appreciation for the University community in all aspects, the students, our faculty and staff, our volunteer leaders and also our trustees and advisory board," said Ahiza Fernandez, the assistant secretary and assistant director of board relations. "It's to give an opportunity for everyone to come together on one day to support FIU."

Sponsored by the FIU Foundation, this is the first event of its kind for the University as well as the Miami Heat.

Among the special perks, like discounted tickets that will come with the event, students have the opportunity to gain early entrance to watch the players warm up, give a postgame free throw on the court, be spotlighted using the Jumbo-Tron and receive a Miami Heat T-shirt.

University President Mark Rosenberg will also give a post half-time recognition.

"Since this is the first time that the Foundation has really played an active role in doing something like this, it's really great that everybody is excited about it,"

Fernandez said. "They really have been able to accomplish what they wanted, which is that the students, faculty and administration are really getting involved."

Established in 1969, the FIU Foundation is a non-profit corporation with 40 members, currently serving under Executive Director Robert Conrad, that is responsible for receiving and administering private gifts to the University for its scientific, educational and charitable advancement.

Through their oversight of the funds, the Foundation allocates a number of the donations toward scholarships for incoming students.

Many foundation members serve on the advisory boards of the colleges that they graduated from, since many of them are FIU alumni.

The connection between the Foundation and the schools allows the colleges' needs to be recognized at an administrative level and the members to stay in touch with new programs that would need attention.

On top of everything, they have roles as University ambassadors; sharing

the University's needs as well as hearing the needs of the community itself.

"The students really don't have any interaction with the Foundation, unless they've been the recipient of a scholarship," said Fernandez. "But it's really truly been the donor that's given them that scholarship, the Foundation is the keeper of that."

Since the beginning of their advertising campaign two weeks ago, the Foundation has already been able to have most of their ticket sales goal accomplished even before the pep rally has occurred.

According to Baldomero, the majority of the calls received by Adam Ramos, the Heat representative aiding in the event, have come not from alumni but from current students at FIU.

"We figured there would be more alumni and donors but this just shows that everyone is excited about it and hopefully this can turn into something that we can do every year," she said.

To purchase tickets visit <http://groups.heatexperim.com/fiutakover> and use the Promo Code: GO PANTHERS.

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Man sent to hospital over produce dispute

A Miami Beach man was sent to the hospital with a broken neck and back after taking part in a dispute over a tomato.

According to the *Sun-Sentinel*, Robert Lerner, 44, was on his way to Redland for a photo shoot with his 10-year-old daughter just after 9 a.m. on Jan. 28 when Lerner pulled over in a grove between Southwest 172nd and 177th avenues in order to pick out a tomato.

Just then, a middle-aged white man, standing 5-foot-9 with light-colored, salt-and-pepper hair, pulled up in a dark-colored Jeep Wrangler and accused the two of stealing his vegetables.

Authorities are still scrambling to identify the attacker.

NATIONAL

Indiana senator Bayh not to seek third term

Democratic Senator Evan Bayh of Indiana said Monday afternoon that he won't seek a third term in the Senate.

"Congress is not operating as it should," Bayh told CNN at a news conference in Indianapolis. "The people's business is not getting done."

Bayh told CNN that he loves public service, but does "not love Congress" and is "not motivated by strident partisanship or ideology."

Bayh cited the Senate's recent failure to pass a jobs bill, as well as legislation that would have created a deficit reduction commission as evidence of what he called a "broken political system."

WORLD

Train collision kills 18, cause unknown

Eighteen people died and 162 were hurt when two trains collided in Halle, Belgium on Monday.

According to CNN, the trains collided head-on at 8:30 a.m. The companies that run the Belgian railways and the train told CNN that the cause of the accident is not known.

Anya De Wols, spokeswoman for the province of Flemish Brabant, told CNN that the authorities do not believe there is anyone else on the trains.

– Compiled by Gabriel Arraras

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Competition is a non-issue at Bay Vista Housing pageant

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

During a Valentine's Day-themed celebration, a new Mr. and Ms. Bay Vista were crowned on Feb. 12 in the Bay Vista Housing lounge at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Bay Vista Hall residents submitted their nominees for the title. However, the pageant had been rescheduled from Feb. 9 to Feb. 12 due to the Bay Vista Housing Forum held on the original date.

As a result, some of the candidates who were nominated dropped out because they were no longer available to compete.

Angelique Pino, a junior and education major, and Christian Poole, a junior in hospitality management, were named the winners by default.

"I'm honored that so many people think so highly of me," said Pino of winning. "I would like to represent all the history geeks and this campus

in a higher manner."

This annual event is sponsored by the Residence Hall Association, which allows elected student residents to play an active role in the activities and issues that affect their particular halls. The pageant highlights students that best represent not only their residence halls, but also the campus as a whole.

"This event was helpful in getting people closer together in community and gain a sense of pride," said Rosa Salas, a senior criminal justice major and organizer of the Mr. and Ms. Bay Vista Pageant.

Bay Vista Housing, with about 300 residents, is the only complex students can call home at BBC. The Modesto Maidique Campus has five housing units - University Park Apartments, Panther Hall, University Park Towers, Everglades Hall and Lakeview Hall - with about 2,100 residents.

Each of the housing councils hosts a Mr. and Ms. Housing Pageant at their

respective housing units, in which male and female residents from each hall compete for the title within their halls.

Contestants are required to have a minimum 2.5 GPA and cannot be members of the Council Executive Board or serve as resident assistants.

The pageants typically include each contestant introducing themselves, showcasing a talent, answering questions, and modeling their casual and formal wear.

Students from housing on both campuses will go on to compete against each other for the title of Mr. and Ms. Housing on Feb. 18.

Poole, however, is unable to compete in the upcoming because of previous engagements. Antonio Hopkins, a freshman environmental engineering major, will serve as his backup and could not be reached for comment.

"It's a good opportunity for students to interact with each other and get both campuses closer together," Salas said.



MELODY REGALADO/THE BEACON

Angelique Pino struts her stuff as she happily accepts the title of Ms. Bay Vista on Feb. 12.

SGC-BBC

Proxy voting prohibited by constitution, state

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

After reviewing the procedures as outlined in the Student Government Association constitution, the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government senate was denied the ability to anonymously vote during their Feb. 15 meeting.

Nickolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC senator and speaker of the senate, announced the need for anonymous voting during the Feb. 8 senate meeting.

"In my consumer behavior class I watched a video about the Asch effect. I think we may have encountered that problem here a couple of times," he said.

The Asch effect was demonstrated in a 1951 experiment conducted by Solomon Asch in which those being observed felt the need to

agree with a group on the size of a line, even though they knew the majority was incorrect.

According to Chikishev people feel pressured into voting a specific way on any given issue despite their personal stance and conform to the majority vote about 30 percent of the time, even if the data is completely wrong.

SGC-BBC Arts and Science Senator Gregory Jean-Baptiste, agrees and feels that the senate has encountered this problem while deliberating on heavy issues.

In one occasion Andrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator recalls a member of the council changing their vote at last minute.

"I don't want to give any names but I remember seeing one person who in the beginning of a decision would passionately say 'no' and then when everybody voted, their hands were raised for the 'yes' vote. It's weird because the person was the one voting 'no'

and made a big fuss about it."

However, Zahra Arbabi Aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator, believes senators should stand strongly by their votes.

"I agree, but we are senators, which means we are the voice of students so we should be able to speak our voice strongly and stand for what we believe," she said.

Chikishev himself admits to feeling pressured at times, but suggests anonymous or proxy voting could be helpful during important deliberations.

"On important and controversial voting I think we should use anonymous voting. Meaning we can discuss it and give your opinion but at the end give an anonymous vote. Only the chairperson will see it," he said.

According to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor, this kind of voting is not allowed and

would conflict with the Florida Sunshine Law, found in the Florida Statutes.

"It is stated in the sunshine state law that we need to be transparent," he said.

Chikishev, however, argues that anonymous voting would only eliminate pressure from other council members, but that final votes would still be announced.

"With this voting system the members won't be affected by the group or the person next to them," Chikishev said.

However, the senate will not be able to continue with the procedure since it violates the SGA constitution, according to Tanha Dil, SGC-BBC justice.

In Article IV, Legislative Branch, Section 9 it states that voting in secret ballot is prohibited, unless stated otherwise in the statutes.

"As of right now it can't be done," Dil said.



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Team must overcome losses to continue building

You always have to deal with losing players.

It is a reality of the college game, as much as four hour long practices and exams on game day. It's just something you have to deal with.

But rarely does a team lose as much as FIU did from one year to the next.

Looking at the numbers, the team lost:

- 56% OF THE TEAM'S HOME RUNS.
- 32% OF THEIR RUNS SCORED.
- 42% OF THEIR RUNS BATTED IN.
- 77 INNINGS OF A 3.74 ERA.

And not to mention maybe the single best hitter in the history of the program and one of the top hitters in all of college baseball last season.

The common thread when anyone has discussed the 2010 FIU baseball team has been how do you make up for the losses of Tyler Townsend, Ryan Mollica, Steven Stropp, one third of your starters in the field, plus super utility outfielder Greg Waddell, who led the team in hitting, and Tom Ebert, arguably the team's top starter last year.

It is natural to look to their replacements on the field to make up the deficit. Guys like Raiko

Alfonso, taking over everyday duties at second in Mollica's absence, are going to be looked to for production, and they'll be expected to produce right away.

But when you look at this team, it isn't one or two players who will be able to replace the production of guys like Mollica and Townsend.

For this team to be successful, production will have to come from the aggregate.

The entire lineup will have to take a step forward if they are going to be able to fulfill the expectations placed on them following last season's 4th place finish in the conference.

Head coach Turtle Thomas has proven himself to be maybe the best hiring of Athletic Director Pete Garcia's tenure, and it is because he has taken a once proud program that had fallen on hard times, and pushed it to the brink of returning to its former glory. His strength as a recruiter is his biggest weapon, and the depth of this team is a testament to his ability to construct a roster.

While last season's team had just two seniors on the roster, this year's team has six, led by second year JUCO transfers Scott Rembisz and Tim Jobe.

Rembisz, last season's number one starter, is expected to be one of the top pitchers in the conference all year, after he faded a bit down

the stretch last year.

Jobe, a first team preseason all conference choice at first base, is expected to pick up some of the slack from Townsend's departure. His .592 slugging percentage was second only to Townsend on last year's club amongst hitters with at least 100 ABs, and as a senior he is expected to produce at an even higher level.

However, the Golden Panthers will need to see an improvement across the board in order to live up to and surpass the high expectations for this year.

Thomas has built a deep, strong team that, while maybe lacking some of the big productions guys from last season, should be more

balanced than last year's, a

flaw which caught up to the team in the conference tournament when they were let down by a lack of timely hits and a pitching staff that hit the wall.

For this season to be a success, the Golden Panthers will need that deep, experienced roster to make a true run in the conference tournament that puts them on the cusp of surpassing perennial powerhouses Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee.

If they can do that, they won't miss anyone from last year's team.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

INSIDE

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Roster Breakdown

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Senior shortstop Arrojo takes control
Golden panthers seek consistent bullpen



FILLING IN THE PIECES

Team looks to build on success from turnaround season despite key losses

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

When it comes to baseball, not everything goes according to plan.

Lineup changes from year to year are simply a part of the game, a fact that coaches have to deal with and find a way to make the proper adjustments.

But the adjustments Coach Turtle Thomas has had to make this past offseason have been substantial, and when fans come out on Feb. 19 for the season opener they will notice a few big pieces from last season's breakout season missing.

With a number of key contributors on the 2009 roster not returning to the field this spring, FIU has had to look both outside and inside its roster to try and fill the substantial gaps left behind.

With offensive power hitter Tyler Townsend bypassing his senior season to go to the majors along with starting pitcher Tom Ebert, partnered with the graduation of second basemen Ryan Mollica and catcher Steven Stropp, the Golden Panthers have a lot of cracks to fill.

But the squad is confident that they have the right pieces in place to field a competitive team throughout the spring. Coaches around the conference believe FIU is a team to watch out for. Despite the offseason losses, the Panthers were voted to finish third in the SBC Preseason Coaches' Poll.

"We're trying to get better each year that goes by," said Thomas, who enters his third season as FIU head coach. "I'm not going to sit there and say we need to finish first in the conference or this or that."

HOLES IN THE OFFENSE

One of the players that will look to fill in those gaps is infielder Tim Jobe, who belted 10 home runs and hit .364 last season along with 48 runs batted in and 15 doubles. But Thomas says that it is going to take a collective effort by the team, rather than improved play by any one individual player, to execute the improvement he looks to deliver this season.

"I don't know if anybody can replace a Tyler Townsend," said Thomas. "I think the whole team has to step up and improve, put a few more offensive statistics across the board, and everybody takes a little bit of the loss of those players. The whole team has to do it."

PROJECTED LINE UP

1. Junior Arrojo, SS
2. Pablo Bermudez, LF
3. Mike Martinez, RF
4. Tim Jobe, DH
5. Rudy Flores, 1B
6. Raiko Alfonso, 2B
7. Jeremy Patton, 3B
8. Sean Reilly, C
9. Lamar Guy, CF

PROJECTED ROTATION

1. Scott Rembisz, RHP
2. R.J. Fondon, LHP
3. Corey Polizzano, LHP

these newcomers mesh together and get ready for the season."

SHUFFLED ROTATION

In addition to losing Ebert, the Panthers lost highly regarded pitcher Miguel Mejia, who also decided to make the jump to the next level after signing a free agent deal with the Detroit Tigers. Mejia was expected to bolster the starting rotation, but now that responsibility falls on sophomore southpaw R.J. Fondon.

Fondon will have to step up in a role that Ebert thrived in, throwing 77 innings at a 3.74 ERA last season.

"Tom Ebert is a good man, and he did a good job for us last year," said Thomas. "And you wish he was with us still."

Fondon spent most of his time coming out of the bullpen last season as a freshman, but made seven starts in 2009, mostly during weeknight matchups. Overall, the left-hander compiled a 7-2 record with a 5.05 ERA, good for third on the team for those who pitched a minimum of two games. His seven victories were a team-high and will join senior pitchers Scott Rembisz and Corey Polizzano.

"We have some experience on that pitching staff," said Thomas. "It's one of the biggest strengths on our team."

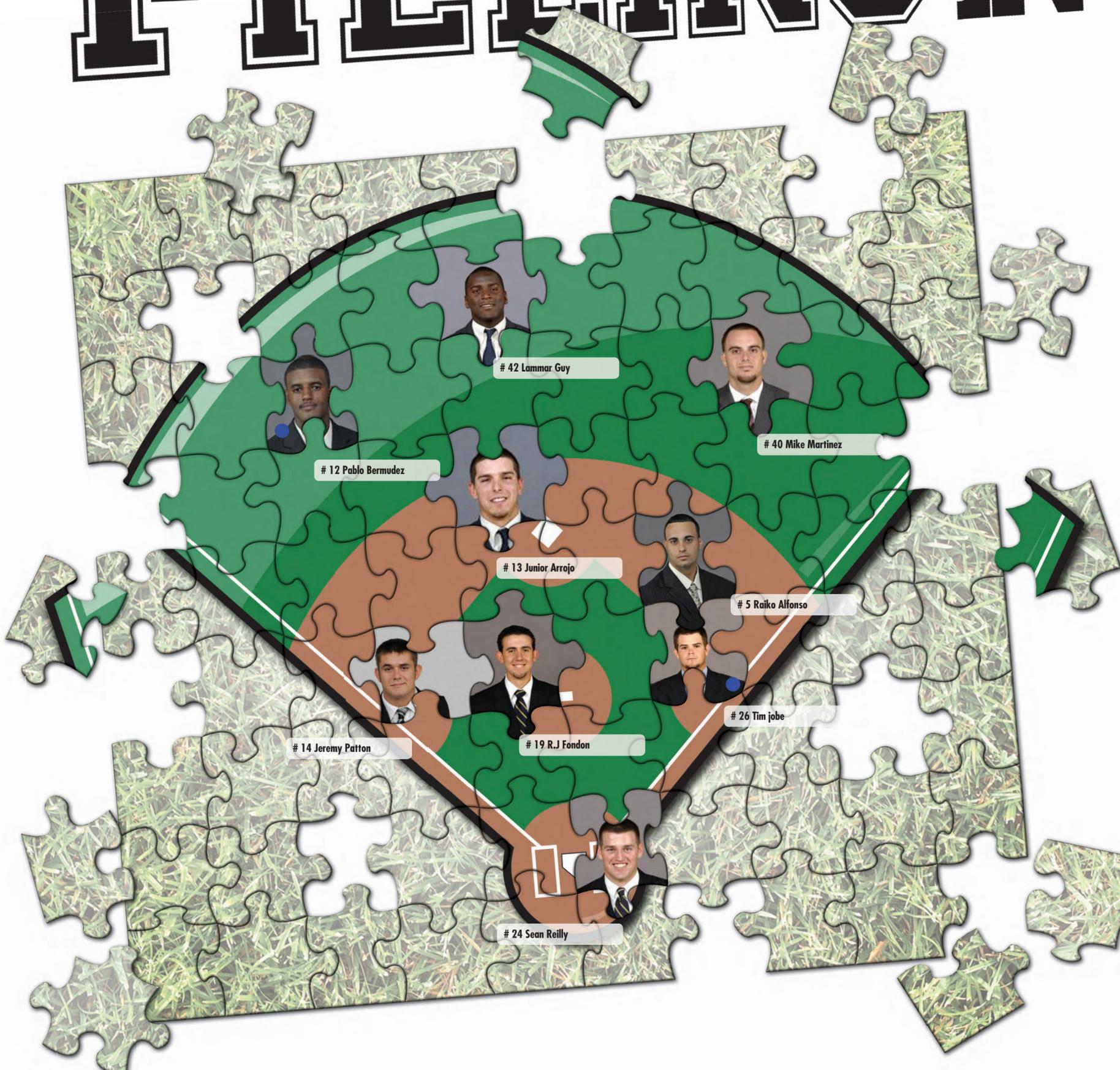
DEVELOPING DEFENSE

In addition to pitching, the defense has been emphasized as an area that needs improvement if the Panthers are expected to move deeper into the postseason. The FIU defense committed close to 100 errors and had a .958 fielding percentage, which put the Panthers near the bottom of the conference in defense.

"Defensively, we struggled a bit last season," Jobe conceded. "We've been working really hard on that aspect of the game and that'll make a big impact. As long as we're sound [on defense] and however we do on the mound will hopefully determine our outcome."

It has been a long offseason for many of these players and they are looking forward to facing that first pitch, fielding that first ground ball and throwing that first strike.

"You never really think that you're quite ready, but I know the players are ready to play," said Thomas. "They're tired of training, they're tired of practicing; they're ready to see another team in the other dugout with different colored uniforms on. They're ready to play."



42 Lammar Guy

40 Mike Martinez

12 Pablo Bermudez

13 Junior Arrojo

5 Raiko Alfonso

26 Tim Jobe

14 Jeremy Patton

19 R.J. Fondon

24 Sean Reilly

Shortstop Arrojo leads the Golden Panthers his way



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Junior Arrojo struggled in his first two seasons, but the experience helped him become the Golden Panthers' top table setter.

JONATHAN RAMOS Sports Director

Entering his senior season, FIU shortstop Junior Arrojo doesn't have to do much to earn the respect of his fans, coaches and peers.

That is especially true with the senior's teammates.

"There is no doubt. When our players voted for team captains, Junior Arrojo and Corey Polizzano, it was a unanimous pick," FIU coach Turtle Thomas said. "That shows the respect that's there."

Along with Polizzano, a fellow senior, Arrojo will be a centerpiece of the Golden Panthers puzzle in 2010.

It wasn't long ago, however, that Arrojo was a struggling underclassman who seemed overwhelmed at the Division I level. Arrojo, who assumed a role as a starter since his freshman season, had a batting average that hovered below .250 in his first two seasons. Arrojo hit zero home runs during the stretch, and made 39 errors en route to a sub par fielding percentage.

But when Arrojo found his footing as a leadoff hitter last season, the Golden Panthers

offense took off.

Arrojo enjoyed career high's in almost every category last season while infusing athleticism into an FIU team that went 34-23, a 14-game improvement.

For the former Miami Southridge standout, it wasn't a matter of drastically improving his skills. It was about a mental makeup check.

"My first two years I put too much pressure on myself," he said. "I tell the young guys, 'Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Just have fun.'"

Arrojo's mindset began to change one afternoon during a practice in 2008 when Arrojo, mired in a slump, had an extensive talk with Thomas.

'ALL IN MY HEAD'

"He talked to me in the cages," Arrojo said. "He told me it was all in my head and that I had it in me to be a great player."

Thomas might want to have these talks with Arrojo more often.

Arrojo hit .316 with a .427 on base percentage in 2009. The budding infielder beamed with confidence as his team improved.

"The thing that held him back from being

that guy was the mental confidence," Thomas said. "He might have not even known that he fit in at this level. I tried to explain to him that he has the tools to be a great shortstop at this level." Thomas also helped Arrojo's development by turning him loose on the basepaths.

After a solid summer in which Arrojo displayed his ability to run, Thomas gave him the green light to steal bases. The result was a career best 23 steals, good for second in the Sun Belt conference.

SWAG SLIDE

Coming into this season, Arrojo is looking to pass on his confidence to his teammates.

Before every game, it starts with the team's usual ritual and a dance to loosen the team up.

"People get tense, so me and Lammar [Guy] do the 'swag slide' to make sure everybody's relaxed," Arrojo said. "As veterans on the team, we want to keep people loose and have fun. That's when you ball out."

Embraced as a captain, Arrojo is more than comfortable with his role.

"I'm not a guy who will get on you, I mostly get along with people," he said. "I was a captain in high school too. It comes natural."

FIU BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
Feb. 19	Maryland*
Feb. 20	Maryland*
Feb. 21	Maryland*
Feb. 26	Oral Roberts*
Feb. 27	Oral Roberts*
Feb. 28	Oral Roberts*
Mar. 4	Utah Valley State
Mar. 5	California-Riverside
Mar. 6	Cal Poly
Mar. 7	Arizona State
Mar. 9	Boston College*
Mar. 10	Boston College*
Mar. 12	Rutgers*
Mar. 13	Rutgers*
Mar. 14	Rutgers*
Mar. 16	Florida Gulf Coast
Mar. 18	Southern Utah*
Mar. 19	Troy*
Mar. 20	Troy*
Mar. 21	Troy*
Mar. 23	Jacksonville*
Mar. 24	Jacksonville*
Mar. 26	UALR
Mar. 27	UALR
Mar. 28	UALR
Apr. 2	Louisiana*
Apr. 3	Louisiana*
Apr. 4	Louisiana*
Apr. 9	Middle Tennessee State
Apr. 10	Middle Tennessee State
Apr. 11	Middle Tennessee State
Apr. 14	Bethune Cookman*
Apr. 16	New Orleans*
Apr. 17	New Orleans*
Apr. 18	New Orleans*
Apr. 23	Western Kentucky
Apr. 24	Western Kentucky
Apr. 25	Western Kentucky
Apr. 27	Jacksonville
Apr. 28	Jacksonville
Apr. 30	Louisiana-Monroe*
May 1	Louisiana-Monroe*
May 2	Louisiana-Monroe*
May 5	Bethune Cookman
May 7	Arkansas State
May 8	Arkansas State
May 9	Arkansas State
May 14	South Alabama*
May 15	South Slabama*
May 16	South Alabama*
May 18	Florida Gulf Coast*
May 20	Florida Atlantic
May 21	Florida Atlantic
May 22	Florida Atlantic

*Denotes home games

Golden Panthers look to lock down pen

CHRIS TOWERS Staff Writer

For FIU head baseball coach Turtle Thomas, bullpen success is all about depth. For the first two seasons of his tenure, the Golden Panthers have had something of a bare cupboard when it came to relief pitching, and it became a trouble spot when it came to closing games out.

But now, Thomas believes he has the depth to compete at the highest level.

"I think that we have more capable pitchers in our bullpen than we've had in the two years that I've been here," said Thomas. "I think we have four or five good arms that can go out there and potentially shut the other team down."

GETTING DEEPER

Senior Eric Berkowitz returns as the most successful returning member of the FIU bullpen. And he posted more than a hit per inning in 45.1 innings last season. Clearly an improvement is in order.

"I've worked on staying mentally focused on not trying too hard," said Berkowitz. "Last year I tried too hard and suffered from it."

For FIU head coach Turtle Thomas, building pitching depth has been the biggest challenge since taking over the Golden Panthers. It seems the Golden Panthers finally have the depth they've been looking for in the bullpen.

"Our mental focus has to be better, but now we're deeper this year," said Berkowitz. "Last year we didn't have as many bullpen guys, this year we've got possibly four closers."

Right now, Thomas feels he has six options to come out of the bullpen, with Berkowitz probably being his first option due to his ability to throw multiple innings.

Berkowitz projects to be a middle relief option for Thomas, capable of throwing quality innings multiple days in a row.

"He has a rubber arm. He could

throw three days in a row," said Thomas. "His velocity is as good the 2nd day as first. He pitches better when he throws often."

The bullpen lost some versatility when imposing 6-foot-7 left handed sophomore Mason McVay was lost for the season with Tommy John's surgery, limiting Thomas' options for attacking tough left handed batters.

"McVay would have been that guy who would have come in for left handers," said Thomas. "But Dillon Vitale, because he's got a very good change up, it's almost like he's left handed. So he's probably going to fit that role even though he's right handed."

SHUTTING THE DOOR

The Golden Panthers put up a 3.5 ERA in the 9th inning last season, and lost just three games in which they held a lead heading into the 9th.

Even with this success, the Golden Panthers are looking to make sure they lock down the closer's role, and junior Bryam Garcia will be the first men in line to shut the door in save situations.

"Bryam's one of those guys that is used to that role and is not scared or tentative," said Thomas. "He's a guy who will attack hitters and be aggressive."

Garcia's demeanor on the mound is perhaps what suits him best to the closers role, which requires pitching in those higher leverage situations with the game on the line.

"He's pretty much an animal out there," said Berkowitz.

Garcia agrees with this characterization, describing himself as an aggressive, fearless pitcher.

"I don't mind throwing my fastball to anyone, I'll throw it to Albert Pujols," he said. "I'm aggressive, and I'm not scared to challenge any hitter."

Thomas also expects junior Jorge Marban to reprise his role here, where he closed six games over the previous two seasons,

when Garcia is not available.

"Me and Jorge played together this summer," said Garcia. "He'd go out and I'd go in after him we did really well with that in the Valley League."

KEYS TO SUCCESS

In order to be competitive out of the bullpen, where a pitcher might not know when he'll pitch, or he might go a few days without pitching, being mentally focused and prepared are key.

"Pitching coach Sean Allen really emphasized visualizing each pitch before you throw," said Garcia.

For Thomas, however, hard work and preparedness aren't enough if the results aren't up to par.

One thing in particular that Thomas emphasized is not giving

up hits when the pitcher is up 0-2 in the count.

"I worked on not giving up 0-2 hits," said Berkowitz. "Turtle's not a fan of that."

For a team on the cusp of success, being picked to finish third in the conference, simply competing isn't enough, even if mistakes sometimes happen.

"Every pitcher sometimes throws it over the plate on 0-2, and doesn't mean to," he said. "It happens. But as I sometimes tell them, I can go out and get someone driving a bus out there to try."

Thomas believes his pitchers should be able to execute at this point.

"They are college baseball players on a Division I level, they've got to be able to locate their stuff and get the job done," said Thomas. "Because everybody's trying."



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The diminutive Eric Berkowitz (he is listed at 5-foot-8) provides the bullpen with surprising heat in the middle innings.

Fitness assessment program returns to BBC

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

Students, faculty and staff can now get the information they need in order to stay healthy right here at the bay.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Health and Wellness Center now offers a Fitness Assessment Program open to students, faculty and staff.

“The goal of the program is to offer the FIU community a method of measuring their fitness levels in order to develop a personal fitness plan that will improve overall health and wellness,” said Dona Walcott, assistant director of University Health Services.

“We are hoping to increase awareness of healthy lifestyles,” said Wellness Assistant Andres Bermeo.

According to Walcott, the assessment is done by way of a body-scanning machine called Trifit by Polar.

“It is used to assess an individual’s fitness level by measuring weight, height, body mass index, body composition, flexibility, bicep strength and cardiovascular strength,” she said.

“The service is free for students and \$40 for faculty and staff, and takes approximately 30 minutes.”

The assessments are available on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment.

After receiving the results, those that undergo the assessment may receive a suggested meal plan and exercise regimen at the Fitness Center according to their results.

According to Walcott, the assessment program is not a completely new concept.

“The BBC Wellness Center offered Trifit assessments in previous years, but the program was temporarily discontinued until it could be redeveloped,” she said.

According to Bermeo, this time the fitness assessment program will be a permanent part of the Wellness Center.

“It is here to stay,” Bermeo said.

The competitors in the weight loss challenge are also using the fitness assessment program to keep tabs on their advancement.

“We track their progress in terms of weight loss and body fat percentage,” Bermeo said.

According to Walcott, the program has “gained overwhelming attendance” since it started in October 2009. Bermeo, who performs the assessments, agrees.

“It’s catching on big time,” Bermeo said.

According to Walcott, the fitness assessment program is meant to be an ongoing process.

“Follow-up is provided to help individuals gauge their progress and learn to maintain healthy habits in the areas of nutrition and exercise,” she said.

Bermeo has seen this concept put into action firsthand.

“Students are coming in all the time, asking questions about how they can improve [their health].”

The ultimate goal of the program, according to Walcott, is the overall improvement of health among the University.

“It is hoped that FIU students, faculty and staff, as a community, will be encouraged to adopt proper health maintenance habits,” she said.

To schedule an appointment, call The BBC Wellness Center at (305) 919-5620, ext. 4.

TALK TO ME



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

University President Mark B. Rosenberg addresses the audience during the BBC Town Hall Meeting held on Feb. 9 in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

Florida program aims to decrease juvenile inmates

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press Writer

Nigel Thomas was what authorities call a “status offender” as a teen, the oldest of five children in a Tampa family struggling to make ends meet.

He hadn’t committed a crime, but he was showing signs he might be headed that way. He’d skip school, hang out with the wrong crowd and disobey his parents. He hadn’t, though, run away from home or been tossed out of it — other typical status offenses.

Thomas, now 20, said his attitude began turning around after only three or four days in a program that’s made Florida a national leader in early intervention.

“It was a pretty good wake up call,” said Thomas, now a college student and YMCA staffer. “I’ve never been arrested, never had a ticket.”

The Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services, or CINS/FINS, program has drawn national accolades. By including counseling, parental involvement and, when necessary, shelter, it’s designed to keep families together and prevent troubled children from becoming criminals, saving taxpayers millions.

About 85 percent of those who spend time at a CINS/FINS shelter — typically two weeks — do not commit a crime within six months of being released, according to the state.

Other features are that Florida’s program is

statewide, provides a cooling off period at the shelters and offers immediate crisis response. “In some states it can take weeks for status offenders to get attention and by then a family crisis can escalate”, said Annie Salsich, youth justice director for the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City, which has studied the program.

About 95 percent of children in the program are voluntary participants — that’s the Families in Need of Services portion of the program — often after being referred by schools or police. The rest come through court orders — the Children in Need of Services part — for more difficult cases such as Tami Harrison’s 17-year-old son.

When he was participating in the program, “they were very, very, very good at keeping him out of trouble,” Harrison said.

Eventually, though, he was arrested for stealing his grandmother’s car on a dare, Harrison said. Instead of detention, though, a judge put him on probation for a year at a ranch for troubled youth founded by the Florida Sheriffs Association. Harrison said she’s already seen a lot of changes in her son after just two months. If he successfully completes his probation he’ll have a clean record.

She credits CINS/FINS with helping him get that deal.

“Without that, he’d have ended up on the street somewhere,” Harrison said. “I have absolutely no doubt about that.”

THIS PLACE WILL NEVER LET YOU GO

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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE FEBRUARY 19

Marijuana restrictions getting lots of laughs

CHRISTOPHER ROMAGUERA
Contributing Writer

In late January, New Jersey became the 14th state to legalize marijuana for medicinal purposes. The decision by the New Jersey Legislature catapulted the seemingly endless debate back into the public spotlight.

The polarizing views remain the same between right and left; conservatives screaming at the top of their lungs, while liberals are telling them to chill out.

Background checks still prohibit citizens from independently growing or dispensing. That's an honor left to big corporations.

Restrictions on the amounts of the drug that can be prescribed over a month are just additional ways through which New Jersey plans to keep marijuana use in check, and maybe more importantly, quell the fears of conservatives.

Yet still, the uproar of conservatives can be heard at any sign of a progressive movement, and medicinal marijuana is no different.

Assembly member John Rooney, goes on saying, "There are other drugs. There are many ways to relieve pain." This logical fallacy is

hilarious. We all know that Xanax and all those lovely drugs have no side effects and come from rainbows; you know, besides increasing dependency and raising suicide rates of those who use it.

Back in 2002, the U.S. Government Accountability Office listed just a few diseases that can be treated with marijuana: Alzheimer's, Crohn's disease and glaucoma.

Marijuana can relieve headaches and arthritic pains without the adverse effects of most prescription drugs. So, why are we still debating this issue?

It seems to be a state's right to choose a decision on issues like this. I'm sure conservative groups would agree to this as well.

The Fraternal Order of Police claimed that the clinics that can distribute the drug may become targets of robberies by those crazed for the drug. By this reasoning, we should close down banks for there may be crazy people who will try to rob them, and we would rather not deal with that idea.

I think these arguments are mostly posturing, and if they are real, they are too funny. The real issue is that these conservatives are afraid that

with each state that passes a law allowing medicinal marijuana use, that we as a nation are getting closer to decriminalizing, or completely legalizing (there is a difference) marijuana.

Let me give a little word of wisdom from an open-minded college student, "They're right. And the world will still carry on."

Marijuana compares favorably to any anti-depressant that's being given away like candy on Halloween, or the legalized depressant, alcohol. While I may not agree with the spike in fast food sales, that's about the worst thing marijuana is going to cause.

This is a plant that isn't being utilized properly, medically, industrially, and taxing marijuana may not be a bad source of income, considering the not so small amounts of people who are said to smoke, despite being illegal and very, very bad for you. In the end, during the Great Depression, one of the few laws repealed was the prohibition of alcohol.

Well times are rough once again, for the government and for its people. Paying a little more to our government so I can enjoy a nice toke at sunset on the beach sounds like a good compromise to me.

SGA has right to debate K-12 reform in Florida

DEAN WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

No Child Left Behind Act of 2002 is a clear display of how federal laws can reform and improve the educational system. At the core of the law is the theory that standards-based educational reform would result in student achievement.

Increasing accountability, gauging student achievement through standardized testing and the establishment of Academic Yearly Progress, NCLB are often viewed by many as shifting the responsibility of achievement from students to teachers and institutions themselves.

In southern Florida in particular, many students adopt English as a second language and often come from educational systems that are comparatively different from that of the American model. This undoubtedly has relevance to the State University System.

Much research has been conducted and proves that the key in achieving success at the University level rests in how well a student is prepared throughout K-12 education. Increased elementary and secondary school preparation make the transition to higher education seamless.

A referendum on improving K-12 education came before the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate twice. In the first instance, the language of the referendum was questioned, as it seemed to place all the responsibility of educating students on teachers.

In the second presentation of the referendum, the wording was changed to note that one factor in a child's educational achievement was the quality of his teachers.

During the debate, the student senators also discussed and agreed that parent

involvement and student participation weighed heavily on a student's academic success.

Some may see SGA's involvement in this as futile. Why should the student government interject in an issue where they may not be able to heavily influence the outcome?

To the contrary, student involvement in this process is necessary. Laws like NCLB directly affect students; how we are taught and how our success is gauged.

Student involvement in the process is integral because of the perceived benefits of an education while the shortcomings of the educational system provide lawmakers with a practical look at the system, balancing the theoretical aspects of how the system should work.

More importantly, students will be held to these standards. Regardless of whether teachers or institutions provide the resources to students to achieve academic success, the student bears equal responsibility and has much to gain from academic achievement.

Some of the student senators voiced concerns over the seemingly increased emphasis placed on educational professionals to ensure a student's academic success, and this a valid argument.

As previously mentioned, teachers, institutions and the student each bear an equal responsibility in ensuring the student's success.

Managing a student's education is by no means a task that one law or referendum will solve. It will take a collective effort in order to achieve this end.

Knowing this, it is therefore imperative that student government comes to a conclusion on this referendum that will give state lawmakers a practical viewpoint to implement and reform K-12 education.

War is not a solution despite recent lecturer's beliefs

NEDA GHOMESHI
Staff Writer

During a recent Tuesday Times Roundtable, Dr. Marifeli Perez-Stable lectured in an attempt to define the justice behind our two current wars. Key word: attempted. However, my opinion on this matter remained unchanged after the lecture; war is unjustifiable.

Stable is the author of several books and has written extensively in several national newspapers.

She began the lecture by summarizing President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech. She referred to his speech as "one of the few things Obama has done that was well received by everyone. He was applauded by Republicans and Democrats."

After 15 minutes, she went straight into an open discussion inviting students to express their opinions and raise questions

concerning our nation's current involvement in two wars.

I don't think that war is just. I think that often, in an attempt to solve a problem, governments engage in wars.

Within his speech, President Obama explained that "some will kill, and some will be killed." War undeniably results in the death of innocent people, which in most any civilized society is considered murder. I don't have to convince anyone that the act of murder is unjustifiable under any circumstance. I feel the same about war.

Marlon Doblado, a senior history major and a former marine, shared his experience in Afghanistan with the audience.

"Many times, we [fellow marines] could not tell the difference between Al-Queda/Taliban fighters and ordinary citizens," he said.

This lack of distinction causes many civilians to be caught in the middle resulting in

"The minute a nation engages in a war, it compromises its principles of humanity and civility."

unnecessary casualties. This is unjustifiable.

Within the lecture, Dr. Perez-Stable stated, "We compromise ourselves when we don't live up to our ideals."

I fully agree. Engaging in a war is a compromise. A nation is compromising civic values, money and importantly lives when engaging in a war.

The question she posed was: "How can we conduct this [war] without compromising our [United States] principles?"

The answer is straight and simple: we can't. The minute a nation engages in a war, it compromises its prin-

ciples of humanity and civility. Within his novel, *As We Go Marching*, John T. Flynn explains that the "virtues of humility, love, charity, personal freedom, the strong prohibitions against violence, murder, stealing, lying, cruelty – all these are washed away by war."

I consider war to be brutal and ugly; it is a violent reaction to disagreements.

Alexander Berkman, the author of *What Is Communist Anarchism?* said, "War means blind obedience, unthinking stupidity, brutish callousness, wanton destruction, and irresponsible murder."

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

WINNER/LOSER



Joe Biden for stating the obvious. Biden said on last Sunday's Meet The Press episode that his predecessor Dick Cheney was "misinformed or misinforming" individuals about Obama's military policy. Cheney later grumbled incoherently in disagreement.



A pilot from Southwest Airlines ejected filmmaker Kevin Smith from the aircraft last Sunday after it was found that Smith could not properly fit in the seats. One user on Twitter praised Smith as the "MLK of fatties." The airline eventually begged for forgiveness.

QUOTATIONATION

"Wanna tell me I'm too wide for the sky? Totally cool. But fair warning, folks: If you look like me you may be ejected from @southwestair."

Kevin Smith, film director on getting ejected from the plane for being too big

THE BEACON REVIEWS: *THE WHITE RIBBON*

Film juxtaposes innocence, violence

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Winner of the Palm d'Or at last year's Cannes Film Festival and the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film, *The White Ribbon* is Austrian writer-director Michael Heneke's (*Cache*, *Funny Games*) latest film in which a number of unexplained "accidents" befall a pre-World War I German village; accidents that are actually malevolent acts of violence.

The film is set in a German village where half of the inhabitants work for a baron (Ulrich Tukur) and the local Protestant pastor (Burghart Klausner) maintains a strong influence.

When the local doctor (Rainer Bock) is severely injured, it sparks a chain reaction of random acts of violence and accidents including the kidnapping and punishment bestowed on the children of the baron and a local midwife (Susanne Lothar).

As everyone in the village is questioning who is causing this kind of mayhem, the local schoolteacher (Christian Friedel) begins to suspect that his pupils might have something to do with what has been happening in the village.

The punishment that the pastor bestows on his children for their disobedience is signified by making them wear a white ribbon – a symbol of pure innocence.

The pastor goes so far as to tie his son's hands to the bedpost because of the boy's tendency to pleasure himself.

Michael Heneke manages to create an array of unforgettable characters that sometimes come across as borderline evil, creating a menacing and dark tone throughout the

film.

The actions of characters such as the pastor and the doctor become catalysts to strange and bizarre events that occur in the German village.

For example, one girl acts out violently against a mentally challenged boy because of her father's harsh punishments on her. Another child is sexually abused by a relative.

Meanwhile, the children are taught to believe that God is watching at all times and

cinematographer Christian Berger, *The White Ribbon* is not full of rapid cuts and editing. Instead, it is filmed with a lot of long camera shots – a trademark style of Michael Heneke.

Another trademark of Heneke's is the use of stillshots with sounds over the images, conveying the events of a scene without showing the audience what is actually occurring, leaving more to the imagination of the viewers.

However, the only complaint that I have



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that they will go to hell if they "stray from the path of good."

The only character that seems to be pure and kind-hearted is the schoolteacher. The light that comes out the darkness of *The White Ribbon* is the schoolteacher romancing the baron's 17-year-old nanny, Eva (Leonie Benesch). The romance seems to be overshadowed by an ominous tone and feeling that Heneke is going to throw an unavoidable obstacle that will seem unconquerable for the couple.

Shot beautifully in black and white by

is that some of the questions posed in the film's climax are never fully answered by the time the credits roll.

While the final shot provides some kind of answer, it is never fully explained why the strange accidents and acts of violence occurred in the first place.

Opening Feb. 12, *The White Ribbon* is already considered the frontrunner for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in March.

The Beacon does not accept free goods or services in exchange for positive reviews.

Simple drawings heighten reader's sensory experience

SWEET TOOTH, page 10

Gus is a simple kid from the country raised by wholesome values and completely oblivious to how ruthless things have become. Jepperd, on the other hand, has a hardened heart that could easily be the source for all the grief and discom-

fort in the world.

The attraction of this series is the dynamic relationship between them. Jepperd roughens Gus' edges, teaching him that he can't be so naive in a world that is ready to consume him. Meanwhile, Gus shows Jepperd that there's still a place for decency and morality in a world that is lost in chaos.

The art is perfect for this series. Jeff Lemire's control over both the writing and drawing delivers a product that is only rivaled by the best writer/artist teams in the industry.

While the art is relatively simple, it is also cinematic and focused on developing moods and settings. Several panels are dedicated to simple things, like the rain drops of a thunderstorm falling on a lake becoming more numerous and torrential.

While this type of approach certainly decreases the time it takes to read through an issue, it adds a great deal to the sensory experience of the reader. Despite being a quicker read, this series still offers some of the best "bang for your buck" of any comic book on the racks today.

This series proves that there are no cliché types of stories, just tired ways of telling them. *Sweet Tooth* excels in how it tells its story, even if the individual parts that make it up seem lackluster.



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DC COMICS

Good food abounds at arts festival

GROVE, page 10

from the sale go to the school's funding and the National Arts Honor Society with the other half going straight into the student's pocket.

Paintings ranged from classic landscapes to modern art, each one unique.

Sarang Byrne is a standout. Her most popular pieces were clean, white canvases with bright watercolor designs.

Another fun part about the festival was watching people interact with the artists. Some artists were more about business but, for the most part, they all cared about their work and really wanted the prospective buyer to appreciate everything that was put into it.

Finally, the greatest part of the festival was the food. Of course it had nothing to do with art, but there was so much foodie goodness going on, it was hard to keep your cool. The festival offered the standard festival food like arepas, hot dogs and frozen lemonade, but those were juxtaposed by gourmet crepes, sweet potato chips and bratwurst sausage.

Now, in its 47th year, the Grove Arts Festival uses Coconut Grove's picturesque bay-view to its full advantage.

The festival provided a pleasant afternoon but it did take a deep bite into the wallet. The cheapest parking was \$15 and that was a good six blocks away from the venue. Admission was another \$10 for non-Coconut Grove residents and the food, although delicious, was pricey.

With all the expenses it took in getting there, there simply wasn't much room for art investments.

Diversions



To solve the sudoku puzzle, every row, column and 3x3 box must contain the numbers 1-9 only once. Check your answers in Friday's issue. Difficulty: Medium

			7		5	8		2
	4		3					9
8								5
5		1			6		3	4
		4				1		
9	2		1			5		7
	5							3
	9				7		1	
2		6	4		3			

Puzzle by websudoku.com

GROVEARTS



Festival offers something for the multifaceted visitor

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Art fans would be hard-pressed to not find something to love at the Coconut Grove Arts Festival.

The Festival, which takes place every year over President's Day weekend, showcases artists from all over the world, each one bringing something different to the mix. Sculptures, paintings, photography, glass work and jewelry were all on display. All of it was for sale at the festival with some art being relatively affordable – others not so much.

The main entrance on McFarlane Road is right across CocoWalk. This is where the bulk of the action was.

Street artists were plucked off the sidewalks from around the country to show off their skills.

Rod Tryon used chalk to create 3-D illusions on the asphalt. It was cool to watch him at work while he wiggled around on the floor trying to get into the perfect position to draw, wearing an oversized cap. It kind of looked as if he was prepping for an intense hopscotch mural.

Mike Behr is a photographer who focuses his works on bright scenery. His favorite

subjects were the old and bright homes of Italy and Greece: the little white houses of Santorini pop against the bright blue ocean backgrounds. The lighting in Behr's photography captured Greece beautifully.

Italy was a popular muse for artists at the festival. There were dozens of artists who had a similar idea to Behr's and took full advantage of the boot-shaped country.

Kemper Art's booth was really fun. They showed off a quirkier kind of art, a far cry from the sculpture, glass art and standard art you're accustomed to seeing at an arts festival or museum. Kemper Art is a studio based in Oklahoma City. Their artwork looks a lot like what a kid would do if he brought his Etch-A-Sketch to Cirque du Soleil. Frames of distorted sketched animals and people lined the booth. There was an interesting use of colors, mixing darks and brights.

Amid all the professional art work at the festival, art lovers could walk away with some fine art work from newcomers



1. Street Painter Ron Tryon created a waterfall landscape out of chalk during the festival. The painting was roughly 10 feet long. 2. Local Artist Gary Traczky from Miami Shores displayed stainless steel kinetic sculptures representing spiritual emotion and expression. 3. Michael Gard from San Francisco creates his wire figures by first producing the sculpture in clay, then reproducing them in wax. Next, wires are woven around the wax form, and finally melting the wax away. 4. Betsy Youngquist, 3-D mixed media artist from Illinois, was named "Best of the Best." Her work is based off her book *The Two Friends* which tells a story of an eagle and a horse meeting and becoming friends.

nurturing their crafts at New World School of the Arts.

This is the No. 1 spot to visit at the festival. Students are given a small and large canvas and the freedom to do what-

ever they want with it at the beginning of the year. The product of that freedom is then sold at the festival. Half of the proceeds

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PANEL PANEL

Series' character development anything but mundane

Every month brings a new, short-lived comic series centered around a post-apocalyptic setting, involving either zombies, vampires, robots, werewolves or some other generic creatures.

Amid a cesspool of mediocrity, Vertigo's *Sweet Tooth* shines and offers a different take on a predictable setting.

The world has been

plagued by a disease that has killed almost the entire population, leaving a small group of stragglers left in an ungoverned and anarchistic world. There is no known cure for the plague, but there is a mysterious new breed of children that has sprung up since the disease's introduction that are immune.

Of course, their immunity can't exist without gimmicks: these children

are part animal.

Gus is a mutant with deer antlers who's just lost both of his parents to the plague. With no one left to take care of him, he leaves his countryside cabin and embarks on a journey to explore the world for the first time.

As he quickly discovers, Gus is a valuable creature. There are hunters lurking everywhere in hopes of capturing and selling him.

Jepperd runs into Gus and offers to take him to the preserve, a safe

haven for people like Gus, where he can live without being kidnapped by people looking to make a profit off of his immunity to the plague. Although his offer seems genuine, Jepperd's legitimacy and true motives are a mystery.

At first glance, it's easy to dismiss the premise of this series and ignore it altogether; I did. After reading a few issues, however, it's even easier to fall in love with it.

Sweet Tooth is a slow, personal read. That's not to say it doesn't

have a fair share of excitement and action in every issue, but it's a series that is built upon the development of its characters.

Jeff Lemire, who does both the writing and art, gives his characters an incredible amount of depth and realism. While other comics keep you coming back for lavish art and intricate plot lines, this series hooks readers with two characters that are impossible not to adore.

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PABLO PENTON