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SPOTLIGHT

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Athletic Director Pete Garcia needs to apologize to the University community and must lead by example.

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With a shaky economy, universities are smiling upon students with bigger wallets.

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Stay hydrated before you faint with tips from the "Think Before You Drink" series.

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In light of the Miami VA Hospital debacle, there shouldn't be any mistakes in medicine.

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COLUMN: Upcoming hip hop releases bring little excitement.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Baseball splits close games in double header against No. 2 Sun Belt Conference team on the road.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Philosophy Club – Meeting, April 13, 3:30 p.m. Ponder all of Socrates' questions without answers and discuss Plato's cave at GC 314.

FIU Yoga Club – Meeting, April 13, 7:45 p.m. Sooth all of your end of the semester stress with this club at GC 241.

Classical Music Performance, April 13, 8 p.m. Enjoy these smooth tunes to make you forget about your final grades at Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Silverstein, April 14, 7 p.m. Enjoy this Canadian Post-Hardcore Band and see if they use the word "about" in any of their songs at Revolution Live.

Spa Week, April 14, All Day. Discount Spa treatment? Need we say more? Happening at the Standard Hotel

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com/calendar.

WEATHER

MONDAY
Mostly sunny
LOW: 75 HIGH: 84

TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 73 HIGH: 87

WEDNESDAY
Scattered t-storms
LOW: 68 HIGH: 86

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SGA BUDGET INVESTIGATION: PART 1

SGC-UP spending down in '08-'09

CHARLIE GRAU
DAVID BARRIOS
Beacon Staff

The Student Government Association allocates money to students' resources and organizations every fiscal year. Their budget comes from the Activities and Services fee, which is paid by every student and is currently at \$10.52 per credit hour.

During the Spring term of every school year, University-wide and campus-specific budget hearings are held, in which student government determines how to fund student organizations and clubs during the upcoming fiscal year.

Student Media analyzed SGA's budget; this is part one of a running series on how SGA has spent student fee money over the past three years.

SGC at University Park budget and expenditures this year have been somewhat curtailed since 2006.

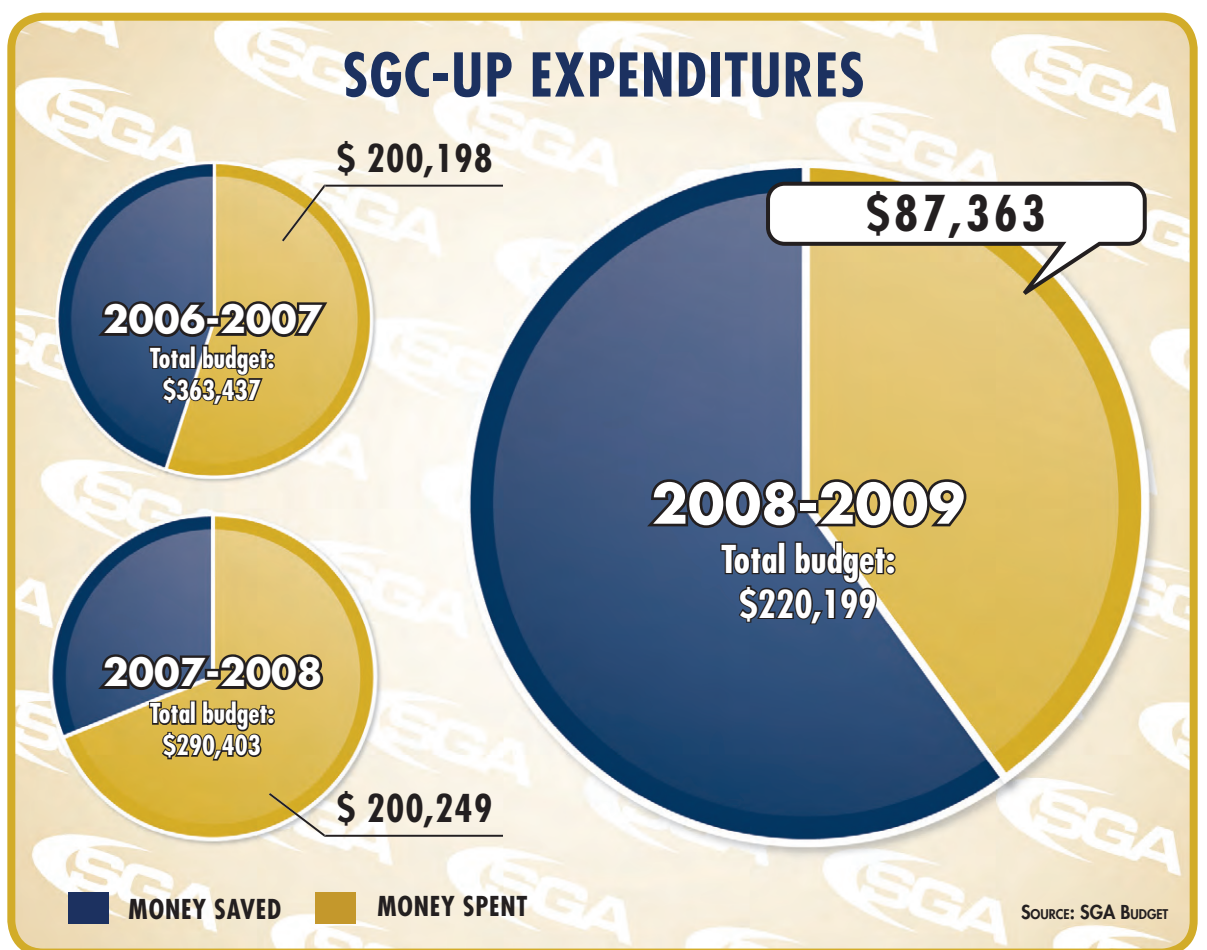
In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, SGC-UP had an expenditure budget of \$220,191.45. As of April 8, \$87,362.66, or 40 percent, had been spent.

In the previous year, SGC-UP had \$290,403.00 and spent about 69 percent of it.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the expenditure budget was \$363,437.40 and \$200,198.29 or 55 percent was spent.

Money that is not spent during each fiscal year goes to an SGA reserve account that is controlled by Student Affairs President Rosa Jones. In order for SGA to use money from the reserve, it must be authorized by Jones.

"If we don't spend the dollars this year, they get rolled over next year, but



we don't see them. We have the opportunity to then put in a request and, if the request is heard, we may use some of those dollars for a project that comes up throughout the year," said SGC-UP outgoing president, Arthur "A.J." Meyer. "So we try to make sure that we are very efficient throughout the year, especially in the Summer and Fall."

Director for Budget and Personnel Matilde Gramling said that her office is responsible for reviewing all of the accounts in Student Affairs but doesn't approve every transaction made by

clubs and organization. That responsibility falls under each club or organization's advisor.

In SGC-UP, that responsibility would fall to advisor Jose Toscano and SGC-UP comptroller Robert Chung.

"Most SGA expenditures that are authorized get signed by myself and Jose [Toscano], SGA advisor," Chung said.

Student government expenditures are documented through Expense Authorization Forms, filed by the members making the requests.

These expenses are then signed and approved by Toscano and Chung. Office Manager Liliana Alfonso makes a record of the transaction by inputting it into the account history.

During the past three years, Gramling said her department has worked hard to teach SGA not to spend money merely for the sake of spending because it will get rolled into the reserve account; any expenditures, she said, should line up with the strategic goals of the

BUDGET, page 2

Garcia concedes to allegations of profanity

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

University President Modesto A. Maidique reprimanded Athletic Director Pete Garcia after a University investigation revealed Garcia used profanity, intimidated staff, lost his temper and misused state resources, according to a University report dated April 6.

Garcia apologized to Athletics, was verbally reprimanded by Maidique and must attend weekly internal counseling sessions for an undetermined amount of time.

Several employees filed complaints to Human Resources against Garcia on Feb. 23. The

grievances prompted Human Resources to interview coaches, staff and administrative employees to confirm the allegations.

The following allegations were substantiated by the report:

- Garcia lost his temper and used profanity when talking to staff,
- Garcia misused state resources,

In the report, Garcia admitted to all the substantiated allegations. He noted his passion for his job leads him to be tough at times, but he is committed to improving his behavior, according to the report.

GARCIA, page 8

Leaf through it: Tree brochure released

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Copy Editor

Hoping to spark an interest in natural preservation, University professors have released the FIU Campus Tree Guide.

The brochure, written by the Wertheim Conservatory Glasshouse Green House curator Scott Zona and Brad Bennett, an associate professor of biology, was released on Jan. 8 and includes a key to identify trees on both campuses by major characters like leaf shape, leaf color and fruit, as well as where they can be found and whether they are native or exotic.

These guides are common in most

universities that are surrounded by vast green spaces like the University of Florida and Michigan State University.

"If you've ever been to other campuses in the country, they have a map or guide available of the trees," Zona said. "It's fundamental for a university's landscape, architecture or biology programs."

Zona said she always wanted to do something like it. Then, University President Modesto A. Maidique's wife, Nancy Maidique, asked him for a tour guide of the trees on campus. As a result, Zona received the authorization for the brochure, thereby increasing

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NEWS FLASH

FIU

Public forum to discuss fee increase

The University Fee Committee will hold a forum to discuss the possible increase of the Activities and Services fee.

The forum is scheduled for April 13 at 10:30 a.m. in WUC 155 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and at 2:30 p.m. in the Graham Center East Ballroom at University Park.

The committee is seeking to raise the A&S fee from \$10.52 per credit to \$12.06.

The money goes to the Student Government Association, which allocates funds to student organizations.

LOCAL

County approves bonds for Marlins stadium

Miami-Dade County commissioners have approved \$563 million worth of bonds toward the construction of the new Marlin stadium.

According to the *South Florida Business Journal*, the bonds, totaling no more than \$563 million, will come from funds generated by the sports and tourism taxes the general obligation funds.

According to the commissioners, the cost of the bonding, including all financial costs, will be about \$1.8 million.

—Compiled by Jorge Valens

Examining SGA's spending decisions

BUDGET, page 1

University.

Gramling added that this fiscal year was the best in terms of clubs and organizations maintaining their budgets and spending wisely.

"There has been a trend toward more accountability and responsibility," Gramling said. "They know they are being held more accountable to any resources they've been given and know they have to be responsible because they are going to have to report on it at the end of the year."

In addition, one of Meyer's goals this year was to cut spending and make the council more efficient.

"When I came into the position, I wanted to eliminate a lot of the spending that went on ... the ill-advised spending that went on in the past," Meyer said.

Examples include \$16,893.79 spent on T-shirts during the 2006-2007 fiscal year — \$11,003.87 of which was used to purchase shirts for SGA giveaways and council members. The following year T-shirt expenditures were down to \$4,490.25 — \$241.25 of which on shirts for SGA interns.

This year, \$2,886 was spent on T-shirts — \$1,286 of which were spent on SGA polos.

"There is no need in a time where we are now, that we should spend money on T-shirts. I thought it was absurd," Meyer said.

Other items purchased during past administrations included 2,500 can coolers in March 2008 for \$1,735 and \$2,201.64 on SGA suggestion boxes.

Even though Meyer said SGC-UP doesn't get the feedback it was hoping, he defended the purchase of the suggestion boxes.

"The response was not what we hoped it would be," Meyer said. "I still think the investment was a fairly good investment of trying to get our name out there for the student body and giving them another avenue to reach out to us."

SGA also spent \$1,920 on dark blue grip pens and \$1,080 on 1,000 key holders, totaling \$4,000 on July 2007.

"I think we can do more about strategizing on how to do things better in marketing," Toscano said. "We need to do

a much better job in getting outside of the Graham Center so people around campus can visualize SGA and where their money is going to."

BIG TICKET ITEMS

The last two SGC-UP annual banquets cost more than \$4,000. Last year, \$1,870.25 was spent on engravings and trophies that were awarded to SGC-UP members, and \$2,152 was spent on food.

"We used to give plaques to most SGA members. I'd say 90 percent of the membership. Now, we're only giving plaques to members of the executive branch and members who truly excel. I'd say that we'd save upward of 60 percent out of the awards budget for the banquet. We're also moving more from a banquet to a reception," Toscano said.

Meyer admitted that attendance for the banquet is not where it should be, but said it was important every year to reward SGC-UP members for their hard work.

According to Meyer, this year's banquet will be scaled back by hosting a "cocktail reception instead of offering full course meals."

Another party SGC-UP paid for was a celebration for President Modesto A. Maidique on March 2007. The final price for all the festivities was \$2,981.35.

The breakdown is as follows: \$1,758.90 for catering, \$1,050 for a cake and \$172.45 for an optical crystal for Maidique.

"I can't speak on behalf on what was determined by that administration," Toscano said. "I do believe that it was done to honor someone who moved this whole University forward. It was a small token on behalf of SGA for so many years of service. Would an event like this be held today? No, we've been downsizing."

Current SGC-UP officials are not held responsible for previous administrations' decisions.

In order to keep cutting spending during the past three years, clubs and organizations have been combined and, now, club retreats as well.

"We're combining a lot of Campus Life leadership retreats," Meyer said. "But not the intern retreat because it's at a different point in time, and not the Greek retreat because they have a different focus."

Another area that has seen a decrease in

spending is the SGC-UP intern program.

In 2006-2007, the SGC-UP intern program cost \$3,639.61. Most of the budget was spent on the intern retreat to Alva, Fla., and \$817.20 on an intern holiday party.

Last year, \$5,061.15 was spent on the intern program with \$2,980 of it going toward the intern retreat.

This year, both SGCs had their intern retreat together at Gold Coast Christian Camp in Lake Worth, Fla. for \$6,044.59, with SGC-BBC contributing \$1,000.

SGC-UP spent \$4,950.84 on their intern program this year.

FUTURE SPENDING

SGC-UP has \$143,838.46 left in their expenditure budget for this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

What's left to purchase?

Televisions.

Meyer said one of the last things he wants to accomplish before his term is up is purchasing two televisions for the SGC-UP office, each ranging from \$1,000-\$2,000.

One would be used for video-conferencing and presentations, and the other would be used in the waiting area in the SGC-UP office.

Meyer was hoping to get the televisions a month and a half ago so students could see what their elected officials were voting on during the Florida legislative session.

"I know a lot of what's going on in Tallahassee but the lower division senators don't have a clue. And I really want to give them that type of opportunity to watch the Florida session," Meyer said. "We're not at FSU or FAMU. We can't just walk to the capital."

Although he was able to cut spending, he was unable to fulfill one of his campaign promises of making SGC-UP more transparent by posting all its documents and figures on the Web site.

"Our transparency was not what I hoped it would be. But if [students] come to this office, they can get any document they want and will be happy with the numbers they see in front of them, and there will be very few reasons to question our numbers and what we spent them on," Meyer said. "I have full confidence that Anthony [Rionda] will be able to continue our legacy and do a good job."

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CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated April 10, Sergio Montealegre's name was misspelled on page 2.

Found an error? Please email any corrections to tips@fiusm.com.

Eco-friendly fest promotes Earth Day

SOLDANAYS MUJICA

Staff Writer

Music, earth balloons and the smell of veggie burgers filled the air at the FIU Preserve during the Earth Day Fest.

Students for Environmental Action, the group that was in charge of the Earth Day Fest, made signs and put earth balloons all around the University to show students the path toward the preserve, and call them to participate in the event they hold every year. The preserve is the grassy land located right across the Recreation Center and next to the U.S. Century Bank Arena at University Park.

"It's an annual thing that we do in the preserve and, with this event, we try to show students and fellow neighbors the issues and what we can do to try to lessen our impact on the Earth," said Cara Cooper, SEA treasurer, who was in charge of the fest.

SEA provided games, such as Jeopardy Trivia and sack races, and raffled items such as Wow Green cleaning products, a bag made out of shirts,

bowls made out of old records and "green products" from the bookstore.

"We just want people out here, people drive by it and they don't even know the preserve exists. They think it's just a bunch of trees that will be knocked down and that there's nothing back here," said Jessica Okaty, a member of SEA and co-director of Earth Day Fest.

Student bands like Jacob Jeffries Band, Halfway to Moshka, Nakedown and the DJs from the Electro-Acoustic Research Society all played during the event.

SEA also provided free food for all students present. Their menu consisted of veggie burgers with organic vegetables for toppings, veggie hot dogs, natural fruit juices and a variety of fruits and vegetables donated by Three Sisters Farm.

SEA also brought organizations that deal and care for the environment to provide information to students who attended the event.

There were many profit and non-profit organizations at the event informing students about what they do

and giving tips about how to save the environment. These companies included Miami-Dade Adopt-a-Tree, National Audubon Society, Wow Green International Company, I Love Yoga, Friends of the Everglades, South Florida Water Management District and FIU's Environmental Law Society.

"What we are really here for is to provide environmental awareness and the action to the FIU community. We want other students to be aware and learn how they can change," said SEA President Stephany Alvarez.

FIU's Greenride representatives were there as well to encourage students to partake in the carpooling system in order to help contain pollution in the environment.

There were around 100 students at the fest and 20 volunteers that helped with the festival.

"What I liked best about the event is that they are making saving the environment more fun than it really is," said senior Curtis Bryant.

Earth Day Fest was held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the FIU Preserve during Earth Week, from April 6-10.

Exotic trees labeled, but not for hugging

TREES, page 1

botanical literacy to provide ideas of landscaping at home.

"They are more than green wallpaper, they're the background for campus life," Zona said.

According to Zona, the trees on campus lower the temperature of the area, provide shade and a habitat for wildlife, lower carbon emissions and make the campus more beautiful. Zona said the student body wants to be more literate about nature.

"This is sort of an entrance into the natural world for students," Zona said.

David Fonseca, a junior political science major and environmental affairs chair of Student Government Association, echoed Zona's sentiment.

"Students that are involved with environmental issues or students that might have interests in the outdoors might learn to appreciate more the trees on campus," Fonseca said. "It also creates another learning opportunity for students that may want to pursue environmental science."

For Bennett, the guide was about environmental conservation. According to him, tree planting has been going on since the University opened its doors, but after several powerful

storms like Hurricane Andrew, landscape has been severely damaged. Logging didn't help matters either.

"Many trees are not properly cared for. They are removed, relocated or cut down for landscaping," Bennett said. "We need to continue to plant."

Because the University is mostly a commuter campus, students have a bigger carbon footprint than on other campuses, Bennett said. For him, there aren't enough trees on campus to offset all of the fossil fuels being released into the atmosphere.

"There should be a designated area that's an open space for trees, which won't be destroyed because of the next building," he said.

However, there is a way that trees have been getting cared for in the University. David Lee, chair and professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, said that because of National Arbor Day, which is celebrated the last Friday of every April, trees have been planted for 25 years now. Despite that, Lee said more could have been done.

"There have been times in the past where there could have been more responsibility in the administration," Lee said.

Even through the efforts put forth by the University during National Arbor Day and Earth Week, which was from April 6-10, Lee



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON



PLAQUES OF ORIGIN: No longer unnoticed, the native and exotic trees that enhance the campus atmosphere are now identifiable by the metallic plates that are wrapped around their trunks. The tags, attached with flexible metal strands, identify the trees with their scientific classification and name, common name and place of origin.

said more needs to be done.

"We need to do a better job at educating them about that. Now is the time to start," Lee said.

The FIU Campus Tree Guide can be found at the Information Desk in the Biscayne Bay Campus' Wolfe University Center or in the

University Park campus at the Department of Biological Sciences main office in OE 167. It is also available on the Department of Biological Sciences Web site at <http://www.fiu.edu/~biology/html/outreach/campustreeguide.pdf>.

Health seminar examines dangers of dehydration

IVAN FLORES
Contributing Writer

The average human adult body is composed 50 to 60 percent of water and experts say that you lose 2.5 liters of water per day. Keeping that body hydrated is an essential part of healthy living and was the topic of "Think Before You Drink."

The third installment

information on what to drink and not to drink."

Nusrath saw this event as an opportunity to interact with students. She handed out fliers with information about the importance of hydration, as well as tips to stay hydrated.

According to the Mayo Clinic, a non-profit medical practice organization, dehydration is an abnormal depletion of bodily fluids.

showed a PowerPoint about hydration and gave out tips to students on how to prevent dehydration. She told students to drink more water, avoid sugary drinks and steer clear of coffee and alcohol.

"I didn't know that coffee was a diuretic," said Jose Flores, a sophomore psychology major. "I would like to make a change in my life," he said, adding that he'd like to drink more water.

In addition to the information, she gave away water bottles, pencils, pens, small beach balls, vitamin water and stickers.

"It is important to stay hydrated because every reaction in the body needs water," Nusrath said.

According to Velez, in severe cases of dehydration, when it causes fainting, intravenous treatment is required. However, in most cases, drinking water and resting are enough.

Nusrath's next event will take place April 14 at 1 p.m. in Panther Square at BBC. The topic will be how to prepare fast meals without cooking, aptly called "Quick Meals Without Cooking."

"It would be interesting to [prepare] a meal without cooking," Nusrath said.

It is important to stay hydrated because every reaction in the body needs water.

Noor Nusrath, graduate student
Nutrition

of graduate student Noor Nusrath's health seminar series, "Think Before You Drink," took place April 9. It was designed to teach students the importance of hydration.

Nusrath began the series earlier this month in an effort to inform students why it's important to live a healthy lifestyle.

"I was walking in Academic I and I saw five or six vending machines," said Nusrath, who is finishing her masters in nutrition. "[I saw a] good opportunity to pass out

Director of University Health Services at Biscayne Bay Campus, Elvira Velez, who is also a nurse practitioner, said dehydration can be caused by vomiting, diarrhea and the consumption of diuretics.

However, there are simple ways to stop your body from losing water.

"If you are vomiting, sip ginger tea or water," said Velez, adding it is essential to stop the loss of bodily fluids and prevent further dehydration.

During the event, Nusrath

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THE BEACON | Editorial

Garcia owes University community at-large an apology for behavior

In light of the recent developments concerning the university reprimand of Athletic Director Pete Garcia, *The Beacon* has been compelled to respond with an opinion of how the incidents and the following judgments should be handled. While Garcia has apologized to his immediate staff, we feel that the student body and the University community at-large are also due an apology.

Garcia has been accused of “overall unprofessional management and poor leadership style, misuse of state funds, hostile work environment and improper attendance reporting,” according to a report filed with the Employee and Labor Relations Department of Human Resources Division April 6.

In the past, FIU athletics has come under scrutiny for misconduct, particularly the on-field fight with the University of Miami and the issues concerning the academic progress of student athletes that have led to scholarship reductions in numerous athletic sports.

These allegations, however, concerns no one but the director and therein lies perhaps the greatest issue for the students.

This is not a group of students playing an emotional game at the highest collegiate level, nor is this the product of a weak support infrastructure, settled upon more for convenience than for success. This represents the poor judgment of one individual; a university administrator with arguably greater public visibility than any other on campus.

The Beacon feels that the employment of any individual is among the most sensitive of matters, and should be handled and addressed by the university administration.

Consider however, having a direct supervisor of yours raising his or her voice at you, while using

profanity, in a manner that you, an employee, would describe as intimidating.

Consider working in a professional environment and being assigned to take care of personal business for your direct supervisor, such as collecting his or her dry cleaning.

Finally, consider the organization you work for converting a five day 40-hour work week to four days, but that supervisor continuing the old five day practice.

Garcia described his “intimidating” actions as those of a passionate leader who cannot lower expectations, with the goal of making FIU a top notch athletics program, and has stated that he was unaware that personal business was not to be conducted that way within the office, as it was permissible with his previous employer, the University of Miami.

Those who are of the highest University standing should be held to the highest standard. While their missteps may be magnified, this is not without due cause.

Garcia has issued an apology to the department he leads, but the question for the students, as the largest financial supporter of athletics, is has this been sufficient for you?

If so, misdemeanors like sending a staffer to pick up some clean shirts are no big deal, and intensity must be tolerated in building a quality athletic department.

If not, how then should an administrator, who twice declined to comment on the story, be welcomed back into the fold of the University? Garcia can begin making amends by talking to the community and coming clean to more than just his immediate staff. Garcia, at the very least, owes the student body and University community an apology.

MONEY TALKS

Colleges favor wealthier students

OLGA VICENS
Staff Writer

Colleges across the United States have been faced with severe budget cuts this past year. In order to make up for these budget cuts, many colleges have turned to accepting more students who do not require need-based financial aid.

While I understand that financial problems mean colleges have to try to avoid budget cuts, I believe this decision to accept less students who are qualified, but don't have the money to attend that particular university will hurt these colleges in the long run or when the economy improves.

Brandeis University, which is need-blind except for international, wait-listed and transfer students, accepted 10 percent more international students than it normally would this year.

Gil Villanueva, the dean of admissions, told *The New York Times* that he expected the university would also be taking more wait-listed and transfer students this year. This does not mean that colleges are cutting their financial aid budget. Many colleges have actually increased their financial aid budgets despite cuts.

However, with the recession more students are applying for financial aid for college and these colleges say that they can only afford to give so many need-based scholarships. Not only that, but some students already receiving financial aid in these schools are also starting to require more in order to stay enrolled.

Rodney M. Oto, the director of student financial services at Carleton College, stated to the *Times* that even families that make \$200,000 a year are applying for aid this year. This is even more common among families earning this much if they have more than one child going to college.

Accepting students who are less qualified only because they can pay tuition will lead to a lower stan-

dard for these universities.

This lower standard will eventually make them less prestigious and make it more difficult for them to compete with other universities both in sports and academics.

“There's going to be a cascading of talented lower-income kids down the social hierarchy of American higher education, and some cascading up of affluent kids,” said Morton Owen Schapiro, president of Williams College and an economist who studies higher education, to *The New York Times*.

In the end the schools who accept these students are going to be better off because they will have the more academically competitive students and the better sports teams.

Not only that but it is also unfair to the students who work hard because they are told that is what it takes to get into a decent school when in reality all that is necessary is to have well-off parents.

“I think that is horrible,” said sophomore Karin Vallega, a chemistry major. “They should accept students based on intelligence and talent instead of how much money they have.”

It also sends the wrong message to students who *can* afford to pay tuition. It's telling them that even though they might not have the grades, they can still have the advantage over a hard-working, low-income student.

“If you are a student of means or ability, or both, there has never been a better year,” Robert A. Sevier, an enrollment consultant to colleges, told the *Times*.

This country will move out of its recession and when it does, these colleges are going to feel the loss of potential students – students declined solely because of financial aid reasons. So when looking at applicants for the following semester, these colleges need to seriously consider the cost of cutting such students from their roster.



More attention needed to avoid tragic medical errors

ANA MARIA AROCHA
Contributing Writer

A few years ago I learned that my uncle died of AIDS – and not of cancer, as I had been told to believe my entire life. I can understand my family's reasons for not telling me when I was a child; in fact, I am glad they decided against telling me earlier because ever since I found out, I have been scared for my life.

Every time I donate blood, or watch a couple fall passionately and recklessly into each other's arms in movies, I think of my uncle. I don't think of him, though, when I visit a doctor and have routine procedures done.

But maybe I should.

Last month, more than 3,000 South Florida veterans were notified that they might have been exposed to HIV and hepatitis while undergoing routine colonoscopies at the Miami Veterans Hospital.

In a notice posted on its Web site urging patients to seek testing, the Department of Veterans Affairs explains that between May 2004 and March 12, 2009, a tube that attaches to the endoscope equipment was cleaned between colonoscopy procedures, but not disinfected according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

This failure to follow protocol has placed thousands of veterans and their families in danger of infection. Shockingly, similar cases have arisen in Tennessee and Georgia within the past nine years, totaling 10,555 veterans who could possibly be exposed to the viruses.

As of April 1, 2009, 3,174 veterans had received their test results. One person tested

positive for HIV, five for hepatitis B and 11 for hepatitis C. None of these results were from Miami.

As Miami veterans brace for news, I can only imagine their thoughts and accusations. Imagine for a second feeling sick to your stomach every time you eat. You go to the doctor and are told that a colonoscopy will identify the problem and your doctor could then treat your ailment.

Three months later you receive a letter in the mail that brings to light the fact that your stomachaches are now the least of your worries.

We go to doctors to feel better, not to contract potentially fatal diseases. Negligence is not an option in the medical field.

This is an epidemic, a wave of carelessness spreading throughout the country that needs a cure – a safe, uncontaminated one.

To worsen matters, the Miami Veterans Hospital ran two different inspections of its equipment before discovering the contamination. On Dec. 22, 2008, the DVA warned affiliated hospitals throughout the country of the problem after being informed of the contaminations in Tennessee and Georgia. The Miami Veterans Hospital ran its tests and claimed they were clean. More thorough inspections in March revealed the opposite.

So whom can we trust when the hospitals are making such dangerous mistakes so regularly? Of course there is human error to take into account, but does that really apply in this situation?

This is not one isolated case where one individual forgot to clean an instrument and a patient was infected (although that is not acceptable either). This is an epidemic, a wave of carelessness spreading throughout the country that needs a cure – a safe, uncontaminated one.

GROWING UP GREEK

University's first sorority celebrates 25th anniversary

REBECCA BURTON
Contributing Writer

FIU's oldest sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma's Delta Kappa chapter, celebrated its 25th anniversary on April 7. They were commemorated as the first social sorority at FIU.

Founded in 1984, Phi Sigma Sigma started as a local sorority called Chi Delta Epsilon, according to a sorority press release.

The first group of 15 women decided they wanted to become a national sorority, but, being in a new university, sororities on the national level were hesitant to invest in the new chapter.

"We interviewed three organizations and based on their history, beliefs and commitment, we believed Phi Sigma Sigma embodied who we were as a group," said Silvia Tomaselli, a founding member and first chapter president.

This year the sorority raised more than \$4,000 during its annual fashion show. The funds were donated to Dance Marathon, FIU's biggest philanthropy event which benefits the Children's Miracle Network and Miami Children's Hospital.

Phi Sigma Sigma also contributes to the National Kidney Foundation by way of the Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation.

The sorority also formed Janelle's Wishing Well, a charity created in

I wanted our chapter to survive the test of time but we have more than survived - we have thrived.

Silvia Tomaselli, founding member
Phi Sigma Sigma

memory of Janelle Bertot, a fellow sister, who died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a leak in a friend's car, according to the foundation's Web site.

Not only does Phi Sigma Sigma raise funds for charities, its members always strive to convey the message, "aim high," according to Angela Oneto, a senior and sister.

"Phi Sigma Sigma has taught me you must always push yourself and be all you can be. Aiming high is something I will live by for the rest of my life," Oneto said.

Sisters can be found in many of the University's organizations including Student Government Association, Student Programming Council, Go Team and peer advising, according to Oneto.

FIU's Greek scene has evolved since Phi Sigma Sigma formed, according to Tomaselli.

"I feel like 'Phi Sig' and Greek life was in its infant stage in 1984," Tomaselli said. "FIU was still trying to provide the real college experience back then. We learned by doing and trying new things. Now, it's a full-fledged academic and social experience."

De Rojas, the chapter's key advisor, said today's college women need organizations like Phi Sigma Sigma that will empower them.

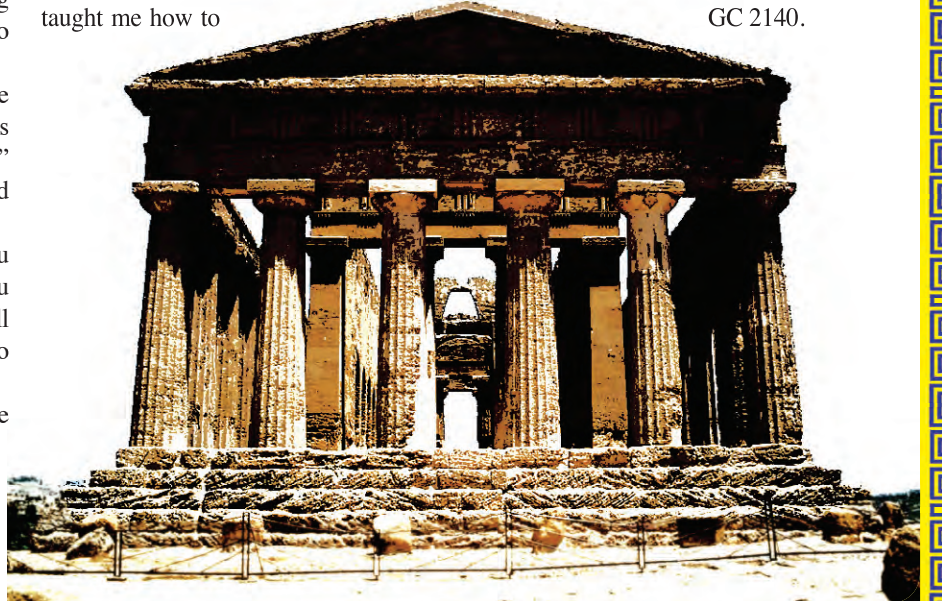
"College would have never been the same without Phi Sig. It has taught me how to

lead by example, how to lead with integrity and how to be quick to listen and slow to speak," De Rojas said.

The sorority held its Founder's Day brunch on April 5 in which Tomaselli attended with her daughter and niece.

"I wanted them to see how proud I am, that I had the opportunity to be a part of FIU's history by starting the first national sorority," Tomaselli said. "I don't think in my wildest dreams could I have hoped for what we have today. I wanted our chapter to survive the test of time but we have more than survived - we have thrived."

To learn more about Phi Sigma Sigma, visit the Campus Life Office in GC 2140.



PhD: Piled higher and deeper

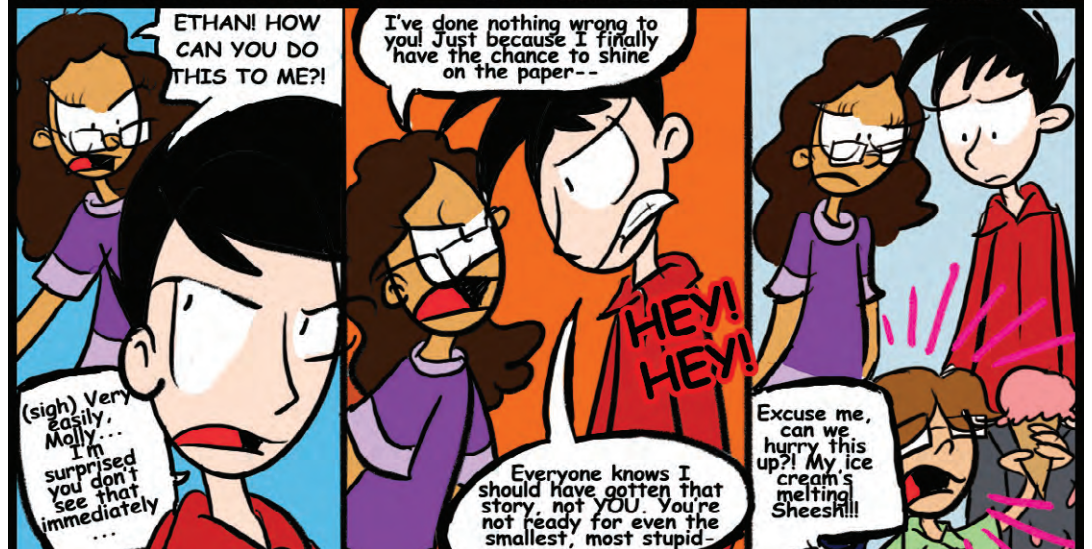
diversions



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art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez



POP & CIRCUMSTANCE

New remasters not so Fab for die-hard fans

Sept. 9, 2009 will represent the biggest day for Beatles fanatics in quite some time. This is the day the long-awaited digital remastering of the Beatles' original discography will be released, along with a special Beatles-only Rock Band.

The remastering of the tracks is something that Beatles fans have been asking for since the day after the subpar quality 80's CD transfers were released.

The idea of hearing the original albums, in all of the hi-fi glory the Fab Four originally intended (in mono!) is enough to get any Beatlemaniac salivating,

and I count myself among them.

The Beatles were meticulous in the preparation of their albums, being one of the first bands to really take a direct hand in the production and mixing of their albums, especially Paul McCartney, the perfectionist and driving force behind the first Beatles rerelease of the millennium, *Let It Be ... Naked*.

When the original CDs were released, it was a shoddy job at best. The bottom end was removed almost entirely, burying McCartney's groundbreaking work for

COLUMN



CHRIS TOWERS

TOWERS, page 6

MOMENT OF CLARITY

April brings drought in hip-hop music, releases

It's really hard to write this right now. Please, somebody give me something to say. This month may be the hardest month in hip-hop I can remember. I'm sure everybody is relieved that Mims' *Guilt* hit the shelves a few days ago. I'm sure all 11 Mims fans in the nation are satisfied. But there are other fans that will be satisfied in the coming weeks.

All 52 Asher Roth fans, most of who are college students, will be relieved to know his album is finally here. But that will probably flop as much as Vlade Divac did when he still played basketball. Wait, there is light at the end of the tunnel (cliché, but it fits the awkward moment). Mike Jones has a new album arriving later in the month.

I think all hip-hop fans can find comfort in Hell Rell's newest release on Fontana records. After all, he is one of the hardest dudes to look at in the industry. Yukmouth is coming out soon. The last thing I heard about that dude was that *The Game* ended his career. OK, Crumb Snatcha, Bubba Sparxx and Fat Joe are all due pretty soon, so is anybody excited?

I'm done. Just like April is already done for me and the first half of the month isn't even through.

So let's move into May, where there are some promising projects on the horizon. Though even May is mostly tough to like. The first is Philadelphia Freeway 2. Freeway get's in the studio for a

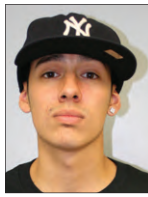
LP for just the third time in his career, but has been delivering hot tracks over and over again underground that have seeped into your favorite rap site and gotten rave reviews. His last effort (*Free at Last*) was nice, but Philadelphia Freeway 1 was grotesquely underrated. He no longer roams behind Kanye West and Jay-Z on Roc-A-Fella records, so he should be Free, no pun, to do his thing on Fontana. Free can go hard or mellow on a variety of beats and downright flow.

The most interesting arrival, deep into May, is Eminem's *Relapse*. Eminem told us to kick him off stage if he was ever rapping at this age, and he told Moby he was too old when he recorded music at 36. But we can let that go cause he is Marshall, and Moby is Moby. Eminem can still take a beat, eat it, let it out and eat it again just to make sure it's dead, and he is definitely better off coming back than resting on four albums. The first single, "We made you" is what we're used to seeing out of a first hit, but it's interesting to see how the whole album takes shape. You know how I feel about the overall quality of an album (see last column). Unless somebody surprises the landscape, those two records are all I have.

Dear Summer: Please take us out of desolation.

Moment of Clarity addresses the current state of hip hop every other Monday.

COLUMN



JONATHAN RAMOS



Despite improved quality, price tempers excitement

TOWERS, page 5

fear of gaining distortion and losing the rest of the sound.

The remasters promise to return the original, intended booming bottom end, and this is great for me, as I've always felt the bass on the Beatles' music is the most important element.

So, needless to say, the promise of high quality, digitally remastered CDs is enough to convince me to shell out for the box set, as I am a sucker for all things Beatles and have bought each release since I can remember.

However, I've invested so much in this band both financially and emotionally that I feel manipulated a bit. Apple Corps knows I'm going to spend the money on this even though I could very easily download it for free at high quality anyways.

Sure, they've added some fancy packaging, but that just serves to distract from the fact that it's ultimately the same albums I've bought before.

And the whole run up to the release has been littered with pretty obvious attempts at drumming up free publicity for

their release, from rumors of unreleased tracks seeing the light of day so far (no dice on that) to a one-off reunion between McCartney and Ringo Starr last weekend.

It would be nice to think that the surge of recent Beatles-related news was just a coincidence, but it can't be brushed away. Everyone knew these remasters were coming for some time, and the fact that they've kept it a "secret" while allowing details to leak out about the development and process of the remastering bothers me.

The Beatles fan base is the most devoted fan base in the history of music, just above stoned Deadheads, and Apple knows that people will come out in droves to buy anything with the name on it, so to keep it under wraps for so long and make the fans wait is unfair to the people who will be out there Sept. 9 shelling out \$18 per disc.

Musicians don't really "owe" anything to their fans, but it would be nice to get the feeling that, just once, a decision was made to get the best music out to people as soon as possible, and not just to milk every penny they can out of fans.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • APRIL 13

WHAT: Bahamian Student Organization – Meeting
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC 343
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Philosophy Club – Meeting
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 314
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Haitian Students Organization - Meeting
WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 150
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Italian Club – Meeting
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: GC 1223
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Classical Music Performance
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

TUESDAY • APRIL 14

WHAT: Truth for Life – Meeting
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Preksha Meditation Club
WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Students for a free Tibet
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Silverstein
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Revolution Live
CONTACT: 954-727-0950

WHAT: Spa Week
WHEN: Call
WHERE: The Standard Hotel
CONTACT: 305-673-1717

- Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

PIT PONG



JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

BALLS OF FURY: Manuel Aranda, a junior industrial and system engineering major, plays a game of table tennis in the Graham Center Pit during the early afternoon on April 10.



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Student goes from classroom to professional racing

CHRIS GREEN
Contributing Writer

At age 12, Andrew Carbonell decided to help his father fill a void.

His father, Alfredo, had not raced professionally for 10 years and found himself wanting to race once again. Bonding through racing go-karts, the father and son hobby evolved into a professional career that Carbonell never imagined possible.

"It all started out as just a father-son hobby and it has taken off very quickly," the FIU freshman said. "In reality, it all started because my father wanted to get back into racing. He had done it in the past and we wanted to get back into it for fun."

Now as a 19-year-old student, Andrew finds himself with a full-time ride participating in the full season for the 2009 KONI Challenge with Freedom Autosport in the Street Tuner class.

The KONI Challenge is a NASCAR-owned racing series that competes on road courses around the nation, using cars that include Porsche, Ferrari, Mini Cooper, Ford and Mazda.

Carbonell began his racing career in the Homestead-Miami Speedway and quickly won several championships, including the 2005 Florida 125cc title. While Carbonell was rising up the ranks, his family watched in awe.

"My mom doesn't get too worried," he said. "She will once in a while and ask how it's all going, but she went through all of the hard times when my dad raced. I have two brothers and one

sister and I'm the only one who has any interest in racing."

In addition to all of this, Andrew was invited to Chiluca, Mexico for the Easykart 100cc race where he proceeded to set a new track record in 2005.

Andrew had quickly shown that he was competitive and had the drive, attracting the attention of the vice president of Operations at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Albert Garcia, whom Andrew's father knew as well.

Next thing he knew, Andrew found himself with a summer job at the track, keeping him close to where he felt most at home. Being around racing is all it took for Carbonell to decide that this was what he wanted to do professionally.

In 2006, Andrew's career took a fast track when he earned his racing license from the Skip Barber Racing School, and he began racing in the Spec Miata class of the Sports Car Club of America.

He set track records at Sebring International Raceway, Moroso Motorsports Park and Homestead, and finished seventh in the 2007 SCCA Mazda MX-5 Cup Championship.

In addition, he achieved another career milestone in his first professional race in 2007, when he participated in the SCCA Pro Racing Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup. From there, Andrew started numerous Grand-Am KONI Challenge races, including the Fresh From Florida 200 at Daytona, where he co-drove with actor Patrick Dempsey.

He ran as high as second in the season opener at Daytona before exiting due to gearbox issues.



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

PROFESSIONAL RANKS: Andrew Carbonell, 19, signs autographs during the Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Coming into Homestead-Miami Speedway race this past March, the second event of the year, Andrew was ready to put the disappointments of Daytona behind him and put forth his all in front of his home crowd.

"I've raced the Miatas so often at Homestead I have my rhythm down," Carbonell said.

Andrew was fast out of the gate showing the pros his level of talent. Even his own father, Alfredo, who was competing in the same race,

was quick to say how impressed he was.

"It won't be too odd racing against my son. He has a load of talent, and I don't expect him to give me any room for error," said the elder Carbonell.

For the rest of his career Andrew wants to accomplish one thing.

"I just want to continue to follow my dream of becoming a professional race car driver," he said.

Pitching duels silence offenses

BASEBALL, page 8

but in the third and fourth inning they began to get on base against the Golden Panthers' No. 1 starter. In the bottom of the third inning, the Blue Raiders broke the shutout with an unearned run. However, he would get into trouble again in the fourth when he gave up a walk and two singles with two outs. This tied the game at 2-2.

The Blue Raiders would not cross the plate again as Rembisz shut down MTSU for the next 4 1/3 innings.

It was a 2-2 game until the top of the eighth, when Mike Martinez led off the inning with a home run. Michael Vargas capped off the three-run inning with a solo blast of his own to set.

Head coach Turtle Thomas took Rembisz out of the game for R.J. Fondon in the ninth with a runner on base.

Fondon got the only two Blue Raiders he faced out to grab his second save of the season.

MTSU 6, FIU 3

Three Golden Panthers' errors hurt starting pitcher Tom Ebert's already shaky night. The starter gave up 14 hits in six innings and six runs, but half of the runs were unearned. The result was a 6-3 loss at the hands of the Blue Raiders who avoided the series loss on April 10.

The Golden Panthers got off to another early lead, 1-0, but the Blue Raiders snatched the lead away with a productive third inning. Four singles and an error led the three runs, two of which were unearned.

Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, Blue Raiders starter Kenneth Roberts did not allow them any big innings. Instead he spread out three runs throughout seven innings of work. And the Blue Raiders pitching staff would not let another run score.

The Blue Raiders' conference record improved to 12-5 and the Golden Panthers are right behind them in the standings at 9-5.

Panthers earn first sweep since 2007

SOFTBALL, page 8

In the top of the sixth, MTSU scored their only run on a wild pitch. Bell's home run came in the bottom of the sixth with a runner on base to go ahead by four runs, 5-1.

FIU 3, MTSU 1

Pitcher Kasey Barrett couldn't match Jennifer Gniadek's no-hitter, but she came pretty close.

Barrett finished off the sweep with her 13th complete game of the season on Saturday as FIU defeated Middle Tennessee 3-1.

Barrett (12-9) struck out nine and walked one while allowing one unearned run. It's her second straight game without allowing an earned run. The win capped off the three-game sweep of MTSU and FIU's first sweep since 2007. The Golden Panthers improved to 24-22 (8-8, Sun Belt) and matched their longest winning

streak of the season with five.

"We are winning at the right time of the year," McClendon said.

MTSU struck first in the third inning when catcher Jessica Landau committed an error at the plate and allowed a runner to score safely. Landau redeemed herself by tying the game at 1-1. Lauren Spiers hit her first career home run in the sixth to break the tie.

Freshman Jenny Welch also hit a homer to insure the FIU 3-1 victory.



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SOFTBALL SERIES: FIU 3, MTSU 0

POTENT PITCHING

Team allows two runs in three games

LEILANI LAUREANO
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers swept their first opponent since 2007 when they defeated the Sun Belt Conference foe Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders on April 10-11 due to dominant pitching.

FIU's pitching held MTSU to only two runs and eight hits over 23 innings including a Jennifer Gniadek no-hitter in the second game.

The Golden Panthers are riding their second five-game winning streak of the season.

FIU 1, MTSU 0

Junior Lauren Spiers singled in the bottom of the ninth to win the first game of the series 1-0 against Middle Tennessee on April 10.

Junior Kasey Barrett stuck out a career-high 13 batters and completed her second shutout of the season.

Barrett (11-9) threw her 12th complete game and allowed two hits the entire game.

The Golden Panthers (22-22, 5-8 Sun Belt) had 13 hits. FIU also left a season-high 15 runners on base.

FIU struggled to get runners to score, especially in the bottom of the fourth. After three consecutive singles by Spiers, Ashley McClain and Jessica Landau, FIU had the

bases loaded with no outs. Blue Raiders' pitcher Lindsey Vander Lugt was able to get out of the jam and FIU stranded the runners.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Kim Rodriguez singled and became the Golden Panthers' career leader in total bases with 341, the record previously held by assistant coach Jennifer Owens.

With bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth, Spiers singled to left to score Bell for the walk-off, game-winning run.

FIU 5, MTSU 1

Freshman pitcher Jennifer Gniadek just wanted to get a win.

In the process she recorded her first career no-hitter against the Blue Raiders. It is the sixth no-no in FIU history and the first since 2003.

"It felt great," Gniadek said. "The win always comes first, but the no-hitter was in the back of my mind."

Gniadek (9-9) struck out five batters and had one earned run on a wild pitch in seven innings.

FIU (23-22, 6-8) played a well-rounded game with great pitching, strong defense and timely hitting to sweep the double-header 5-1.

"Pitching has been our strength throughout the year, but we haven't necessarily played the defense behind them," said head coach Beth



SAMUEL LEWIS/FIUSPORTS.COM

NO-HITTER: Freshman Jennifer Gniadek pitched a no-hitter against the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders on April 10.

McClendon to fuisports.com.

Katie Bell, who hit her first home run of the season, went 3-for-4 in the game. In the bottom of the second inning, Bell doubled to bring home

Soberon from second and added another run to extend FIU's lead to 2-0.

SOFTBALL, page 7

BASEBALL SERIES: FIU 1, MTSU 1

Sun Belt foes split first two games

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers' strong starting pitching gave their bullpen much needed rest against the No. 2 Sun Belt Conference team-Middle Tennessee State University.

Scott Rembisz pitched into the ninth to capture the first win of the series, but Tom Ebert could not overcome 14 hits and three unearned runs.

FIU 5, MTSU 2

After giving up a combined 24 runs in their last two games, starter Scott Rembisz decided to close the door vs. the Blue Raiders. The Golden Panthers (20-10, 9-4 Sun Belt) came away on top of a tight contest decided in the last two innings 5-2 on April 11 on the road.

Rembisz struck out a career-high 10 batters, allowed just two runs (one earned) and he is now 5-0 with a 2.84 ERA for the season.

With a 2-0 lead, Rembisz was mowing down Blue Raiders batters,

BASEBALL, page 7

Athletic director to attend counseling

GARCIA, page 1

Garcia did not think asking his secretary to carry out such jobs would not be a problem because it was allowed in his previous employments. His secretary confirmed Garcia stopped asking her to conduct his personal business immediately after learning it was not permissible.

Athletics and Garcia declined to comment to *The Beacon*, despite several requests.

Maidique held a meeting on April 8 with every Athletics employee. He wanted to inform the department that Garcia was verbally reprimanded and that his conduct was not indicative of how FIU employees should act.

Maidique said he will be working alongside Vice President of Human Resources Jaffus Hardrick to make sure Garcia receives the proper counseling. Hardrick also declined to comment.

The final allegation against Garcia was only partly substantiated.

During the four-day week schedule last summer, employees said they were told to work on

Fridays. Athletics did not initially enforce a five-day work schedule. Garcia stated he did not authorize for employees to work five times a week at first because it was not possible with other seasonal programs and such a heavy workload.

But three weeks into the summer schedule, most employees were able to work on Fridays.

The claim that employees were told to keep lights off on Friday work days was not proven and also denied by Garcia.

Maidique hired Garcia on Oct. 10, 2006, when the football program was in its first year in the Football Bowl Subdivision. The athletic director reports directly to the president.

Maidique and the FIU community do not condone Garcia's behavior, but feel his managing skills will progress.

"We wanted to make it clear the addressing employees in a disrespectful manner is not the FIU way," Maidique told *The Beacon*. "I have great confidence that Mr. Garcia will improve his management style."

TENTH TIME'S A CHARM



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

WINNING STREAK: Liset Brito won her match against University South Florida's Irene Rehberger. No. 40-ranked Golden Panthers defeated the Bulls 6-1 on April 11.