

QEP awareness to assist University accreditation

QEP, page 1

mind” is because from March 8-12, a team of SACS representatives will be going around campus asking students randomly, “What is your QEP?”

“When SACS comes, they are very interested to see how broad the message is getting out,” said Susan Himburg, the SACS director of FIU’s Office of Accreditation.

The team of SACS representatives will consist of 10 individuals from a variety of institutions across the South; they will be checking the information that FIU

presented them in a compliance certification report.

“A compliance report covers all aspects of the institution. It looks at curriculum, programs, faculty credentials, the institution, the University’s physical and financial resources, do we provide the services to the students who are the consumers, both for their enrichment and their academic development,” Himburg said.

The University documented all those different aspects and submitted it for review this past Fall semester. FIU was found to be in compliance with 84 out of 89 SACS principles used to evaluate

southern universities.

“That’s unheard of. We were the best review of any of the 40 institutions reviewed this Fall. We are very proud of that,” Himburg said.

According to Himburg, the SACS visitors will be checking facilities and student services, but it will be very minimal, as their main focus will be the QEP and how well the message has spread.

The Office of Accreditation, as well as the Office of Global Learning Initiatives, will be inviting 10 students to represent the school at a University presentation at MMC for the SACS visitors. While the

names of all these students have not been revealed, they will include some of those who have attended the Tuesday Times Roundtable events, along with Student Government Council President at MMC Anthony Rionda.

While the main focus of the SACS members will be MMC, they will also be giving some attention to BBC, which they will visit on March 9.

However, according to Himburg, the SACS visit to BBC will be “more of a look at the campus, its services and how it functions.”

Master’s program teaches skills for jobs in finance

RISK, page 1

and getting this degree gives them a chance to gain an edge to apply for jobs in banks, investment firms, public utilities and corporations that use these complex financial instruments,” Villamor said.

The program is composed of 12 three-credit classes and can be completed in one year.

In the three years the program has been around, they have graduated 12 to 15 students, with many of them going on to pursue doctorate’s in financial engineering. Others have gained employment in companies such as Florida Power & Light Company or other investment firms.

Villamor’s ultimate plan is to have about 20-25 new students a year.

Employment for financial analysts is expected to grow much faster than the average for all other occupations, according to a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Careers in this field average an annual wage of \$87,780.

Many students heard about the program through e-mail and word of mouth, which is the primary way the message is getting out.

“Our marketing capabilities are very limited due to budget constraints, we practically have no budget for marketing,” Villamor said.

Solange Kouemou has been teaching for the program since the beginning and now teaches Risk Analysis and Management 2.

“The first year was successful; students are out working in their field,” Kouemou said.

Although her class remains small with only about 15 students, Professor Kouemou says her prime goal is to have motivated students, even if the number is small.

Richard Whittacker was a part of the first class to graduate from this program and is now teaching a Computer Programming Concepts component.

This particular class

features computing that the students will face on the job, such as predicting the future prices of products.

“There are many jobs out there for people with these skills,” Whittacker said.

Dayna Bishop, who already has a master’s in finance from FIU, decided to come back to school because she thought she could get a more technical background in finance.

“The program will definitely help me in the job market. Employers will want people with technical skills and who know how to sell,” Bishop said.

Chris Reira, who completed his bachelor’s in finance from University of Miami, also “wanted a more technical background.”

“I like the classes but they are challenging. It gives me a more technical idea of how finance works,” Reira said.

Villamor hopes for the program to continue and grow, hopefully one day offering a Ph.D. program in Risk Anal-

ysis Management.

Alessandro Pintucchi received his undergraduate degree in finance from University of Florida and joined the program to get a better understanding of financial pricing.

“It is an exciting program, the only one of its kind in South Florida, and it will prepare me for my future career when I start my own investment firm,” Pintucchi said.

“I would like it if the program had more classes, in order to get more practice,” he added.

“This program is needed on campus because it provides students with an opportunity to

get well-paid and challenging jobs where they’ll have an opportunity to be creative,” Villamor said.

“Our goal is to train our students to be creative thinkers within the field of financial engineering and risk analysis,

to be out of the box thinkers; and provide them with the quantitative tools to be able to implement investment and risk management strategies that will give them an edge at the time they apply for employment.”

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 1 issue, the article on Page 3 regarding Antoinette Down’s retirement as a library assistant was incorrect. Downs retired from her position as library director. Also, a quote attributed to Senior Library Technical Assistant Marisa Browne was said by Downs.

In the Feb. 5 issue, a photo on Page 3 credited to Tomas Lopez-Melis was actually taken by Luisa Ospina.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.





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The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, Room 210, at the Modesto Maidique Campus and in the Wolfe University Center, Room 124, at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, Room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com.



TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS





Where curiously creative minds meet.

ArtWorks!

February 10, 2010 / 6-9pm

The Frost Art Museum presents ArtWorks!, an exhibition devoted to healing arts. The ArtWorks! art therapy exhibition showcases students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools in the art therapy program and will also feature art by cancer patients participating in the Arts in Medicine Program sponsored by the Children’s Cancer Fund, an affiliate of The Jackson Memorial Foundation. On view The Fantastic World of José Gurvich; In Body and Soul: The Performance Art of María Teresa Hincapié and Women’s Work / Men’s Work: Labor and Gender in America.

All events are free and open to the public. For a full list of events please visit <http://thefrost.fiu.edu>

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University
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Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

Students dance to be funky, fresh, fly

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Staff Writer

The Student Programming Council of Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a party called “Free to be Funky, Fresh and Fly” on the night of Feb. 5.

The dance was free for students, but people who were not University students had to pay \$3 for admittance.

Donations to Haiti were also accepted.

SPC hosted the event but they partnered with several other groups at BBC, according to Marie Wray, special events coordinator for SPC.

Those groups are the Black Student Union, Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Incorporated, Gamma Beta Chi, Black Female Development and Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success.

Wray planned the dance with the help of her co-sponsors, SPC executive board and advisor.

“Without all their help it wouldn’t have been a party,” Wray said.

This party is one of SPC’s opening events for their annual Pan-African Celebration events.

The Wolfe University Center

Ballroom was the original venue for the festival but Wray said that because the lights of the room weren’t working properly, the venue was moved to Room 155.

Wray said that over 60 students attended and they did receive some donations for Haiti.

Some items were given away during the party: shutter shades (the glasses Kanye West wore during his “Stronger” video) and neon-rimmed glasses.

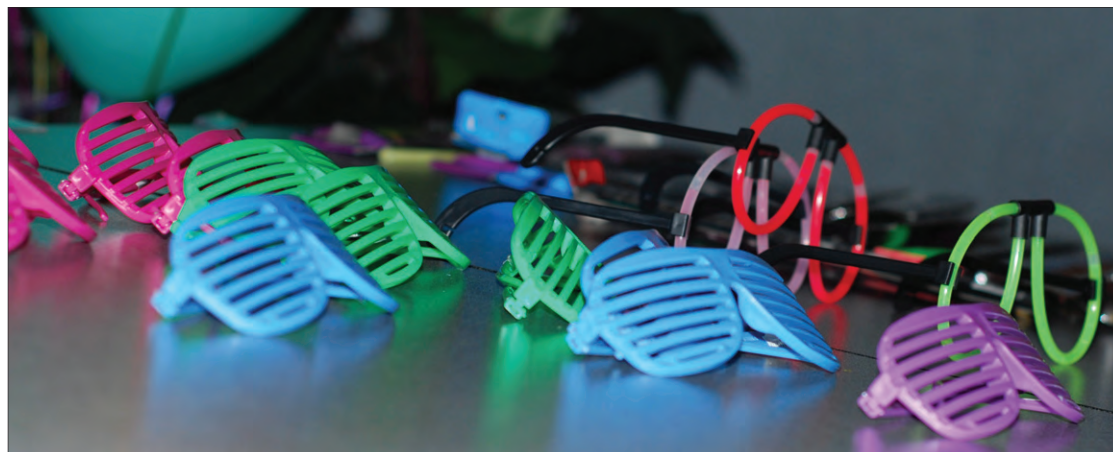
Front Runners Music group provided the music, according to Wray.

Richard Pierre, senior political science major, was DJ for most of the night as Polar Bear Pierre.

Robert Smith, senior construction management major, and his Gamma Beta Chi fraternity brothers did a fraternity dance for select songs throughout the night that had them going around the room doing synchronized dance moves.

Right when students seemed to be enjoying themselves the most, the party ended one hour earlier than planned.

“I feel the party went well, I just wish it lasted longer,” Wray said.



PHOTOS BY PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

UPPER LEFT: Robert Smith, senior construction management major, (front) and his Gamma Beta Chi fraternity brothers dance during SPC’s Pan-African dance festival on Feb. 5.

UPPER RIGHT: Brittany Brewster, senior public relations major, being the engine while the hit song “C’m on Ride the Train” by Quad City DJs was played.

BOTTOM: Shutter shades and glow-in-the-dark glasses were given out to those who attended.

SGC-BBC

Council discusses waiving replacement ID fee

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

Concerned about the student body, the Student Government Council senate at the Biscayne Bay Campus began working on a new goal to possibly eliminate student ID fees, on Feb. 8.

During this senate meeting Nickolay Chikishev, lower division senator and speaker pro tempore, discussed the developmental goal.

“The new goal is to eliminate the charge for student IDs,” he said during the meeting.

However, the idea was short-lived after members in the senate examined and identified a weakness, leading to a series of questions.

“Do you know how much money in revenue comes from the ID?” said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor. “We should do that research and find out where that money is and where it goes.”

According to Chikishev, who made some “rough estimates” during the meeting, he calculated a total revenue of \$80,000 per semester.

“If there are 8,000 students and each pays \$10 per ID each

semester then it would be a total of \$80,000,” he said.

Honors College Senator Andrea Cruz agrees that the IDs may be overpriced after doing some “mental math.”

“If students attend the University for four years that would be eight semesters, then students would be paying \$80 per ID,” she said. “The ID is not worth that.”

However, Lower Division Senator Zahra Arbabi asked continued to voice concern.

“If they don’t charge them that anymore then the money will be cut from somewhere. First we need to know what the money is going toward,” she said.

Similarly, according to Chikishev, students must pay \$75 per semester for their parking decal.

“The reason every student must pay for the parking decals is because they use that money to upkeep and maintain the parking lot, therefore they need that money. So it’s not the cost of the decal that is the issue, it’s the matter of what it funds,” Zapata said.

As an alternative, Art and Sciences Senator Gregory Jean-Baptiste created a solution that could benefit students and would not jeopardize fund: by elimi-

nating only replacement ID fees.

“They might need the \$10 per ID they collect mandatory every semester, but they can’t rely on

the students losing their ID and paying the \$10 for a replacement card. We want to focus on that,” he said.

However, the idea still has not been finalized and the senate must still contact the appropriate faculty at the ID office.

HELPING HANDS



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

An area on the first floor of Academic II fills with donations from students, faculty and staff for Food for the Poor, Inc. collection for Haiti.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Potential revisions in SGA voting may improve on last year's failures

This is the second of a two-part series, the first of which was published Feb. 8.

In a response to last year's voting failures, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus is currently in the preliminary stages of revamping their elections process.

Christy Flores, the newly appointed elections commissioner, proposed several reforms in her speech to the SGC-MMC Senate in an effort to make the process smoother.

Among some of the changes proposed include extending valid campaigning hours and reevaluating the limit in the amount of flyers that can be posted on message boards around campus, among others.

If executed correctly, these changes can be positive.

Trimming the fat on campaigning regulations will allow the elections board to focus on regulating the elections themselves rather than on the petty squabbles generated by candidates looking for a minor edge.

Some of the changes proposed, however, are worrisome, including a proposed absentee ballot for students who cannot make it out to the polls.

But, according to SGC-MMC advisor Jose Toscano, SGA is planning to hire votenet.com, a third-party Internet voting firm. SGA has yet to release too many details regarding this partnership.

An absentee ballot is practically useless when students will be able to vote online, via a computer or mobile device. Even students studying abroad can vote. It does not require physical presence as in local or federal elections.

In fact, instituting an absentee ballot system could open up potential opportunities for voter fraud. Unless properly surveilled and managed, people could potentially request several ballots and vote for their favorite candidates using other student's information.

The use of votenet.com is a response to voting failures at MMC during the 2009 elections. During the elections, the software used, available via Panthersoft, experienced several severe glitches that prevented students from voting online, SGA's primary way of voting.

This glitch lead SGA to revert to paper ballots, and possibly the disenfranchisement of voters who were unaware of the changes.

Thousands of students were only allowed to vote for Presidential candidates and the ratification of a new constitution; senatorial candidates' names were unavailable.

With seven weeks remaining until elections, switching to a new third party may cause confusion among voters, and is a hurdle that must be overcome.

But if switching to a third party voting system means that elections will be a smooth, trouble-free experience, then voter confusion might be a small price to pay.

For the past three years, the online elections were held on the PantherSoft system, known currently as myFIU. In order to avoid a low voter turnout, Student Government must implement a massive informational campaign.

SGA needs to make an effort to advertise the change in voting systems, emphasizing the system's ease of use and availability. Students will be willing to participate in voting if it is easy and can be done on their smartphone while walking to class, this idea needs to form the core of SGA's marketing strategy.

The Beacon feels that with a level-headed approach to reforming campaign rules and a successful implementation of a third-party online voting system for all students, this year's elections could be an improvement over last year's.

CABRALITICS

All FIU rules should be socially enforced

As you may have heard, this semester, FIU decided to ban smoking anywhere on campus. While some have criticized the decision as nothing more than a public relations gimmick, I for one commend it, and I hope it leads to bans on other detrimental student conduct.

It is the first step on a wonderful journey toward halting bad student behavior through the miracle of social enforcement, also known as peer pressure.

For too long, peer pressure has been used as a tool by the worst elements of society, forcing young people to try narcotics, drink while under age, and listen to the music of Taylor Swift. In a historic effort, FIU has taken a bold step by harnessing peer pressure for the forces of good. The smoking ban has no enforcement mechanism other than students and faculty shaming others into putting out their cigarettes.

Though administrators made the rule, everyday people will be left to enforce it. That aspect of the ban is truly a triumph of the American spirit. If there is one thing this country stands for, it is its people taking the law into their own hands.

Some have claimed that the ban is unnecessary, since pre-existing regulations stipulated that smokers could only indulge

their habit 20 feet away from public buildings, a policy that, if enforced, would have protected non-smokers from the hazards of second-hand smoke.

While that may be true, pre-existing rules would have to actually be enforced to work, and with all the budget cuts, FIU can't very well go around enforcing every single rule.

It is far more responsible to have a symbolically powerful policy carried out by students and faculty that's 100 percent free to the University.

Other critics have said that the ban is uncalled for because the general student population was never allowed to vote on it, and student government actually voted to support enforcing the rules already in place rather than imposing a smoking ban.

These critics seem to miss a crucial point. Students' opinions aren't nearly as valid as those of administrators. You see, as students, we are all still learning and our innocent minds cannot fully comprehend the greatness of every University decision.

I mean, who are we to demand a say in how our schools affairs are conducted? Hopefully the imposition of this ban will teach us students that our concerns and ideas are inherently illegitimate.

COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL

Improper burials dishearten Haitians

FAREED ISSA
Contributing Writer

After the deadly earthquake that shook Haiti, the survivors on the island have been obligated to bury bodies of the dead in mass graves. A rectangular empty hole 20 feet deep, 20 feet wide and 100 feet long is one of the mass graves in Haiti which awaits the dead.

The dump trucks that belong to the government are being filled with the victims of the earthquake, later to be dropped off in mass graves without the taking of names, or even pictures of the dead.

It is necessary but unfortunate that mass graves need to be used in order to bury the victims of the earthquake.

Along with everything else that has been stolen by the recent catastrophic earthquake, the people of Haiti have to deal with the improper burial of its people in mass graves. Haitians hold sacred to them proper burial and are reluctant about being buried underground.

Preferring to be interred above ground in a kav, which is an elaborate multi-chambered tomb, that may cost more than the house in which the individual lived in. The people of Haiti find

“Because of Haitians' strong funeral beliefs, I feel that a day of remembrance would be a way to get somewhat of a more proper goodbye to the victims...”

that the mass graves in which its victims are being buried are appalling.

“They bury you like a dog,” said Pegles Fleurigine, 51, in an alleyway where he has built coffins for more than a decade, according to an article on MSNBC.com. “They don't bury you in caskets.”

Some mass graves are even located on the hills of Titanyen, a place where once it was the preferred dumping ground for Haiti's brutal rulers. It is considered a cursed ground by most Haitians but now it is a land mixed with victims of a deadly earthquake, and the bodies of despised past rulers.

For Haitians, usual funerals are important social events that typically involve several days of social interaction; but due to the circumstances in Haiti, such important traditions have to

This ban sets an excellent precedent, one that I hope inspires administrators to pass more socially enforced rules prohibiting behavior that endangers the lives and well-being of others, like driving, for instance. Driving, like smoking, is highly dangerous, and thousands of people die every year from car crashes and hit-and-run accidents.

As a pedestrian, I am tired of my life being put in danger because others made a personal choice to use automotive transportation. Driving, like smoking, pollutes the air, and is contrary to our University's stated goal of going green. Plus, a ban on driving, like the ban on smoking, would grab lots of media attention.

Hopefully, if we are lucky enough, FIU will move swiftly to ban driving, that filthy habit, using the same social enforcement mechanisms that have completely stopped FIU students from ever doing anything that violates University policy or standards of common courtesy.

With a driving ban, our noblest students would be forced to chase down speeding cars, yelling at the drivers to get them to stop. That should be just about as effective and necessary as this new ban on smoking.

Cabralitics is a reoccurring column that appears in every other Wednesday issue of The Beacon.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

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.

QUOTATIONATION

“I won't close the door that could perhaps be open for me in the future.”

Sarah Palin
on possible presidential run in 2012

Let's Talk SEX

Carnival promotes AIDS awareness

ADRIAN ESPINOSA
Contributing Writer

Booths with games and sticker-wealthy operators lined the outskirts of the Graham Center Pit and crowds gathered to take part in the orgy of sex, knowledge and free pizza at this year's Sex Carnival. The carnival focused on spreading awareness and providing information on safe sex and the dangers of not taking the necessary precautions.

Starting at the south end of the pit, carnival-goers were handed slips of paper with true or false questions on them and six adjacent spaces on the side for their stickers. Stickers (green or blue) were won at booths after you played a game, and then exchanged for prizes.

The Pan-African Committee took the role of stressing attention on AIDS awareness and prompted people to get themselves checked. Amid their Sex Jeopardy and Zucchini-on-a-Condom games, their efforts to raise awareness of sex issues came into view through the savvy operators who gave out fun facts and safety tips.

Vladimir August, a junior majoring in construction management, is the Pan-African chair who oversaw the proceedings of this month's event.

"In the black community there's a huge issue with HIV and AIDS ... being Black History Month, I think it should be acknowledged, especially among the entire FIU community."

Working in tandem with the Pan-African Committee was the University Health Services Center.

Camila Pham, a health educator who helped organize the event, outlined the carnivals main objectives.

"We are trying to get our students to make healthy and smart decisions and keep them from contracting any diseases," she said.

The carnival was strategically placed in the same week as Valentine's Day in hopes of giving students an upper hand in their sex lives.

Jonathan Hernandez, a sophomore majoring in pre-nursing, was among those who took the



Photos By Megan Keiser/The Beacon

On Feb. 8 the University Health Services held a Sex Carnival in the Graham Center Pit. Using distorted goggles, students sift through colored condoms and won prizes for being the first to properly put it on a dildo. The carnival informed students about safe sex practices.

trek into the GC Pit.

"I went in to get some free condoms and pizza but I left having learned more than I thought I would," he said.

The organizations that came together and made the carnival possible also arranged many other events throughout this month and

the next, all heralding the same mission of practicing a safe and self-aware sex life.

Participants in the SEXY's - Hottest Award Show have the opportunity to win a Nintendo Wii with a game and, for the educationally oriented, there is the Sex n' Ice Cream Talk Session

happening on Feb. 10.

For more information on any of these events, visit the Health Care and Wellness Center next to the Public Safety Building at the Modesto Maidique Campus or the Wellness Center at Biscayne Bay Campus which is located in the former Children's Center.

Sigma Phi Epsilon hosts charity block party Funds to help spinal cord research

AMANDA BATCHELOR
Staff Writer

The gentlemen of Sigma Phi Epsilon are ready to have some fun and party this semester, but not without raising a little bit of money for a good cause - The Buoniconti Fund, the fundraising arm of The Miami Project.

According to the SigEp Block Party event invitation: "In 1985, Barth A. Green, M.D. and NFL Hall of Fame linebacker Nick Buoniconti, helped found The Miami Project after Marc Buoniconti sustained a paralyzing spinal cord injury during a college football game.

Today, The Miami Project, based at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, is the world's most comprehensive spinal cord injury research center."

The Buoniconti family established the Buoniconti Fund to Cure Paralysis in 1992 because

of its commitment and drive to find a cure for paralysis resulting from spinal cord injury and to help millions of people throughout the world walk once more.

The Buoniconti Fund is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to assist The Miami Project achieve its national and international goals.

This event will be the first annual SigEp Block Party.

The event will be held on Feb. 19 at the Modesto Maidique Campus in between the Gold and Blue garages. It is taking place exactly one week after Sigma Phi Epsilon's first annual Queen of Hearts Pageant, where ticket sales will go to their philanthropy as well.

At the block party, the winner of the pageant will be announced. As the winner, she will not hold the title of the fraternity's sweetheart, but is expected to support them throughout her term as

"Queen of Hearts" in their philanthropy work.

After speaking with several brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon, many of them say these two events are somewhat experimental for them, since both events are new for them this year and some are a little nervous about pulling it all off.

However, the odds seem to be in their favor since many fraternities and sororities hold pageants throughout the year for their philanthropy and generally make well over \$2,000 for their charity. Since they will be raising money both at the pageant and at the block party, the skies are looking clear for them.

Plus, who can resist a good party in college, especially one with live music, food and dancing?

The event will start at 5 p.m. and go until 9 p.m. It is \$10 entry into the block party, which may seem a little steep for college students but, remember folks, it is for a good cause.

PANEL PANEL

Mini-series plays down mystical hero

There are very simple reasons as to why some superheroes are well known.

It could be because they are all over TV and movies, or because they're ingrained into society due to the fact that they've been around since World War II.

There are a few, though, that are mentioned all over the school playground and hold a devout fan base among dedicated aficionados because they are the most powerful.

An easy example would be The Silver Surfer, but even he has made his way to the big screen. A classic character that, to this day, has seen little more than just print on the page is Doctor Strange,

The Master of the Mystic Arts.

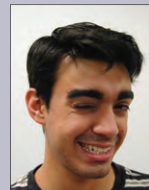
In any Doctor Strange issue, you'll be hard pressed to find moments of blandness or boredom. Most writers throw him into mystical nether dimensions where he battles with age-old demons for the fate of the universe.

Most artists illustrate these tales with crazy and erratic colors and lines. The mystical realms really let the artists open up their creative side, leaving most Doctor Strange issues resembling a modern pop painting.

With his grand history backing him up, many fans expect the latest mini-series to involve some of the same crazy antics but, due to recent changes in Strange's life, the mini-series takes a completely different approach.

STRANGE, page 6

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

Series should focus on helping hero reclaim power title

STRANGE, page 5

Having been recently stripped of his title as The Sorcerer Supreme, Doctor Strange finds himself in an extremely mundane setting. Starting off the story at a baseball game, he relaxes and just happens to stumble onto an attack on Earth by demons.

Where the old Doctor would simply recite an incantation and wish the demons away, without his title of Sorcerer Supreme, he is much less powerful and must find a new way to defeat his enemies.

What I hoped would be an extremely inventive mini-series that shows Strange dealing with his loss of power turns out to be a goofy fight

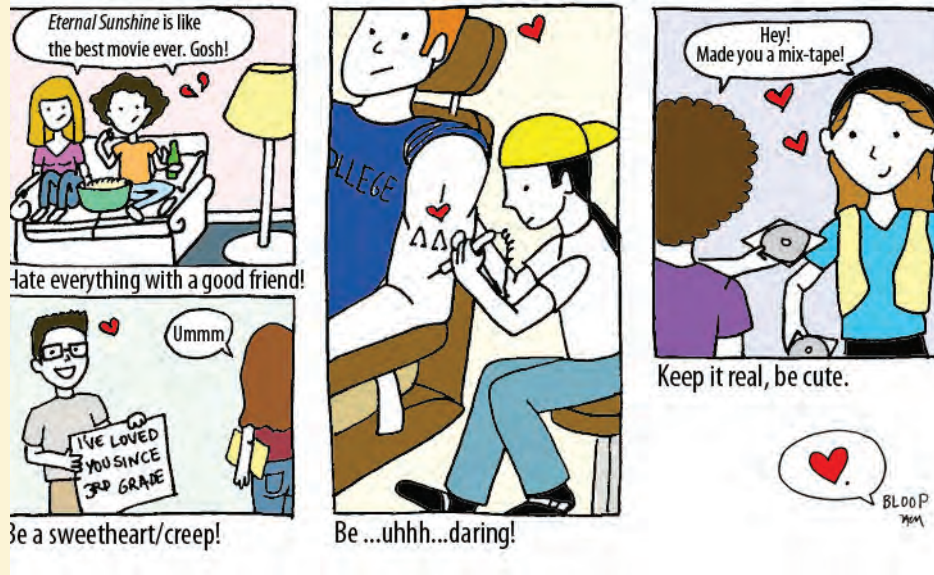
with random demons. Toss in his new apprentice for “reliability to the fans” and you get an idea that Marvel doesn’t really know how to use their characters. Doctor Strange has been the most powerful guy on the mystical block for decades and he was always prideful of his position.

This mini-series should focus less on him

dealing with his new status and more on him fighting to get it back. The art is interesting, but a bit dodgy on the story-telling side. The comic is an exciting read with lots of action, and if you’re a newcomer to the world of Doctor Strange, it could serve as a good jumping on point. Older fans would simply be disappointed.

Diversions

Some not-so-terrible Valentine’s Day ideas



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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: Easy

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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SUN BELT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL EAST DIVISION

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT.	STREAK
Middle Tennessee	12-1	17-5	.773	W8
Western Kentucky	9-3	15-8	.652	W4
South Alabama	8-5	13-11	.542	L2
Florida Atlantic	8-5	12-11	.522	W2
FIU	6-7	11-13	.458	W3
Troy	4-9	11-11	.500	L3

WEST DIVISION

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT.	STREAK
UALR	11-1	18-5	.783	W13
Denver	8-4	13-10	.565	L4
Arkansas State	4-8	9-14	.391	L2
Louisiana-Lafayette	3-9	8-16	.333	L4
North Texas	3-10	6-18	.250	L4
ULM	3-10	9-14	.391	L1
New Orleans	3-10	9-15	.375	W2

*All records up to date as of Feb. 8.

Duo looks to return in time for closing stretch

WOMEN'S, page 8

been without their second leading rebounder for five straight games.

Freshman Finda Mansare and junior Maja Krajacic have been able to contribute in the front court, but it is Adley who will provide the depth that Russo covets in time for the tournament.

"This time of year you either drop out or keep going," Russo said. "We have a tough road ahead of us and these teams play hard."

Heading into Wednesday's game against South Alabama (13-11, 8-5), FIU (11-13, 6-7) will once again play with an injury stricken roster.

Russo, however, has confidence that her team can handle the pressure as they have all season long.

The team will also travel without the experience of senior Ashley Traugott

WOMEN'S FIU VS. USA

- Time: 8 p.m.
- When: Wed, Feb. 10
- Where: South Alabama
- Broadcast: None

who is dealing with the loss of her grandmother. Traugott has not played in five of the last six games, which Russo says is due to illness.

"These kids have been truly magnificent," said Russo. "They've dealt with a lot of adversity. Most of our games we have played without three or four major players but I think they're still hungry."

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FIU looks to close out strong

TRACK, page 8

second on the FIU freshman list, after last week's solid performance.

Freshman Josh Castaldo also had a very strong showing in the weight throw, with a mark of

13.88.

Despite all the freshman success, junior Pedro Bigorra may have had the most impressive achievement all week.

His time of 1:53.66 in the men's 800-meter was the fastest time ran in the

SBC this season.

Next week the track and field team will travel to Grand Rapids, Mich. in a final attempt to prepare for the Sun Belt Conference championships later this month.

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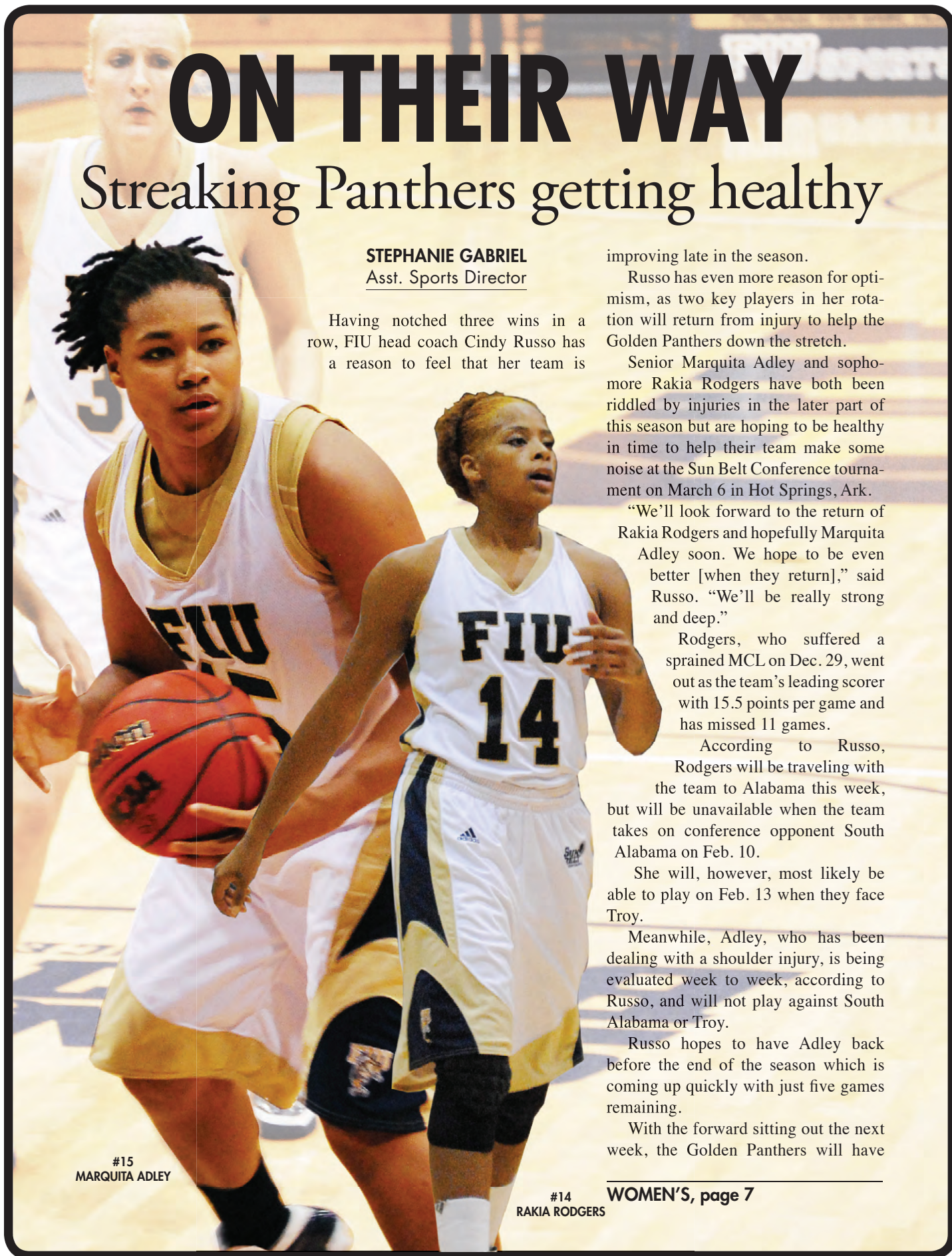


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ON THEIR WAY

Streaking Panthers getting healthy

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

Having notched three wins in a row, FIU head coach Cindy Russo has a reason to feel that her team is

improving late in the season.

Russo has even more reason for optimism, as two key players in her rotation will return from injury to help the Golden Panthers down the stretch.

Senior Marquita Adley and sophomore Rakia Rodgers have both been riddled by injuries in the later part of this season but are hoping to be healthy in time to help their team make some noise at the Sun Belt Conference tournament on March 6 in Hot Springs, Ark.

“We’ll look forward to the return of Rakia Rodgers and hopefully Marquita Adley soon. We hope to be even better [when they return],” said Russo. “We’ll be really strong and deep.”

Rodgers, who suffered a sprained MCL on Dec. 29, went out as the team’s leading scorer with 15.5 points per game and has missed 11 games.

According to Russo, Rodgers will be traveling with the team to Alabama this week, but will be unavailable when the team takes on conference opponent South Alabama on Feb. 10.

She will, however, most likely be able to play on Feb. 13 when they face Troy.

Meanwhile, Adley, who has been dealing with a shoulder injury, is being evaluated week to week, according to Russo, and will not play against South Alabama or Troy.

Russo hopes to have Adley back before the end of the season which is coming up quickly with just five games remaining.

With the forward sitting out the next week, the Golden Panthers will have

#15
MARQUITA ADLEY

#14
RAKIA RODGERS

WOMEN’S, page 7

TRACK AND FIELD

Freshmen lead FIU to success at invitational

TOM DEAN
Staff Writer

For the second time in three weeks, the FIU track and field team went to New York.



LONG

This time, the Golden Panthers participated in the New Balance Invitational at the Armory Track and Field Center on Feb. 5 and shared success in a slew of events.

The highlight of the event was freshman Lakeisha Kelley beating out over 80 other entrants to secure a first place finish in the women’s 200-meter dash.

Kelley’s time of 24.84, just .37 seconds off of the freshman FIU record, ranks fourth in the Sun Belt Conference this season.

Freshman Dennison Long placed fifth in the men’s 200-meter dash with a 22.13 finish.

In the 60-meter dash, freshman Dennison Long broke the school record by clocking in with a time of 6.78 in the preliminaries before finishing at 6.88 in the finals to come in eighth.

The 4x200-meter relay team also had a record setting performance, breaking a record that had stood 17 years previously with a time of 1:30.05.

Freshman Tai Canady finished the 800-meter run in a time of 2:18.75.

The time ranks seventh in the conference this year.

Freshman Andrew Mattox, coming off his destruction of the FIU freshman record in the shot put, threw a 13.74, which ranks

TRACK, page 7

TENNIS

Weather worries cause schedule reshuffling

SPENCER MANLEY
Contributing Writer

The major snowstorm that hit the Northeast last weekend even found a way to affect FIU.

The Golden Panthers were scheduled for a two-match weekend in Virginia, facing Virginia Commonwealth University (4-2) and William & Mary (3-3), but were forced to reschedule because of the weather.

The matches have since been rescheduled to Friday, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m. and Saturday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., respectively.

The team would then play its first conference road game of the season when it visits South Alabama on Feb. 19.

FIU, 3-1 on the season, were ousted

4-0 by No. 8 University of Florida at the ITA Indoor National Qualifiers on Jan. 31.

The Golden Panthers were looking to bounce back from the humbling loss, but anxiety will continue to build as they must wait another week before getting back into action.

Both No. 31 FIU and No. 43 VCU went 1-1 at the ITA Indoor National Qualifiers held Jan. 29-31, where the Panthers handed Southern Methodist University a loss before falling to UF in blowout fashion.

VCU’s loss came from No. 1 Duke, 6-1, after beating Wake Forest 4-2 the day before.

On Feb. 13 FIU will be going up against No. 50 William & Mary, who also went (1-1) at the ITA Qualifiers and is on a two-match losing skid,

most recently a 5-2 loss to Ohio State.

The Golden Panthers are 22-4 against teams ranked below 25th in the nation, dating back to last season.

FIU is in the midst of a road swing that will not see them return home until they face Boston College on March 3, where they start a nine-match home stand.

TENNIS FIU VS. VCU

- Time: 10 a.m.
- When: Feb. 12
- Where: Virginia
- Broadcast: None



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Christine Seredni and the Golden Panthers were forced to reschedule.