

## Wrestling Club dreams big, wants to be a team

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## Golden Panthers suffer back-to-back losses

PAGE 8



### SPOTLIGHT

#### OPINION PAGE 4

FIU's marching band is an integral part of our blossoming University's atmosphere and must be kept safe.

#### LIFE! PAGE 5



COLUMN: Steve Mesa talks to *Observe & Report's* Michael Pena about shooting the film and playing his big screen pimp.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 3

April Fools' virus still a threat to thousands of Windows users.

#### OPINION PAGE 4

The Black Student Union should not have become a governing council.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8

Sigma Phi Epsilon wins the soccer intramural championship against Pi Kappa Alpha.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Students go silent for a day in support of LGBT and their allies.

#### OPINION PAGE 4



Iowa's gay marriage ban was repealed — but the fight isn't over yet.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Coupe de la Handball Championship, April 10, 5 p.m.:** A handball competition! This just looks like fun and you should get a piece of the action at American Airlines Arena.

**FIU Hip Hop Club — Panel Discussion, April 10, 7 p.m.:** Discuss the difference between Lil' Wayne and real hip-hop at GC 140.

**Fight Club — movie showing, April 11, 10 p.m.:** Watch the movie that brought us just a little bit closer to Brad and his glorious abs at the Bill Cosford Cinema.

**Easter Celebration, April 12, 10 a.m.:** Swim with the fish and search for colorful eggs, that's what Easter is all about at Miami Seaquarium.

**Live @ Buck15 — Local Bands, April 13, 9 p.m.:** Support your local artists even if they are not up to par; after a few drinks, they will be at Buck 15.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit [FIUSM.com/calendar](http://FIUSM.com/calendar).

#### WEATHER



**FRIDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 73 HIGH: 81



**SATURDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 72 HIGH: 85



**SUNDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 73 HIGH: 85

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## Classroom resources available online

ELSIE PUIG  
Staff Writer

A new online network aimed at providing students with study resources was launched in February by a group of recent university graduates. The site, UniversityJunction, acts as a virtual study group by offering students free access to old tests, assignments, class notes and practice questions.

On the site, students can log on to more than 1.1 million online resources, including material from MIT Open Courseware, a site that makes the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's course materials available online to anyone for free. Additionally, the Web site provides a list of courses offered at FIU where students can access and upload content.

"We basically want for students to collaborate with each other to get better grades, but we

are constantly upgrading our content database," said Alan Powell, founder and vice president of marketing for UniversityJunction.

Market research conducted by the founding graduate students has proven that more than 90 percent of university students rely on online resources to get help with studying. According to the market research at FIU, that amount is 94 percent.

Currently, UniversityJunction is being used in more than 25 colleges and universities with more than 3,500 students.

"Although it is still in its basic stage, each course students sign up for has a forum feature allowing them to upload, choose and rank content associated with the course," Powell said.

UniversityJunction will also hire tutors from Ivy League schools to answer questions posted by students within 24 hours.

"I think it seems a very helpful tool and

students who are trying to get any help they can get would most definitely use it although, personally, I would not upload any content, I know people who would," said Ramiro Gonzalez Lorca, sophomore and international relations major.

"My students did have the impression that the Web site was useful," said Marc Resnick, industrial engineering professor whose students assessed the site's usability and identified challenges encountered by users.

He mentioned that one of the problems with usability was related to offering users feedback on content they posted or registered, but that overall it was a good tool.

Another problem raised by UniversityJunction is a question of ethics.

Although it aims to be an ethical alternative to other test-buying and note-sharing Web sites,

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## SAVE YOURSELF



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**DEFENSE:** Daniel Stokes, freshman (left) and Natasha Pytlik, senior, (right) learn self defense for emergent situations in Lakeview North Lounge.

### THE FIFTH UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

## Potential candidate emerges

JULIO MENACHE  
Staff Writer

When Hilda Mitrani, president of Multilingual Marketing, Inc., started a Facebook group back in early December to get Mark Rosenberg, the former chancellor of the state university system, nominated as a possible candidate for FIU's presidency, it only consisted of close friends and business leaders she had met over the years. "The first hundred people who joined the group were friends of mine," said Mitrani, who graduated from the University of Miami. "I wanted to get people who went to FIU to join."

Now the grassroots campaign has grown to more

than 400 members, as members of the University community have come to support the former FIU provost and look to secure his nomination.

"[I support Rosenberg] because he has served FIU for well over 30 years as a provost, has lobbied in the interests of the students and the University, and has helped in facilitating the establishment of the Colleges of Law and Medicine," said senior sociology major Jose Martinez, who is a member of the group.

Mitrani, who worked with Rosenberg while she was an employee at Baptist Hospital, said she started the group because she felt that FIU

PRESIDENCY, page 2

### STUDENT GOVERNMENT

## Constitution reallocates Senate seats

DAVID BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

A newly revised version of the Student Government Association constitution passed during last week's elections and it has been in effect since April 3.

The revisions include the addition of the Black Student Union as a governing council within both campuses and the reorganization and reallocation of several Senate seats in both University Park and Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Councils.

Drafted by Kenasha Paul, SGC-BBC vice president, and edited by members of the University-wide Council during the March 25 meeting, this constitution also has reorganized the document from the Spring 2008 version.

"The purpose of this new constitution is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each branch in SGA," Paul said. "It is necessary that there be included a preamble stating the objective of this constitution and that student government, an organization about students' rights, had a section that emphasized on those rights. The previous constitution was in incorrect format, as articles and sections were not properly outlined."

A preamble, stating the purpose of the constitution, has been created and added to the beginning of the document. Along with it is a new section outlining students' rights within student government, claiming that all students will be given the right to vote, without discrimination or violation of their legal rights.

In the SGC-BBC Senate, the College of Arts and Sciences has been given two extra seats, raising their representation in the Senate to three seats. Both schools of Hospitality and Tourism Management and Journalism and Mass Commu-

SGA, page 2

# Elected Student Media leaders provide stability

**JULIA CARDENUTO**  
News Director

Members of the Media Board hired the leadership for FIU Student Media on April 8.

Christopher Necuze, Rick Martinez and Pablo Penton officially got the positions of leaders for next year's Student Media.

Necuze, a senior journalism major, was the editor in chief of *The Beacon* during the Spring semester, and will keep his post for one more year.

"I think we've come a long way on one semester," said Necuze, who has been working for *The Beacon* since 2005 and has served

as opinion editor and production manager. "I look forward to improving the paper and making it more responsive to students."

Martinez, a sophomore computer sciences major, will still be acting as the online director for Student Media. He launched *FIUSM.com* on March of 2008, and in Spring 2009, he redesigned the Web site.

"I'm very excited to continue to be a part of this groundbreaking endeavor," said Martinez, who acted as a page designer when he first became involved with Student Media in 2007. "I think a lot of the innovative things we're doing here will help give FIU's Student

Media program national recognition, and help other college media organizations that are going through the same transitions that we are."

Penton, a junior public administration major, who is the current general manager for the student radio, Radiate FM, was hired again and will keep his position for next year.

"The main focus next year is the Biscayne Bay Campus. We want BBC to be our main focus as far as promotions next year," said Penton, who has been involved in the student radio since 2006, acting as DJ and then trafficking and training director. "We also

want to connect more with other student organizations and for them to get more involved in the radio. I am really excited to be able to do this for another year."

David Barrios, current senior staff writer and Student Government Council at University Park beat for Student Media, ran against Necuze, while Sean Gonzalez, current Radiate FM traffic and training director, ran against Penton for the general manager position. Ben Badger, SGC-UP press secretary and former assistant news director for Student Media, ran for the online director position against Martinez.

"I expect our three

choices to continue to take advantage of the splendid opportunity at Student Media, to use three different media to inform the University community and to speak truth to power," said Alfred Soto, assistant director of Student Media since 2004.

"The candidates bring continuity to all three different parts of our Student Media and have proved themselves already in their former term," said Robert Jaross, director of Student Media since 2001. "We feel that *The Beacon*, *FIUSM.com* and Radiate FM are going to have stability at a time when media is somewhat in a financial crisis mode."

FIU Student Media is comprised of *The Beacon*, *FIUSM.com* and Radiate FM; it is funded through both Student Government Association and ad revenue.

The Media Board is comprised of members of the FIU, South Florida and media community. They received the applicants' resumes and questionnaires on March 20.

After interviews that were held throughout April 8, the Board voted on the finalists and announced their decision.

The only criteria to be an eligible candidate for any of the three positions is to be an FIU student and enrolled in at least one credit hour.

## NEWS FLASH

FIU

### Garcia reprimanded for bad behavior

Athletic Director Pete Garcia was reprimanded by President Modesto Maidique when a University report stated Garcia conducted "unprofessional management and poor leadership style, misuse of state resources [and] hostile work environment," *The Miami Herald* reported April 7.

Athletics employees confirmed the allegations that Garcia was intimidating, used profanity and lost his temper.

Garcia admitted he lost his temper and said is working on improving his behavior and apologized to the department, according to *The Miami Herald*.

Maidique could not be reached for comment and Garcia declined to comment following the Wednesday meeting.

-Compiled by Sergio Bonilla and Julia Cardenuto

## Black union represented under new constitution

### SGA, page 1

nication were given another seat, with both currently having two seats.

Two new lower division seats were also added, raising the count to four lower division senators. Seats have been taken away from graduate student senators and the Broward Pines Center senators leaving both with one Senate seat. The number of undergraduate general senators remains unchanged, though they are now referred to as senators at large.

In the UP Senate, the College of Arts and Sciences has been given another seat following the disbandment of the former College of Social Work, Criminal Justice and Public Affairs. The number of senators in the body currently remains at 30.

Seats on the UWC, consisting of high-ranking members of both councils, have also been changed. The Senate speaker pro tempore of both campuses will replace the seats of the comptrollers during the sessions.

A list of succession has been established within SGA in the new constitution as well. The list is as follows: vice president, speaker of the Senate, speaker pro tempore and finance chair.

In the previous version of the consti-

tution, if the vice presidents were unable to fulfill their duties, a person would be elected in a temporary election by a 2/3 vote of their specific SGC during a meeting with proper quorum until a special mid-year election could be called or until regular annual elections were held.

Most of the Spring 2008 constitution draft remains unchanged in the new version. Among proposed changes in the original draft of the constitution that the UWC did not approve were raising GPA requirements for presidential candidates from a 2.5 to a 2.75 and the elimination of the term GPA requirements.

The original draft also called for the elimination of the requirement of all presidential candidates to have served for at least 154 days within SGA, allowing any member of the student body to become a candidate.

"The new constitution put in motion to organize SGA on the levels of our sister institutions and across the nation to leave a lasting legacy of organization, responsibility and effectiveness," Paul said. "Just by picking up the old constitution versus the one that just passed by the student body, the changes are instantly apparent."

## Online study aid struggles with ethical questions

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Powell acknowledges that it might promote plagiarism and copyright infringement. He mentioned the Web site might encourage posting current exams, chapters from textbooks or class lectures without the professors' consent.

"We have met with professors in order to develop features and effective methods on our Web site to deter cheating," said Powell. "We have disabled the cut and paste tool, and we allow students to report or flag in the case of plagiarism."

Powell vows that UniversityJunction pays a license fee for copyrighted content on its Web site.

UniversityJunction opened at FIU in March, but hopes students from other universities students will make use of the site.

## THE BEACON

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## Rosenberg garners student support

### PRESIDENCY, page 1

should be led by someone with a strong academic background.

"Whoever leads FIU should lead it as a local community asset with a global stage," Mitrani said.

### STUDENT SUPPORT

Six former Student Government Association presidents, as well as various former student leaders, have sent the Board of Trustees and the search committee a lengthy letter asking for Rosenberg to be considered for FIU's presidency.

Clayton Solomon, a former SGA president, posted

excerpts of the letter sent to the Presidential Search Committee, which praises Rosenberg for his "integrity, charisma and intellect," and he said he believes Rosenberg is the most qualified candidate

"Dr. Rosenberg's background is especially suited for FIU's current needs — namely, a university president who is familiar with FIU's challenges and strengths, who understands the complex dynamics of Florida's higher education system, who commands respect from students and faculty alike and who has the vision and leadership

skills necessary to carry into fruition the vision for the University laid out by [President Modesto] Maidique and the Board of Trustees," said Solomon, along with the former student leaders who helped write the letter.

The letter also commends Rosenberg for showing genuine concern for student affairs, and for "speaking the student's language — literally."

"I think Rosenberg would be an excellent candidate for FIU's next president," said journalism major, Andrew Calienes, who is also part of the Facebook group. "I think he will be the perfect candi-

date to usher the University through this economic storm and into the future."

The Presidential Search Committee has so far received 22 resumes of interested candidates, which includes current provost and executive vice president of FIU, Ronald Berkman.

Candidates must either be nominated or can respond to ads put forth by the University.

According to FIU Media Relations, while Rosenberg has shown interest in the position, he has yet to announce his candidacy to the search committee as of press time.

## CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated April 6, the front-page photo of Sholom Neistein was taken by Sergio Maradiaga.

In the issue dated April 8, the photo on the front page was taken by Alex Garcia.

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

## The silent chant: a movement to fight the injustice

**BARBARA QUIJANO**  
Asst. News Director

Students came together to participate in the Day of Silence to make a statement: break the silence at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The Day of Silence's purpose was to bring attention to anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender name-calling, bullying and harassment, according to the project's official Web site.

This project was founded in 1996 by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, becoming the largest student-led action toward creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Stonewall 2 BBC, a student organization and sponsor of the event, is the BBC-LGBT Queer Questioning Straight Ally.

"Day of Silence is to raise awareness of the silencing of the LGBT community," said Alexis Sanchez, president of Stonewall 2 BBC. "In many situations, we feel we are unable to speak, and this is to create a visual representation of that silence."

The third annual Day of Silence started at 11 a.m. on April 8 in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center with members

of Stonewall 2 BBC welcoming and signing up students who wanted to be silent, followed by a discussion with keynote speaker Luigi Ferrer.

Ferrer is the current executive director of Pridelines Youth Services, an organization "dedicated to educating and empowering South Florida's GLBTQ youth and their straight allies in a safe and diverse environment," according to its Web site.

Ferrer talked about growing up in a sexist latino community in Puerto Rico, where "there were certain roles you had to adhere to and things you were supposed to talk about, and that's a way of being silenced."

"I think we may be silenced by both fear and shame, fear of physical force and fear of aggression. There are all of these norms and expectations thrust upon us by the culture and there is no denying that force," Ferrer said. "This holiday season we had eight kids kicked out of their homes for being gay."

After a question-and-answer session with Ferrer, Mindy Spitzer, a junior Spanish education major, reminisced about her past.

Spitzer spoke about embracing her sexuality as a lesbian woman, showing pictures of her involvement at rallies and publications of



PHOTOS BY NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON



**SILENT VOICE:** (Top, left) Mindy Spitzer, a Spanish education junior, shares life experiences at the Day of Silence. (Bottom, left) Participants marched around BBC seeking supporters. (Top, right) Participants ripped the tape from their mouths at 4 p.m. and let out screams for those whose voices could not be heard.

older magazine and news articles supporting women's rights.

"I've never fit into the roles, but as feminism came along there was a major paradigm shift from the butch-feminsim movement to the lesbian-feminism movement," said Spitzer.

"I had a button that said, 'I'm a fesbian-leminist,' a lesbian feminist, because I don't understand how you can love women and not be a feminist."

The "silence" began at 2 p.m., and represented the silence caused

by the harassment, prejudice and discrimination faced by LGBTs.

The purpose of Day of Silence is to bring attention to this problem, letting students who experience bullying know that they are not alone and giving students the opportunity to work toward improving school climate for all students, according to its Web site.

After two hours, the silence was broken with student participants, such as Sanchez and Juan "JC" Remedios, student services

chair for Student Government Council at BBC, recounting stories followed by a poem performed by On Point Poetry President Kertus Toussaint.

The Dade Community Foundation was also a sponsor of the event, providing Stonewall 2 BBC with a grant of \$3,000.

"We cover a lot of ground, we try to fight for equal rights for everyone," said Sanchez. "We try to provide a safe space for people to be able to come and feel accepted and to have fun."

## Reward offered for designers of April Fools' Day worm

**SERGIO MONTEALEGRE**  
Staff Writer

An updated strand of an already existing worm was expected to be released April 1, so computer security firms are urging Windows users to install or update their antivirus and firewall software.

Conficker, a malicious self-replicating computer worm that affects security functions on computers, was first detected in October 2008. It is also known as Kido, Downup and Downadup.

The worm targets computers running on Windows operating systems, specifically Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista and Windows 7 Beta; and servers running on Windows Server 2003, 2008 or 2008 Revision 2 Beta by disabling access to antivirus programs or Web sites known for providing computer security services.

According to United Press International, as many as 15 million computers globally have been infected by the worm as of January 2009. The way it infects machines is through a vulnerability in Microsoft operating systems patched in October 2008. This may be attributed to users who disable the auto-updating functions of the operating system.

Although the worm was scheduled to harm computers on April 1, coincidentally

on April Fools' Day, it remained dormant on its payload date, the day a worm becomes active.

There's no specific source as to where the worm got its common name, but Internet specialists speculate that Conficker is a combination of the word *configure* with the German word for a common four-letter expletive.

American-based security firm Symantec, maker of Norton Anti-Virus, stated on its official blog that despite the high rate of infections reported around the world, the number is relatively low in the United States and Canada.

"China, India and Russia all have a high percentage of pirated software in use and these countries also feature in the top 10 countries ranked by Downadup," wrote Patrick Fitzgerald on his Symantec blog on Jan. 20, 2009. "The lack of patching due to piracy may be a contributing factor to high infection rates in those countries."

According to Symantec, four variations of the worm exist: Conficker.A, B, C and

D. In versions B and C, the worm has the capacity of infecting a computer through a USB storage device due to Windows' ability to automatically run them. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team offers users a guide on how to disable the feature, through its Web site, [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Version D of the worm creates a network between computers infected with it.

It's still unknown what the network could be used for, though antivirus makers like Symantec and McAfee speculate it to be used in many ways. From a spambot network, which would be a new spam e-mails, to using it to cause Denial of Service attacks, also known as DoS, which is the constant reloading of a Web site from several computers to overload and take down the server.

According to an alert from Microsoft titled "Virus alert about the Win32/Conficker.B worm," symptoms of the worm include the Windows Security Center and Microsoft Update programs ceasing to work and the user being blocked from accessing

security-related Web sites, such as Symantec or McAfee.

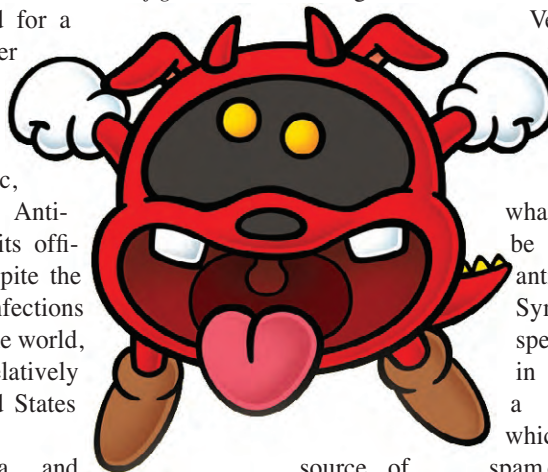
Jason Bastian, a graduate student in the Master of Science in Management Information Systems program and a coordinator at University Technology Services, recommends keeping all programs updated.

"It's following general security steps: Don't go to malicious Web sites, don't download strange attachments, etc.," said Bastian. "But to avoid malicious Web sites and for your antivirus program to detect them, firewall or antivirus programs must be up to date or there is no way of you knowing."

Currently, Microsoft offers a way to remove the worm as well as a patch for the system to prevent reinfection, but it's only for users running on Windows Vista, or Windows XP with Service Pack 2 (SP2), Service Pack 3.

Microsoft recommends users running on Windows XP Service Pack 1 to upgrade immediately to SP2.

The severe potential threat of the worm prompted Microsoft to form a large coalition to combat its effects with organizations such as Symantec, AOL, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers and M1D Global, as well as to issue a \$250,000 bounty for the capture and arrest of those responsible in creating and distributing the worm.



## BSU doesn't really benefit all students

ERIC FELDMAN  
Staff Writer

Once the votes were tallied for the recent Student Government Association elections, the Black Student Union officially became its own governing council that would encompass the campus' black-centered clubs and organizations.

Because students who voted in the elections were asked simply to read the entire old and new constitutions with no explanation of what was changing, it remains unclear if this is what students actually wanted. Regardless, there is no logical explanation as to why this council should exist at FIU.

Despite an April 6 Soapbox column that tried to justify – if not praise the BSU – the existence of this group has become a thorn in the side of the organization of student groups.

The author, James Richardson, took issue with the fact that anyone would object to an organization that supports “the education, enlightenment and enrichment of the African-American community on campus.”

Although this sounds like a reasonable goal, this does not begin to explain the two most controversial tenants of this situation: why black clubs need their own standing council and why they are the only group of clubs that need to be separate from everyone else. I am all for student groups of every creed and color that support cultural awareness, but the Pan-African Club and Haitian Students Association, two of the groups that would fall under the BSU, are only a few of many ethnic clubs – including Chabad-FIU for Jewish students, the Indian Students Association and the International Students Club.

All of these clubs currently exist under the Council of Student Organizations and they all have to fight for funding by justifying their existence and being active on campus through CSO. There is no Jewish Student Union or Caucasian Student Union that controls its own funding stream. That's not equality at all.

Of course, Richardson goes on to argue that equality is not an issue because no one is excluded from joining any of the black-oriented clubs. True, but just because I am not forbidden from participating in something does not mean that I am going to benefit from it. Cultural expansion is one of the best parts of college and I would gladly attend an event sponsored by the BSU, but as a Caucasian, what interest would I have of becoming a member of one of the organizations?

This argument is actually quite similar to those who argue that gay people are not discriminated against because they have the same rights as everyone else: everyone can marry someone of the opposite sex, and so can gay people.

The problem is they can't marry who they want, making it an equality issue, the same way non-black clubs that non-black people want to join are part of a completely different funding structure than black clubs, for reasons I cannot understand. When the focus seems to be getting past divisions of race, dividing clubs based on race is just counterproductive.

Governing councils hold huge responsibilities. Some current governing councils include the Student Programming Council, Panther Rage and CSO. What they all have in common is that they serve very specific purposes and benefit all students, justifying their direct funding from SGA.

The BSU does not.

# MARCHING AWAY

## University can't risk losing athletics band

JOSEPH KOSANKE  
Contributing Writer

In light of University-wide budget cuts, our marching band has been thrown into a game of denial and refusal.

In previous years, the band has received the funds needed in order to conduct operations appropriately. Because of this, our University has been able to offer students the expected university experience. It is clear that the band plays a major role in lifting the spirit at various sporting events.

Unfortunately, our band is struggling to find the funding it needs to provide students with spirited music at various engagements. It is appalling that such an institutionalized part of the college experience is facing possible extinction.

Consistently good performance at sporting events allows a university to build a name for itself. FIU recognized the need for this and invested in a new stadium with the hopes that it would draw more attention to the University's Athletics Department. These actions are part of efforts made by FIU to expand from a commuter college into a big-name university.

However, less than one year later, the Golden Panther Band is facing a financial crisis. It is illogical for a university to build a stadium and turn around to cut the marching band.

According to FIU Band drum major Ernesto Fernandez, if the University were to eliminate the band, it would be the only Division I-A school without one. A marching band is an essential part of a healthy university.

FIU Band Director Carla Geiger claims that the ensemble has received money from the College of Architecture and the Arts, the Student Government Association and the Athletics Department. Due to budget cuts, CARTA – the athletic band's main contributor – has withdrawn funding.

Athletics claims Geiger's statement is false and that they have not funded the athletics band. Outgoing Student Government Council at University Park President Arthur J. Meyer feels SGA should fund the marching band only if the other bodies contribute as well.

Programs always suffer when cuts are made. Former CARTA Dean Juan Bueno stated, “We don't have that in the budget and we are about to lose another \$800,000 now.”

With so many cuts, it is no surprise that CARTA has cut off funding to the band. CARTA was left with few other choices.

But it is essential that the University fund the marching band somehow. A possible solution is for the Office of the Provost to allocate funds to the band. A direct line would not only solve the band's funding issues, but also protect the band from elimination.

The athletics band has been at the mercy of its contributors for too long and that failed policy is what has led us down the road we are on today. If the University directly funds the band, the ensemble could continue its operations.



However, it would be unwise for the University to give the band money with no strings attached.

The band should receive less funding than it previously has. At a time where our University has less money, this is more than necessary.

If the band feels it needs more money than the University can provide, it would need to begin to generate income. Reaching out to sponsors within the community would lessen the burden on the University's finances.

As we strive to grow as a university, we must remember that along with education comes the college experience. In order to grow as a university, we must keep what separates us from smaller colleges and universities.

The athletics band is a key part of that separation.

## Gay marriage rights gaining territory

MOHAMED ABDIHAQIM  
Staff Writer

“It's an immense step! Now, at least in Iowa and three other states, equality has prevailed,” said Ashley Barkley, co-founder of Your Right, My Right, a small civil rights group in Jacksonville against California's Proposition 8. Iowa recently decided to void the gay marriage ban upheld by 46 other states.

“We are firmly convinced the exclusion of gay and lesbian people from the civil institution of marriage does not substantially further any governmental objective,” wrote Justice Mark S. Cady to the seven-member Iowa Supreme Court.

The gay and lesbian community has indeed won an important battle in the fight for their right to be considered – in the eyes of the civil institution – and one would suppose, the right of marriage. The ecstasy of the moment was all but almost palpably apparent when looking upon the relieved faces of the plaintiffs against the ban.

On the other side, there was a somber and overall disappointed reaction. Local activist groups in Iowa, several lawmakers and even

a few members of the seven-judge panel have claimed they will fight the decision, but have no means to immediate action at the moment.

“A court decision doesn't change what is right and what is wrong,” said Bryan English, a spokesperson for the Iowa Family Policy Center, a group against the idea of same-sex marriage.

The only way to punch back at the ruling would be to set on a path toward a constitutional amendment, though the process can take a minimum of two years. The issue here lays in the groundwork for defining the term “marriage,” or rather, who falls under the right to marry. To the gay and lesbian community at large, the institution of marriage is looking more and more like an exclusive privilege and less like a right of all citizens.

“Marriage should be between two people who love and care for each other. People who are certain they are ready for the trials of marriage should be allowed to do so,” said Annieka Dennis, a freshman majoring in psychology.

This statement makes too much sense to simply brush away. Nonetheless, the argument supporting the anti-gay marriage concept

stands just as strong.

The issue of family life is one of the many relevant problems brought up in the discussion. Anti-gay marriage activists believe that a child needs both a mother and a father to live a healthy (and by healthy, we can safely assume it is meant psychologically) and productive life.

Biblically speaking, this becomes an even tougher argument. Many Christians, Muslims, Jews and other major religious groups are also generally opposed to the idea of gay marriage. I was taught that marriage was something sacred and that it should be restricted to the relationship between a man and a woman. The teaching echoes in my mind and I do not attempt to fight it.

With that being said, I strictly believe that a religiously-based idea (such as the refusal of gay marriage) should not be passed as law. The perception of gay marriage as being “wrong” should have nothing to do with the decision to ban it or not. What should be considered is the fact that all these people want to do – all they are fighting for – is to get married and spend a joyous life together.

This fight will be long and tough for those involved, but the victories along the way are certainly worthy of celebration. Even if we see gay marriage as wrong, I believe the chance at this life is deserved by all. It is quite literally “the pursuit of happiness.”

**A court decision doesn't change what is right and wrong. Marriage should be between two people who love and care for each other.**

# CLUB SMACK DOWN

## Group aims to be University team

MELISSA VARGAS  
Staff Writer

FIU may not have a wrestling team but there's a club who would like to be.

The FIU Wrestling Club was started in November last year when adjunct professors Ronald Lopus and Kevin Trujillo decided to put a table in the Graham Center and promote the new club. That day 60 students signed up interested in the opportunity to wrestle.

"I started the club to promote the sport in FIU and allowing for competition and continuing the sport from high school," Lopus said. "We have recruited many more members. There's a great awareness of the high school students to enroll in FIU to become members of our club. We also have many Miami-Dade students who will be transferring to FIU in the Fall."

Lopus said he felt it was time for a wrestling club at the University and because of students like Alexis Garo, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, who was looking forward to joining the FIU wrestling team only to find out there was none, until he heard about the opportunity to join the club.

"I have done other martial arts my whole life, [but] I have never done wrestling. Now I have some idea of what I'm doing," said Garo, who is the

current club president. "Myself and another guy have never wrestled before and we entered the competition."

Members are accepted from all levels, even those who do not know how to wrestle yet.

"We have registered with the National Collegiate Wrestling Association," Lopus said. "I would like for the club to compete extensively in the NCWA and work toward future membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association."

Wrestling as a NCAA sport is popular in northern colleges, unlike the southern schools where the sport doesn't have that big of an impact, according to Garo. The NCWA is the equivalent of the NCAA for wrestling, and the club's intentions are to become an NCWA Division I team.

"This is not a sport for people that are not going to dedicate themselves," Garo said. "If you are part of this club, you are a part of this club and you are going to practice. This is not for people that just want to work out."

According to Garo, the University of Central Florida's wrestling team, being the second best team in the NCWA, is not an official team and is on the verge of becoming a team after seven years of being a club.

Garo, however, is confident the FIU team will take much less

time due to their establishment with three coaches, 60 members and three state champions.

The club has joined the organization and attended an exhibition event in February 2009 in Freestyle Fight Academy, located right across from FIU, where they had matches against students from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

The club works out and practices like any other FIU team and considers that the only difference between them and an official team is the lack of funding received by the school.

There are no requirements to join the club and they are willing to train and teach the sport.

"This is something that you want to do because it is in you. You want to teach it, it's healthy, it releases stress," said Raul Dominguez, a member and junior civil engineering major.

The club will begin training through the summer to prepare for the Fall season.

Practices are held at G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Conditioning is Tuesdays in the FIU Recreation Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. as well.

For more information, e-mail [fiuwrestling@gmail.com](mailto:fiuwrestling@gmail.com) or join the FIU Wrestling Club group on [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

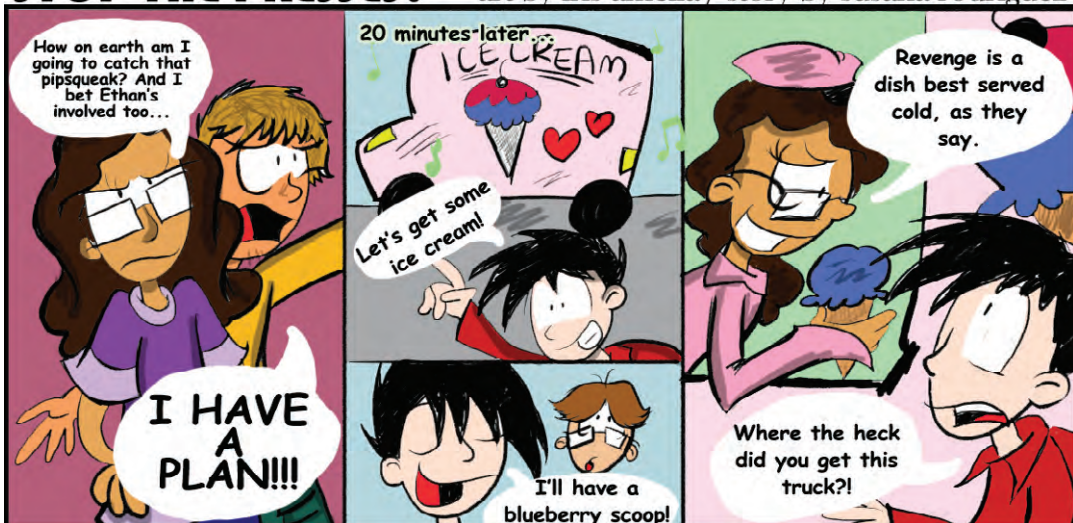


**RING SIDE:** FIU Wrestling Club members compete against Florida Institute of Technology's team in Melbourne (top left); member Raul Dominguez spars against a new recruit (second from top left); Dominguez gets lifted by club member Dennis Smith (bottom left).

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WRESTLING CLUB/THE BEACON

## diversions

**STOP THE PRESSES!** art by iris amelia / story by susana rodriguez



## THE CINEMATIC

# A look at *Observe & Report 'con Pena'*

STEVE MESA  
Staff Writer

What would happen if you combine the attitude of "Dirty" Harry Callahan, the personality of Travis Bickle from *Taxi Driver* and a hint of *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*?

You get the main character of the latest raunchy dark comedy, *Observe and Report*.

Ronnie Barnhardt (Seth Rogen)

is the head of security at the Forest Ridge Mall, where he combats with rowdy skateboarders and unruly customers every day. He takes his job seriously and frowns at the idea that

COLUMN



STEVE MESA

CINEMATIC, page 6

# Observe & Report star talks film, role

## CINEMATIC, page 5

the mall's security staff are not allowed to carry firearms.

When a menacing flasher strikes fear into the hearts of all mall shoppers and Brandi (Anna Faris), a woman that Ronnie has fallen for, Ronnie chases his dreams of becoming a police officer. Meanwhile, Ronnie is also waging a turf war on local police, headed by Detective Harrison (Ray Liotta) to see who handles crimes committed at the Forest Ridge Mall.

*The Beacon* had the chance to talk with actor Michael Pena (*Crash*, *World Trade Center*) who plays Ronnie's second-in-command, Dennis, at the Lowes Hotel in South Beach.

Pena auditioned for the movie because he was a fan of *Observe and Report's* director Jody Hill's last film, *Foot Fist Way*, a dark comedy about an inept karate instructor (Danny McBride) struggling with marital troubles and an unhealthy obsession with a fellow karate fighter.

"I thought that it was an awesome movie and I hoped that I would do a movie with this guy," Pena said.

When it came to working with Hill, it was different than when Pena worked with Paul Haggis on *Crash* and Oliver Stone on *World Trade Center*.

"Haggis is such a stickler for words as well as Stone," Pena said. "But with Jody Hill, it is different because he comes up with lines every freaking time."

When it came to working with Seth Rogen, Pena said that it was cool because Rogen is an improvisation genius.

"He has been doing stand-up comedy and writing jokes since the age of 13," said Pena. "It was pretty intimidating at first, then I kind of got settled down and it was cool."

In the film, Pena's vision of the character involved aviator glasses, a perm and an accent that is reminiscent of a pimp.

Pena was inspired by the Hughes Brothers' 1999 documentary, *American Pimp*, which details the lives of African-American street pimps. He watched one of the subjects being interviewed and was able to pick on that person's speech pattern for his character.

Pena also prepared for his role by practicing in his car and listening to a lot of rap music.

"Bad rapping enabled to clearly realize the character," Pena said.

When it comes to what Pena wants moviegoers to take away from *Observe and Report*, he just hopes that they laugh and that they are entertained.

"I think it is cool and I hope that the movie sticks with them for a while," Pena said.

The next film Pena will be working on is *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done*.

The film will be directed by German filmmaker Werner Zehzog (*Grizzly Man*, *Encounters at the End of the World*) and features an all-star cast that includes Oscar nominees Willem Dafoe (*Spider-Man*) and Michael Shannon (*Revolutionary Road*).

*The Cinematic* is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.

## EXHIBITIONISTS



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**GROUP SHOW:** Art students gather at Warehouse 10 on April 2 for the Spring Review exhibition, following a week of faculty critiques.

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

FRIDAY • APRIL 10

SATURDAY • APRIL 11

SUNDAY • APRIL 12

**WHAT:** Muslim Students Association  
**WHEN:** 1 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 343  
**CONTACT:** 305-348-2285

**WHAT:** FIU Hip Hop Club - Panel Discussion  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**CONTACT:** 305-348-2285

**WHAT:** Coupe de la Handball Championship  
**WHEN:** 5 p.m.  
**WHERE:** American Airlines Arena  
**CONTACT:** 786-777-1000

**WHAT:** Arturo Sandoval with Conjunto Progreso  
**WHEN:** 5:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bayfront Park  
**CONTACT:** 305-358-7550

**WHAT:** Bohemian Rhapsody  
**WHEN:** 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Lincoln Theater  
**CONTACT:** 305-673-331

**WHAT:** University of Wynwood Lecture Series  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Brikolodge in the Wynwood Lofts  
**CONTACT:** 561-866-4370

**WHAT:** Afro Cuban All Stars  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Knight Concert Hall  
**CONTACT:** 305-949-6722

**WHAT:** Fight Club - movie showing  
**WHEN:** 10 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Bill Cosford Cinema  
**CONTACT:** 305-284-4861

**WHAT:** Easter Celebration  
**WHEN:** 10 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Miami Seaquarium  
**CONTACT:** 305-361-5705

**WHAT:** Bill Maher  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** University Center Arena  
**CONTACT:** 8 p.m.

**WHAT:** Heat vs. Knicks  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** American Airlines Arena  
**CONTACT:** 786-777-1000

**WHAT:** Live @ Buck15 - Local Bands  
**WHEN:** 9 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Buck 15  
**CONTACT:** 305-534-5488

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

**WHAT:** Newsboys - Concert  
**WHEN:** 3 p.m.  
**WHERE:** James L. Knight Center  
**CONTACT:** 305-372-4633

**WHAT:** Malevolent Creation  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Culture Room  
**CONTACT:** 305-442-9671

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa



## JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy.

Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

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BASEBALL: FLORIDA GULF COAST 11, FIU 9

## Ninth inning grand slam defeats Panthers in second straight loss

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. Sports Director

It was another tough night for the Golden Panthers' bullpen.

Reliever Aaron Arbolea started the game and head coach Turtle Thomas needed seven pitchers to get through another loss against the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles.

Right fielder Tyler Townsend made sure the bullpen would get some support when he launched two home runs. It was his fifth home run in his last three games.

But it wasn't enough.

The Eagles' offense scored five runs in the top of the ninth to give the Golden Panthers their second straight loss 11-9 at University Park Stadium on April 8.

"Mid-week games sometimes get to be high scoring, but we have to do a better job of holding down the opposing team and having less hits and runs scored," Thomas said.

For the second game in a row, the Golden Panthers used more than five pitchers, including starters Tom Ebert and Corey Polizzano.

Townsend hit his second home run of the game when the Panthers were tied 6-6.

Throughout the game, the offense scored consistently. The Golden Panthers scored two runs in each inning from the fourth and seventh inning on. Townsend finished 3-for-5 with three RBI and two runs.

Townsend brought them back the lead, but the bullpen would not be able to hold on to it for the rest of the game.

In the top of the ninth, Jorge Marban, the team's seventh pitcher of the night, came on in relief to close out the game.

Instead, he allowed five runs to put the Panthers in an 11-8 hole.

The key at bat was against Josh Chester who faced Marban with the bases loaded and 8-7 game. At this point the Panthers were still up, but Chester kept on fighting off pitches with two strikes.

Marban could not put him away, and Chester won the battle with an eventual game-winning



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**GETTING BACK:** Florida Gulf Coast baserunner makes its back to first on a pick off throw. FGCU scored 11 runs against the Golden Panthers.

grand slam.

This was the final tune-up before facing the No. 2 team in the Sun Belt Conference, the Middle Tennessee University Blue Raiders. The Panthers will travel to Middle Tennessee for a three-game series from April 10-12.

Coming into the two mid-week games, coach Thomas expected tough games, and he expected to use many pitchers.

"We only have 10 pitchers on our staff, so we're trying to use everyone of them that we can and we did tonight," Thomas said.

Even though starters Ebert and Polizzano pitched, they will both be used against the Blue Raiders on April 11-12 respectively.

"It was a very disappointing game to say the least. We had some guys that threw a good game. We just got to keep from allowing 11 runs and 13 runs last night," coach Thomas said.

### INSIDE THE NUMBERS

- Team ERA 11.50 during last two games.
- Tyler Townsend has five home runs in his last three games.
- The bullpen has a 14.25 ERA over the last two games

BASEBALL: STETSON 13, FIU 7

## Home runs not enough against Hatters



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**POSITION PITCHER:** Outfielder Ty Main pitches against the Hatters. He pitched 1 1/3 innings and gave up no runs.

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. Sports Director

After winning a back and forth three-game series against Western Kentucky, the Golden Panthers faced Stetson University with a tired pitching staff.

The Golden Panthers used five pitchers to get through the first of two mid-week games before facing the No. 2 team in the conference, Middle Tennessee State University.

But Stetson University punished FIU with a barrage of hits winning 13-7 on April 7 at University Park Stadium.

Playing against the 13-17 Stetson Hatters, compared to the 21-9 Western Kentucky on paper, looked to be a relaxed game for head coach Turtle Thomas and the Golden Panthers.

Instead, the Golden Panthers' bullpen could not hold their early 4-1 lead entering

the top of the fourth. The Hatters outscored the Panthers 12-3 from the fourth inning on.

Ryan Mollica and Tyler Townsend each hit home runs toward right centerfield, yet it wasn't enough against a Stetson team that put 13 runs on the board.

Even though seven runs is just a bit less than the Panthers' average of 8.7 runs per game, it was not the offense that was struggling this game.

The decimated bullpen had to use designated hitter Mike Martinez and outfielder Ty Main to pitch.

Main was the best pitcher of the night as he recorded 1 1/3 innings and gave up no runs and just one hit.

Starter Daniel DeSimone began strongly but faltered in the fourth when he gave up four runs. He finished the night with 4 1/3 innings pitched and allowed six runs, five earned.

FRATERNITY SOCCER

## SigEp captures title in last five minutes

**JOEY CRUZ**  
Contributing Writer

Sigma Phi Epsilon had to win the Sports Cup twice.

After advancing to the fraternity intramural soccer championship, SigEp was all but secured the Sports Cup award, which goes to the overall leader in points among fraternities competing.

But coming into the final game, Pi Kappa Alpha regained points by technicality, which opened the field up for a final that not only defined a soccer championship, but a Sports Cup as well.

SigEp waited until the final minutes of the contest to win, by scoring two goals with only five minutes left in the game for a 2-1 victory on April 8 at the intramural fields.

"It was even better the second time because we had enough overall points to clinch it, but due to technicalities it was up for grabs," said SigEp forward Julian Arango after scoring the game-tying goal. "To come back and score two goals with five minutes left with the cup on the line made the victory sweeter."

Arango's goal ignited the crowd with roughly five minutes left, giving SigEp momentum to win the game and setting the stage for a game-winning goal with a minute left by Esteban Nicolini.

Arango believes that a regular season loss to Pike helped them become mentally prepared to win the rematch.

"It always feels good to win a championship," Arango said. "The loss at the beginning of the season woke us up and showed we weren't there yet."

SigEp also captured the volleyball title, while Pi Kappa Phi won the football championship. Pike was also victorious in the basketball and softball brackets. Ultimately, SigEp clinched the Sports Cup this year and probably could have won it last year as well if it had not been canceled due to fighting.

"It was a rush of adrenaline," Arango said. "And a big sigh of relief toward the organization and our fans."