

BASEBALL

Panthers head to Tallahassee for in-state series



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Pablo Bermudez, who won Sun Belt Player of the Year in 2011, is batting .231 after his first three games of the season.

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Last October, head coach Turtle Thomas of the FIU baseball team identified the two biggest problems that plagued his team: issuing too many walks and striking out too many times.

Fresh off being swept by No. 6 Rice University, there were no signs of improvement in both departments.

In the three-game weekend series, Panther batters struck out 32 times and pitchers walked 25 opposing batters. The Owls, on the other hand, struck out 19 times and surrendered only 11 walks.

Thomas said that if he had to choose a number and make that the walks surrendered in a weekend series, it would be nine total walks, or three per

game. FIU is currently averaging eight per game.

But as Thomas points out, there are reasons to be optimistic. Rice batters hit for a dismal .227 average off FIU pitchers over the weekend. In addition, the Panthers out hit the Owls 27 to 20.

Junior Rudy Flores currently leads the Panthers in hits with five and is tied with Junior Jabari Henry for the team lead in RBIs with two. Henry is the only Panther with a homerun.

TOMAHAWK SHOWDOWN

FIU (0-3) kicks off its next three game series on Feb. 24, as the team will travel about 480 miles north to Tallahassee to square off against Florida State University.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 3

FACULTY SENATE

Pilot program targets those with unfinished degrees

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A new pilot program will give college dropouts a second chance.

Through a re-entry degree completion initiative called the Complete College Florida Pilot, the program "will help adults finish the associate's and bachelor's degrees that they began but never completed," said Irma Becerra-Fernandez, vice provost of academic affairs.

"The program is aimed at adult learners with 60 to 90 credits who have some distance, time-wise, from completing their degree program,"

said Becerra-Fernandez. "There are 2 million such individuals in the [entire] state."

Becerra-Fernandez announced the start of the program along with other department initiatives in her report at the Feb. 21 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The pilot program will run from fall 2012 through spring 2014.

All deans at the University submitted requests for "workforce-relevant" concentrations to the Board of Governors. They were asked for those concentrations that had demonstrated high-demand and had no prerequisites required.

Of the seven suggested, three

were selected. Currently, the program will be concentrating in the areas of business, entrepreneurship and communications.

The state has approved \$2.5 million in funding for the program.

"If the pilot is successful, the program will be expanded," said Becerra-Fernandez.

With plans to reach out to individuals through a statewide advertising campaign, the University will provide concierge advising and get students "back into the system to complete a fully online bachelor's degree."

Institutions involved include University of West Florida, Univer-

“
If the pilot is successful, the program will be expanded.”

Irma Becerra-Fernandez,
Vice Provost
Academic Affairs

sity of South Florida, Florida State College in Jacksonville, and St.

Petersburg College. FIU, along with Florida Atlantic University and University of Florida, are considered the "partner" institutions.

Becerra-Fernandez also went on to address Florida House and Senate bills that the department of the provost is monitoring regarding post-secondary education funding. One bill, if passed in the House, would assist the pilot program.

"We're watching the progress of one proposed committee bill [which] establishes the Florida Virtual Campus as a means to manage a library portal and a catalog of online courses, online application and advising," said Becerra-Fernandez.

ENVIRONMENT

University to be evaluated through green report card

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The University is now getting graded on how "green" it is.

For the first time, FIU has decided to participate in the College Sustainability Report Card.

The Report Card is a comparative evaluation of green and sustainable activities

at colleges and universities in the United States.

It identifies higher education institutions that are excelling in sustainability, and provides accessible information for schools to learn from other schools to establish effective sustainability practices.

"This was the first year we were asked to provide information for this particular survey," said Carrie Kashar, assistant director of the Office of University Sustain-

ability. Report Cards, which ever one a university decides to participate in, are there as a tracking mechanism, and hopefully help to benchmark initiatives. Once we put in our FIU report, we will receive a grade or level, and no matter where we fall on the scale at least it will provide us a place to start, and a tool for looking at what colleges who are similar to us are doing."

Each school on the report is graded by its administration and focuses on the

school's climate change and energy, food and recycling programs, green building and replacing, student involvement, transportation, endowment transparency and information, investment priorities and shareholder engagement.

Other Florida schools that are on the report include Florida Atlantic University, Florida State University, Univer-

SEE GRADE, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Life!

Check out Monday's issue for coverage of this year's South Beach Wine and Food Festival on Feb. 25 by Esra Erdogan.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Crime at US public schools on the decline

Crimes and homicides in public schools nationwide have declined, part of a downward trend seen over the past several years.

Data released Wednesday by the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Justice show declines across a number of indicators, including thefts, violent crimes, bullying and gang activity.

There were 33 homicides on school grounds during the 2009-10 academic year. That's the lowest number since the agencies began recording data in 1992.

NATIONAL

Suspect in Capitol bomb sting waives court hearing

A Virginia man charged with plotting a suicide bombing inside the U.S. Capitol has waived his rights to preliminary and detention hearings.

Amine El Khalifi of Alexandria was arrested Friday and charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction. On Wednesday afternoon, he was ordered held pending indictment. Court documents say El Khalifi is a native of Morocco who has been living illegally in the U.S. for more than a decade.

Authorities say the 29-year-old discussed plans to attack an Alexandria office building and a synagogue with an undercover FBI operative he thought was a member of al-Qaida.

WORLD

Verdict in trial of Egypt's Mubarak set for June 2

An Egyptian judge on Wednesday set June 2 as the date for the verdict and sentencing in the trial of ousted President Hosni Mubarak, which could put the man who spent nearly 30 years as one of the Arab world's key strongmen on death row.

Mubarak is accused of complicity in the killing of protesters during the 18-day popular uprising that pushed him from power in February of last year. More than 800 people were killed during the uprising, many of them demonstrators shot dead by security forces.

A guilty verdict would make Mubarak the first leader ousted during the Arab Spring uprisings to face legal punishment by his own people.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

Report to focus on environmental sustainability around University

GRADE, PAGE 1

sity of Florida, University of Miami, Rollins College and the University of South Florida. The University of South Florida currently has the highest grade for all of the listed schools in Florida.

The College Sustainability Report Card was started by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a nonprofit organization whose focus is on research and education to advance sustainability in campus operations.

Recently, FIU has begun putting forth a larger effort into making the campus more "green."

One initiative the Office of University Sustainability is hosting, is Recyclemania, to promote awareness and help the University improve on waste reduction and recycling. Recyclemania is currently ongoing until March 31.

Dream Machine booths have

“Report Cards, which ever one a university decides to participate in, are there as a tracking mechanism, and hopefully help to benchmark initiatives.

Carrie Kashar,
Assistant Director
Office of University Sustainability

been installed at the University. The machines allow faculty and students to recycle PET bottles and aluminum for points which they can redeem for various goods and services.

Kashar also mentioned that all of

the light bulbs and ballasts that are changed by the University's Facilities Management Department are recycled, and that Vehicle Services recycles car batteries, used oil, oil rags and used tires.

“[The] Office of University Sustainability also recently submitted a grant proposal for recycling bins, and we are working with Aramark and Waste Management on the possibility of piloting some solar compactor recycling bins on campus” said Kashar.

The Office of University Sustainability is currently working to put together a list of goals and a climate action plan which will look at each goal with budget impacts as a high priority.

“As we make FIU a greener campus, we hope to save money, greenhouse gases and affect emerging green leaders,” said Kashar.

Machine activity to be monitored

PEPSICO, PAGE 8

more heavily during Earth Week from April 2- 6. Kashar says that she, along with the OUS and Custodial Services will monitor the machine's activity in order to evaluate which locations are most popular, and place them accordingly.

She hopes to engage students, staff and faculty and get them excited about recycling.

“We have a goal to increase our recycling rate from 30 percent to 50 percent by 2015, and then hope to meet the state requirement of 75 percent by 2020,” Kasher said. “To be able to recycle 75 percent

of our waste, it is going to take an effort from everybody on campus.”

In order to reach this goal and promote the usage of the Dream Machines, the OUS along with PepsiCo and Waste Management representatives put on an event in the Green Library's Breezeway where close to 1,000 students stopped by to learn more about the program.

While some may be skeptical of large corporations such as PepsiCo attempting to go “green,” Sigal Segev, a professor in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, who has conducted research in consumer behavior and “green” practices, believes that “any initiative of big or small company that decides to go green and communicates that with its various audiences is indeed welcomed.”

According to Segev, large companies, which often have huge marketing budgets, can raise awareness about environmentalism and “green” practices to larger audiences than traditional grass roots methods.

She also believes that programs such as this address “the ever-increasing consumer demands for green products and pro-environmental procedures that are related with the production process. So it works in both ways: From consumer demands to the company's practices and from companies practices to create and/or increase green awareness among various audiences.”

This demand is evident on the Dream Machine's Facebook page which is filled with people requesting that a machine be put on their campus. Segev hopes

that if other companies follow PepsiCo's lead, there will be a larger impact.

“Such initiatives definitely set the tone and lead the way for others to follow, be they individual consumers or other businesses,” Segev said.

PepsiCo has enlisted the help of specific partners like Waste Management, which

with career training, and an education in entrepreneurship and small business management, where they can learn business skills to apply to future careers.

For every ten million pounds of recycled beverage containers gathered, PepsiCo has promised another quarter of a million dollars to the Boot camp.

“Such initiatives definitely set the tone and lead the way for others to follow, be they individual consumers or other businesses.

Sigal Segev,
Professor
Advertising

was chosen because its vast network of plants and technologies would shorten the processing time and travel that the containers would have to go through, thus minimizing the carbon footprint.

Greenopolis.com, an interactive social media company which focuses on environmental issues, has provided the kiosks with a points reward system which could be accessed on their website.

PepsiCo has also partnered with Keep America Beautiful, an organization which relies on volunteers across the United States to help promote environmental initiatives, reduce waste, and preserve nature to promote the new initiative.

Most impressively PepsiCo has also pledged a minimum of half a million dollars per year, to the Entrepreneurship Boot camp for Veterans with Disabilities.

This program provides returning disabled veterans

Professor Yi Ju Chen, from the Department of Marketing agrees that projects such as the Dream Machines can help set industry standards as well as paint a positive image of the company.

She also believes that the effects of this effort depend on the scale of the program.

“If it is limited within a few campuses, the impact on the environment would be limited,” Chen said.

“However, if the project can be implemented in various campuses and lasts for a certain period of time, the impact on the environment can be more influential.”

Back at OUS, Kashar urges students to stop by to learn more about the Dream Machines and other recycling programs.

“We feel, by creating a really successful recycling program it will help us on our journey toward a more sustainable, climate-friendly campus.”



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BASKETBALL

LAST STAND

Allen and Wright try to go out winners on senior night

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When head coach Isiah Thomas took the reigns of the FIU basketball program in 2009, the program was lean on quality Division I talent.

In search for players to fill out his roster, he went back to his Detroit roots to find players who had the potential to succeed at FIU.

The results led him to find two Detroit natives that are now one game away from concluding their collegiate basketball careers for the Panthers: Jeremy Allen and DeJuan Wright.

On Feb. 25, Allen and Wright will have their names announced at U.S. Century Bank Arena for the final time for FIU against South Alabama.

For Thomas, seeing Allen and Wright depart the program will be difficult for him. "It's going to be a really tough moment for me, seeing those



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

DeJuan Wright [above] will play his final game at home.

two kids leave," Thomas said.

For Allen, the end of his college career has begun to set in. "Coming up to my last game, reality is starting to set in. A lot of people don't get the opportunity to play college basketball," Allen said. "For me to be able to do it, it is an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life."

On the surface, coming to play at FIU in 2009 was a

gamble. With a new coach and a nearly new roster, Allen and Wright decided to make the commitment to Thomas and FIU.

"My first recruit was DeJuan. The day I accepted the job at FIU, the next day DeJuan called and said, 'I want to play for you,'" Thomas said. "Those two

SEE MEN'S, PAGE 4

Hutlassa to suit up as a Panther for her last time



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Hutlassa (center) is the second-highest scorer this year.

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If most of us were put on another continent and forced to learn the language as quickly as possible, we would fail miserably. The transition would make us angry because of how different everything is. Not redshirt senior Fanni Hutlassa.

"I already knew English kind of, but the first two months when I came here for the summer was the most helpful," Hutlassa said. "I still didn't understand much, but I picked it up real fast. Europe is so different from here, but it's a good different. Everything was new and exciting so the transition was easy."

Hutlassa came to FIU from Budapest, Hungary in 2007 where she was a

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



SAT, FEB. 25
SOUTH ALABAMA AT FIU, 5:30 p.m.
U.S. CENTURY BANK ARENA

BASEBALL

Seminoles to host Panthers in tomahawk showdown

BASEBALL, PAGE 1

Joining their team after serving a three-game suspension for an unspecified violation of team rules are senior infielder Mike Martinez and redshirt senior pitcher Logan Dodds.

Martinez, the team's projected 2012 third baseman, led FIU last year with 15 home runs and had 60 RBIs. FSU (4-0) is ranked 19th in the nation according to Baseball America and has ripped through its opponents.

The Seminoles have scored 48 runs and have 45 RBI's. By comparison, FIU has six runs and seven RBI's in the young season. Junior Jayce Boyd leads the charge with 11 RBI's, a .438 average for FSU.

Thomas admits that finding exploits on a team of this caliber is not easy to do. "Until you see them with your own eyes you don't know how to attack," Thomas said. "They're a very talented club."

FIU will most likely face pitchers Brandon Leibrandt, Hunter Scantling and Mike Compton. Neither of the three gave up more than two runs in their outings against Hofstra University.

The Panthers counter with senior R.J. Fondon, redshirt junior Mason

McVay and sophomore Michael Ellis.

In spite of the tough competition, Thomas had bold words regarding the weekend series. "We have no intention of going 0-6," said Thomas.

Today's game is at 4 p.m., followed by a 2 p.m. Saturday start and a 1 p.m. Sunday start.

WITTELS GOES OUTSIDE THE LINES

Former Panther infielder Garret Wittels was featured on ESPN's Outside the Lines on Sunday morning.

The episode focused on Wittels' controversial rape allegation in 2010, where two women accused him and two other friends of raping them in their hotel room while on vacation in the Bahamas.

"I just never thought that anyone would ever put my name in the same sentence as the word rape," Wittels said.

The charges were eventually dropped and he signed with the St. Louis Cardinals' organization less than two weeks after the 2011 MLB Amateur draft.

He played for the Batavia Muckdogs in 2011, the Class A short-season team of the Cardinals.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Mike Martinez will play in his first game of the season on Friday after being suspended for the first series.

TENNIS

Team to begin conference schedule over the weekend

JONATHAN JACOBSSKIND

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Despite a shaky start to the 2012 season with losses to ranked opponents, head coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au and the rest of the tennis squad (1-7) look to salvage the season this weekend as they begin conference play in Denton, Texas.

FIU will be taking on the South Alabama Jaguars on Feb. 25, nearly a month after FIU earned their first victory of the year against Fresno State. Then they will face the host, North Texas on Feb. 26. The Mean Green are ranked 61st in the nation, ahead of the Panthers who are currently ranked 74th.

FIU defeated North Texas last season 4-3 in the Sun Belt Conference tournament semifinals.

The Panthers, last year's Sun Belt Champs, are winners of the previous five of seven conference titles.

A tough task lies ahead as Applebaum-Dall'au is focusing to maintain high intensity during her practices, especially as the conference schedule begins for her club.

"Our schedule has been very tough, so I do it for a reason," coach Applebaum-Dallau said. "We just got to get through it. Our practices are very good, very solid and we'll definitely have a breakthrough any moment."

Led by senior Lisa Johnson, the driving force that keeps the team running strong is that prize at the end of the road: a sixth Conference Championship.

"Our main goal is definitely to get back where we finished last season," Lisa said. "Even though we got off to a rough start our goal is to finish better than we

started."

Beating the 4-2 South Alabama Jaguars would be the Panthers' first victory against a team in the Sun Belt Conference, and a victory over the 6-4 Mean Green of North Texas would result in a win over their highest ranked opponent of the 2012 season.

"Our team is one of the strongest, if not the strongest in the Sun Belt. I think it's a matter of the need to compete and focus. As a whole...I believe every match is ours as long as we go in with the right attitude," Applebaum-Dallau said.

SEREDNI PROBABLE

Senior Christine Seredni has not traveled with the team in the month of February. Seredni has missed the last five matches due to strategic reasons. She will make her first appearance since Jan. 28 against Georgia. The Panthers are 0-5 without Seredni on the court.

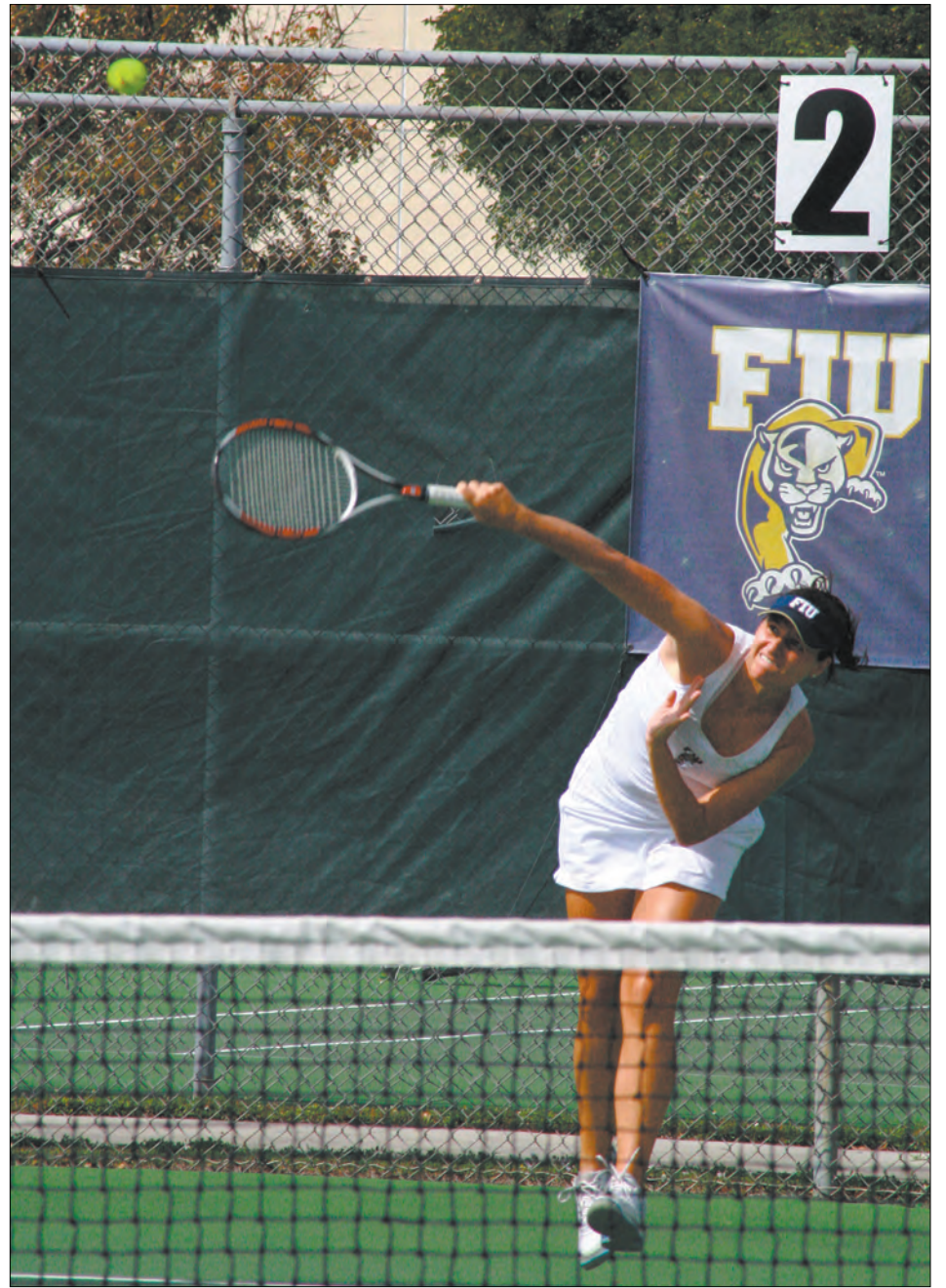
According to Johnson, if the Panthers return home from Denton 2-0 it may do wonders for the team's morals and may boost their confidence.

"It will do a lot of good. I just think our team is just having a hard time with the losing streak so it will just take one solid win to get back on track," Johnson said.

After the weekend's matches, FIU will not have to travel outside of the state of Florida for the remainder of the season. The team will face eight out of their next nine opponents at home – Florida Atlantic (in Boca Raton), their lone road foe for the season.

But Applebaum-Dallau wants to focus solely on their next opponent.

"Stay in the moment, enjoy it, do not worry about the future," Applebaum-Dallau said.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Christine Seredni will play for the first time since Jan. 28 against the University of Georgia.

Seniors' bond goes past the hardwood

MEN'S, PAGE 3

kids, coming out of Detroit, establishing and doing what they have done here, graduating, they have built a good solid foundation for us to recruit and build upon."

With both looking for a fresh start midway in their college basketball career, Thomas provided an opportunity for Allen and Wright at FIU. "I am really grateful to play at FIU and play for him. He is a great coach," Wright said. "I have learned so much in these two years, more than what I will learn probably in my whole life."

The relationship between Allen and Wright goes farther than their bond as teammates. "It's definitely a brother-brother relationship," Wright said. Allen and Wright's friendship goes back to their middle school days in Detroit. "He is the closest thing for me to having another brother," added Wright.

After an unsteady 2010-2011 season, the onus was placed on Allen and Wright to lead the team.

Before the beginning of this season, both were selected as co-captains for the Panthers. "We've been through a lot here," Allen said. "We are just trying to do whatever it takes to help the team win."

Although the fruits of their labor on the hardwood did not produce a winning season in their two seasons in Miami, they believe the effort that they put into the program has laid a foundation for the program to grow.

"That is all that we have tried to do. Work hard and lead by example," Allen said. "We are doing what we can to make the freshman and sophomores better."

After FIU, professional basketball may be on the horizon for both Allen and Wright. As the former President of Basketball Operations for the New York Knicks, Thomas believes that both will have a chance to play basketball professionally.

"They will be great teammates and they will be welcomed on any team," Thomas said. "They understand and have all the basketball concepts. They can definitely hold their own on the basketball court."

Although both admitted that playing basketball at the next level was on their minds, they both felt that there was still more to accomplish while at FIU.

"I want to continue playing basketball next season, but right now I'm just trying to finish out and hopefully we can make a run at the Sun Belt title," Wright said. "That is where my focus is."

Hungarian native thrives at FIU despite overseas transition

WOMEN'S, PAGE 3

member of the Hungarian U-18 national team.

She played in every game as a freshman before entering her sophomore campaign. Her season was cut short due to a knee injury. She thinks her career has gone just about the way she expected.

"It was a little wavy because I had the knee surgery," Hutlassa said. "I had a lot to learn but I think I started good. The knee surgery really humbled me. It really motivated me."

Her relationship with head coach Cindy Russo has been interesting to say the least. The two can be seen on the sidelines getting into about plays.

"We had our ups and downs. We have known each other for five years. I know she knows what I can do," Hutlassa said. "We have a regular player and coach relationship. I have to do what she tells me to do and I do it, most of the time. If not, she screams at me and I do it next time."

Russo believes she is an individual who had all the potential in the world.

"Fanni [Hutlassa] has been a really interesting individual. She's full of talent," Russo said. "She went out there and did her job. She loves the game. She is someone I'd keep as a friend for the rest of my life."

Hutlassa is currently the second highest scoring Panther at 12.7 points per game, behind the scintillating sophomore, Jerica Coley. She thinks that her success has been great, but Coley can't do it alone.

"Jerica is a great player. She is still young," Hutlassa said. "She learns so fast, she wants to work with her players. It helps me a lot because she gets my attention away from other teams."

Hutlassa is currently finishing up her master's degree and hopes to play professionally after her career is over at FIU.

ONE LAST TIME

The Panthers are preparing for their final home game of the season against South Alabama. The team could either become the third seed with the win or the fourth seed with a loss. Russo doesn't want to worry about seeding right now.

"No, because you never know.

Would it be good to meet Little Rock Arkansas in your second game and get it over with or play Middle [Tennessee] in your third game? They are both a tough matchup," Russo said. "We could come in third or fourth. We win these two games and we get Middle [Tennessee]. I think that we have a better chance of beating Little Rock than Middle because they are so athletic."

After going 1-1 in their final road trip of the season against UALR and Arkansas State, Russo believes that this team is still searching for an identity.

"We really haven't had a game where we have played two good halves," Russo said. "What I add that to is a team that doesn't have a personality, really doesn't know who they are."

Russo has become so frustrated with how the team has struggled to rebound that she has actually put caps on the rims so that the team doesn't have anything to shoot at.

The Panthers could also be without the services of Kamika Idom who went to get an x-ray on her ankle after practice. Russo expects her to be available to play.

SPOTLIGHT ON

Rapper launches career from residence hall

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Aspiring student musician Joe Leon is building his music career from the makeshift studio space in his room at University Park Apartments. Surrounded by the photos of famous rappers, Leon writes, records and mixes full songs from his headquarters.

"I'll say I've invested about \$6,000 here," said Leon, as he fiddles with a MIDI keyboard and various computer screens, which is all a part of the production equipment he uses to create his music.

Leon spends nearly all of his spare time filling his room with the sound of his own beats. His equipment seems to spill out onto his bed. For Leon, the music never sleeps. "I'm lucky I have a really cool roommate," he said.

Leon earned his stage legs at a young age by performing at a number of local events. His first experience performing ignited something within him.

"In the first grade, I did a play. It was me and one of my friends. It was actually a 'Magic School Bus' play," he said.

"We were the muscles of the body, and we made a rap.



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Joe Leon spends hours in his dorm room and studio where he records and produces his music.

Ever since then, I've always been into rap. I wish I still had that tape; that was just fun. Everybody loved it."

Since then, Leon has dedicated himself to his passion. "You always seem to remember where and when you heard your favorite song for the first time. That's what I enjoy about music so much, and that's the type of music

I am striving to create," he said.

Leon was always surrounded by music throughout his childhood. His mom was an opera major at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, but that is not the only family business he is actively

SEE DORM, PAGE 6

REVIEW IT

Production more than class project for student

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"For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf" is a title that captures the attention of any passerby, yet this student-directed production captured more than simple consideration.

Jeannette Galup, a senior at the University, directed the experimental play by Ntozake Shange as part of an independent study course. After two months of preparation, Galup—along with her crew and a troupe of seven actresses, who were only identified by the color of the scarves wrapped around their waists—presented her interpretation of this well-known play last weekend in the Herbert and Nicole Werthem Performing Arts Center's Black Box Theatre.

"[Galup] really catered to a Miami audience in her arrangement and seemed to be very culturally aware," said senior Francesca Dabdoub. "[The crew] wanted to show that being colored doesn't just mean [being] African American; [as] a woman, we all go through the same thing regardless of race and skin color."

This independent research course is one of the University's opportunities to delve into theater-directing. Galup heard about the play after a friend mentioned watching the film adaptation and subsequently read the play. The friend strongly recommended it to Galup, feeling it was right up her alley.

Galup immediately felt connected to the experimental work. Michael Yawney, her theater professor, was also an inspiration. "His advice helped complete our project," said Galup.

Shange's experimental play is better categorized as a collection of "choreopoems" about the struggles and triumphs faced by African-American women, including herself. The 20 "choreopoems," often divided among seven women, cover a range of topics including love, rape, abortion, race relations and loss.

Odetta Barrientos, a women's studies and theater major, who starred in the play, felt drawn to these topics and recognized their delicacy. "There [was] a lot of truth that we had a responsibility of communicating," she said. "[Galup] felt it was

the perfect show to end [her] university career."

"[She is] a very proud Cuban woman," said actress Julissa Perez, the lady in blue, noting Galup's insertion of Latin culture into the play.

All seven actresses of various ethnicities displayed incredible strength. Not only did they command the audience's attention, but they also made the audience feel the words and emotions as their own. Their names and histories were not of importance but, rather, their experiences.

Several scenes certainly possessed the power to move the audience, and Barrientos hoped they would leave "with a new appreciation for women and their trials and tribulations."

Perez connected with a scene discussing apologies and ending toxic relationships. "It [was] about finally speaking up and doing you. It's a coming of self, and I think it's beautiful when any woman finally realizes that about themselves," she said.

Galup purposely shied away from presenting a purely feminist stance and hoped to express the notion that "we've all gone through some struggles, but we'll survive."

COVER TO COVER

Novel blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction

Dr. Natalia Stefanovic works with orphans in a destroyed but redeveloping area of an unnamed Balkan city. While doing so, she is confronted with the superstitious beliefs of citizens in the area and is haunted by the recent death of her grandfather.



KELLY MALAMBRI

In the midst of telling Stefanovic's story in her novel, "The Tiger's Wife," Tea Obreht explores an ex-communist country's history through allegories and fairy tales from the stories of her grandfather, which he told her before his death.

The young doctor

narrates these fairy tales, which revolve around "the story of the tiger's wife" and her grandfather's tale, "the story of the deathless man."

The book tells the history of Yugoslavia with little to no timeline, but the stories go back to World War II, which tell tales that relate to the strife that occurred in the country from then and until the present. Through the story of the wise tiger's wife, along with the experience of Stefanovic and her grandfather, Obreht writes of a country run by a communist government that left the society ravished by its own soldiers.

Obreht was born in Belgrade. She left when she was 7 years old. After living in Egypt and Cyprus, Obreht came to America

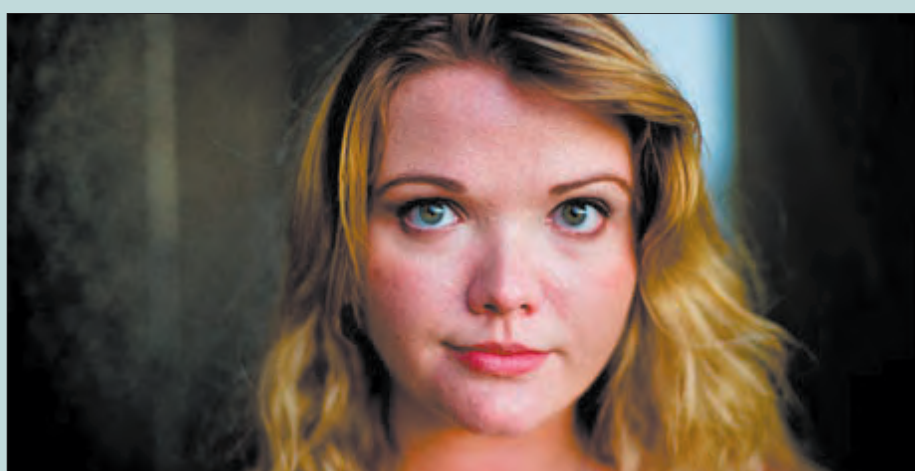


PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Tea Obreht's first novel "The Tiger's Wife" has earned her a lot of recognition.

in 1997. She escaped the years the country faced such communism, and has been praised by many book critics, including The New York Times, for her ability to write a novel that captures war, and the effects of it, so well without ever

having experienced the war herself.

The melting pot of stories of Stefanovic's grandfather and the allegorical tales he told her as a child assimilate the novel into one major overview, a unique and refreshing approach to

the novel, which makes the book extremely intriguing.

Stefanovic comes to realize that the stories her grandfather told her were not simply fairy tales, but that they were real stories of villagers whose stories related to those who lived

in its communist state. As she lives and works at the orphanage in the Balkan village, the stories her grandfather told her begin to coincide with her real life as she learns more about the country she is in.

At the same time, this interconnectedness requires the reader to do a little more critical thinking, which many times left the story line fragmented in my mind. While it is a little difficult to piece the stories together, doing so proved to be an extremely rewarding experience as a reader.

Besides this small issue, it is an easy read, and is only 352 pages. The book is easy to complete during a busy semester, and its historical basis makes it

SEE TIGER, PAGE 6

REEL TO REEL

“Pina” embraces spirit of famous choreographer

Often transcending the need for a traditional narrative, Wim Wenders is one of the few men who can truly capture the beauty of the world around us in his films. His latest test to the limits of cinema comes of the form of “Pina,” a 3-D documentary about dance.



JUAN BARQUIN

One may hear the word “documentary” and instantly be filled with feelings of dread—but fear not. This is no ordinary documentary full of reenactments and narrations, but rather an exploration of the art of dance that is so rarely shown in film.

“Pina” is a film for and about Pina Bausch, one of the most influ-

ential choreographers of modern dance. Rather than digging through the life of Bausch, the film is a respectful homage which allows the dancer’s art to establish the person she was.

There is no real narrative to “Pina,” which consists of dances, the bare minimum of archival footage, and brief interviews with the performers and Bausch herself. It is clean and consistent in its showcase of the late artist’s work, and refuses to sacrifice any of the art that it features.

Wenders shows Bausch’s art piece by piece in the film, focusing heavily on the choreography and performance art that she created over the past few decades. Each piece is performed and recreated by dancers who worked closely with Bausch, letting loose their

emotions in and out of the studio. The interviews involve these same dancers simply sitting silently in front of the camera as their tales of Bausch are told through poignant voice-overs.

While many directors would have limited themselves to performing inside of a theater, Wenders takes full advantage of the world around him. Certain sequences are performed indoors, in theaters, glass houses and studios that are dressed to fit the tone of the piece. Others are taken outside, allowing the performers to utilize and explore both nature and the industrial world that surrounds them.

The film shows that there is much more to the art of dance than many would ever realize. The dedication and discipline evident in

these performances can be overwhelming, as these men and women strip themselves of everything but raw passion, and its exploration of gender stereotypes is something to be seen. Whether it involves placing a man in a floral dress or having a woman carry a man on her back, Bausch shows that her art, like her life, was anything but safe and ordinary.

Those who have never found a film that uses 3-D well will take pleasure in knowing that the use of it in “Pina” is not the slightest bit gratuitous. Wenders, who had been looking for a way to capture the beauty of dance for years, finally found the right cinematic tool to document Bausch’s work.

What we receive with the camerawork and the 3-D is a full display of textures and depth. The

soil and sweat sticking to dancers’ bodies, the beads of water splashing as a woman twirls in the rain, or a lone dancer surrounded by an immense collection of machinery and construction—it is all designed to enhance the experience of the audience.

“Dance, dance, otherwise we are lost,” Bausch once said. Thanks to Wenders’ unforgettable film, many will begin to understand the beauty in dance and the freedom that it brings to those who are willing to embrace it.

“Pina” is currently playing at the Coral Gables Art Cinema.

Reel to Reel is a weekly movie review column. Juan Barquin is an intern for the Miami International Film Festival. Email at juan.barquin@fiusm.com.

Leon chose Miami because of bustling entertainment scene

DORM, PAGE 5

pursuing. Leon picked up another family talent.

“I’ve always been business-oriented. I got that from my father. My parents have been very supportive, but my father was always more geared towards me going to school and getting an education,” said Leon. Because of his father’s encouragement, it comes as no surprise that the senior chose to major in marketing.

His next step is creating his own label in Miami. With the new vivacity of downtown and a growing entertainment industry, the Magic City was Leon’s first choice to launch his career.

“Three years ago, I knew this would be the place. The entertainment industry in Miami is booming. Labels like Cash Money and Maybach Music, on top of

industry moguls like Rick Ross, are calling Miami home right now. It’s huge out here,” he said.

according to Leon, he is working to develop and understand his unique sound.

“I could honestly tell you in some songs I’ve tried to sound like my idols, but after it hits post-production, it never sounds like them.”

The major players within the music industry inspire Leon.

He idolizes superstars like Tupac, Jay-Z, Nas, Andre 3000, along with legendary pop music icons like Michael Jackson and Prince. They say imitation is the most sincere form of flattery, but

“I could honestly tell you in some songs I’ve tried to sound like my idols, but after it hits post-production, it never sounds like them; it’s always my own,” he said. “No matter how hard I try, I’m always stuck with my own sound.”

History, fairy tales woven in novel

TIGER, PAGE 5

one that readers will have much to learn from as well.

The novel provides a window into the country’s history that I knew little about. For example, the 1995 Srebrenica massacre was a horrific event of which I was not familiar with, and although not specifically mentioned in the novel, the story is based off of the effects of such massacres, which can be seen through the orphans that Stefanovic cares for, whom she claims were made into orphans by the country’s own soldiers. I am ashamed to say that before reading the novel and doing a little research, I had no idea about these events, making the book all the more worthwhile.

Obrecht won the 2011 Orange Prize for her debut novel, making her the youngest writer in the history of the award to do so. The book is

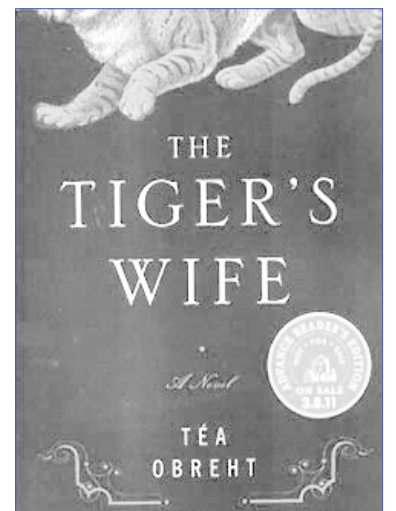


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMAZON.COM

worth a read by all searching for a truly talented writer who has something to teach.

Cover to Cover is a bi-weekly book review column. Look for it every other Friday this spring.

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

24 FRIDAY

GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free to students
WHERE: MMC PC 113

ENGAGE WORKSHOP: INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING IDEAS
WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 314

WIND AND PERCUSSION ART SERIES: BOSTON BRASS
WHEN: 5-7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Room 157

25 SATURDAY

WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES: 2012 FESTIVAL OF BANDS
WHEN: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES: BEYOND THE WIND SCORE
WHEN: 7:30-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

26 SUNDAY

FIU TENNIS VS. NORTH TEXAS
WHEN: 12-7:45 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY
Denton, Texas

FESTIVAL VALLENATO
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: Klipsch Amphitheater at Bayfront Park

FIU BASEBALL VS. FLORIDA STATE
WHEN: 1-5:30 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY
Tallahassee, Fla.

WILL RYMAN
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

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HOLY SANTORUM — IS THIS REAL LIFE?

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

Asst. Opinion Editor
brooklyn.middleton@fiusm.com

Potential GOP candidate Rick Santorum's views on abortion are not just representative of conservative views on reproductive rights, but they are representative of an ideology so extreme it renders him incapable of separating church and state as well as science from religious doctrine.

This should cause great concern not just for liberals, but for even the most moderate of Republicans.

Discussions about abortion are often so heated and so devoid of basic logic and compassion that it's almost pointless to even have them.

However, the fact that Santorum is such an extremist and possesses such illogical, misogynistic, and anti-scientific views, the discussion should be on the tips of everyone's tongues.

In an interview with CNN, Santorum had the audacity to assert that women who are raped and impregnated should, "make the best out of a bad situation."

This guy, in the 21st century, just stated that he believes women and/or young girls should be given no choice after experiencing what is perhaps the greatest violation of human rights: rape.

Calling a rape-created fetus, a "horribly-created gift," and imploring women and girls to "accept what God has given to you,"

sounds not like a statement from a potential presidential candidate, but instead a delusional fanatic out of touch with science, reality and modern American culture.

“
He believes that women and/or young girls should be given no choice after experiencing what is perhaps the greatest violation of human rights: rape.
”

It's so easy to become dismissive of American politics, but it's imperative to even briefly imagine an America where the leader of the free world actually believes that a woman who is raped and impregnated is actually being given a gift from God. Also, greatly reducing the need for abortion with contraception? Nope. Santorum states, "Many of the Christian faith have said, well, that's okay, contraception is okay. It's not okay. It's a license to do

things in a sexual realm that is counter to how things are supposed to be."

The "sexual realm" is a place where heathens go to do sexy sex things, and, according to Santorum, it is not okay. Santorum not only holds fanatical views on abortion, but also fanatical views on contraception.

It's pointless to assert that these discussions take away vital energy from more pressing discussions like how we have no money, even though they do, because these type of extreme evangelical views are bad for America domestically and the global perspective of America as a progressive, educated nation.

Santorum is clearly incapable of separating his extremist beliefs from American policies. We already saw how well that worked out for former President George W. Bush, who largely justified his invasion of two countries with religious proclamations.

This time, America is in a far more precarious predicament; economically and socially we are on the precipice of real crisis and Jesus is not the answer. In fact, he really should not even be part of the question.

Santorum is not a conservative candidate, nor is he the savior of American family values. It's cool to ridicule Santorum; Google his name if you feel so inclined.

However, it's also important to remember that his hatefulness and fanaticism will quickly switch from humorous to terrifying should he actually become the candidate.

Discontent enables conservative gains

JOLIETTE RE
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Florida International University prides itself in having one of the most affordable tuition rates in the country.

However, this could change because of the upcoming election in November.

Pressure has increased to raise tuition costs, but the amount of available financial aid has decreased.

The University's financial aid office announced that the Pell Grant 2 for the summer term will not be offered anymore. This is in addition to the decreased amount offered by Bright Futures.

I feel personally hurt by this, since I was expecting to take an accounting class for the summer.

Because of the public's concern for the national debt, most Americans feel that the economy is the number one priority for the next president.

According to the article called "Economic Issues Drove Florida Voters" by Marjorie Connelly in *The New York Times*, published on Feb. 1, "The economy was the top issue for 6 in 10 voters, and most of them (Florida voters) voted for Mr. [Mitt] Romney."

Due to the struggling U.S. economy, Americans now show that they feel dissatisfied with the

current Democratic president and may feel an inclination to voting for the other party -- Republican.

This shift could also have triggered America to be more accepting toward conservative values.

Look at the rise of the term "freedom of religion," and the fight over whether free distribution of birth control be covered in private insurance of Catholic hospitals, Catholic schools or other conservative churches.

Look at the rise of the Tea Party faction.

Look at how many Republican candidates proclaim strongly of their conservative values.

During his appearance in South Carolina for the state's Republican primary from Jan. 11-21 this year, Rick Santorum mentioned in his "Faith, Family, Freedom" speech the fall of moral values as the blame for the current dismal monetary situation.

Many Republican candidates have also borrowed phrases depicting this idea of amending the U.S. from its faults. "Reform America Now" is the Texan Ron Paul's slogan. "Believe in America" is Romney's. "The Courage to Fight for America" is Santorum's.

This rising Republican popularity will probably not alleviate the financial situation for students at the University. Budget cuts will probably be on the top of their agenda.

Paul, according to his "Plan

to Reform America," plans to cut one trillion dollars in one year after being president by taking down the Transportation of Security Administration and the following five cabinet departments.

Santorum plans to eliminate five trillion dollars of government spending over a period of five years by reducing, at minimum, 10 percent all non-defense federal employees and lowering non-militant government expenditures to 2008 levels.

Newt Gingrich supports a "management" system called Lean Six Sigma, which, according to his campaign website, could reduce five hundred billion dollars of fiscal spending a year if applied across the federal government.

Romney plans to reduce government spending about five hundred billion per year and lower it to twenty percent of U.S. GDP

More likely, first-year students will be more affected by these limited resources.

We must be wary of the charming rhetoric politicians use. People must be wary of whom they elect and not be persuaded by vague slogans and campaign promises.

We must keep in mind the vital issue of education funding, which affects a huge proportion of the student body.

People must really reflect on this before they make the decision to vote.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fee increase pointless

This week, the University's Activity & Service Fee Committee will meet to determine the fate of a proposed increase to the Activity & Service Fee.

This fee is the sole source of funding for the Student Government Association and all entities which are funded by SGA. Currently, the fee stands at \$11.50 per credit hour, and the increase could be of up to 5 percent of that amount.

In analyzing the need for an increase, the Coalition of Students for Reform cannot find a justifiable one. For the past three years, SGA has received A&S funding in larger amounts than expected due to increased student enrollment.

Given the fact that enrollment is projected to increase once again, a mission of FIU President Mark Rosenberg, A&S funding is sure to increase again as well. More students literally

means more funding. Furthermore, SGA currently has a reserve of funds called the Accumulated Cash Balance Account in which it deposits all surplus A&S funds from the current fiscal year.

This account is gaining an interest yield every year. And while the information on the interest and how much has been gained, or even what the actual balance of this account is, has not been made public, the funds available are estimated to be at around \$4 million.

This considerable amount exceeds the increased earnings from the proposed A&S fee increase.

The CSR does not oppose increases in fees or tuition if there is a real need for the increase. However, with student enrollment on the rise, naturally increasing A&S funding, the \$4 million in reserve A&S funding, and the fact that each fiscal year ends in

an A&S funding surplus, the CSR cannot condone an fee increase for the sake of an increase.

If there are any concerns about budget shortfalls, they should be addressed through more fiscal responsibility in the allocation process.

Organizations that historically have left-over funding should receive less this coming year, and that difference be given to organization who suffer from budget shortfalls.

Our Board of Trustees, including our Student Body President, already have approved a 15 percent tuition increase.

While of course used for very different purposes, it still adds up to a higher financial burden on students. That is why CSR asks the four student members of the A&S Fee Committee to vote against an increase in the A&S Fee.

We do not need it.
-Coalition of Students for Reform



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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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SUSTAINABILITY

PepsiCo Dream Machine decreases carbon footprint

STEPHANIE FELDMAN

Staff Writer
stephanie.feldman@fiusm.com

One of America's top beverage companies, PepsiCo, is leading the way in recycling with their new "Pepsi Dream Machine Program." Plastic bottles account for a large amount of waste every year, yet less than a third of plastic beverage containers are being recycled each year and only 12 percent of public spaces are equipped with recycling receptacles.

In order to decrease the amount of plastic bottles flooding landfills and increasing the rate of beverage containers being recycled in the U.S. to 50 percent, PepsiCo, in partnership with Waste Management, the largest recycling company in North America, have created a new recycling initiative with the program.

FIU has become a part of a small but increasing number of universities with Dream Machines on campus. There are currently four machines throughout Modesto Maidique Campus and one at Biscayne Bay Campus.

The dark blue receptacles come in two varieties. The intelligent kiosk is equipped with a computer system that monitors usage and allows users to sign up and receive five points for every container they recycle.

They can then redeem the points from retailers. The other receptacle is a traditional looking bin.

Both systems are being used in high traffic and other busy areas such as universities.

They accept all Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET/PETE) plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

According to Carrie Kashar, the assistant director at the Office of University Sustainability, the Pepsi Dream machines are a convenient way for students and staff on campus to make a significant change to the

environment.

Kashar explains that the interest in the machines began two years ago, when a group of FIU GoGreen Team volunteers helped to launch one of the first Pepsi Dream machines at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

"Large corporations, even including universities, all have a big environmental footprint, but any change that they can make to help lesson that impact is a good one in my mind," Kashar said.

"You have to start somewhere, and eventually all the small changes will have big impacts."

She hopes that they will become more popular and eventually more will be placed throughout BBC, in other locations such as housing and the Engineering Center.

"I recently redid my home using 'green' appliances. I'm not going to change the world, but if everyone starts doing it, we could make a big change," said Karen Gonzalez, freshman business administration major.

According to Gonzalez, making a change in the environment begins at home.

"I think it will create a culture of recycling, and it will get you into the habit," said David Ullman, a senior and international relations major. "I think it's good that FIU is working to promote recycling on campus."

Initiated on Earth Day 2010, PepsiCo has bought thousands of computerized recycling receptacles which people can use to deposit plastic bottles or other recyclables and in turn, gain points which they can redeem for rewards from various retailers online.

Kashar is working alongside Business Services in order to supply the machines with coupons that students can use for vendors on campus. She plans on promoting the machines

SEE PEPSICO, PAGE 2



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

The only Pepsi Dream Machine is located in AC-1 on the first floor, and was not in operation as of press time. Four Dream Machines are located at MMC. The Machine accepts all Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET/PETE) plastic bottles and aluminum cans. PepsiCo in partnership with Waste Management plan to decrease the amount of plastic bottles flooding landfills.

CAMPUS LIFE

Organization to restructure in light of fall semester botches

FILIP PANOVSKI
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Often times at Biscayne Bay Campus, students go to class or take the bus to the Modesto Maidique campus, and then leave, often referred to as being a commuter school. Rectifying this has been a long-term goal for the Panther Power organization, which has found ways to persuade both new and existing students to mingle, but the organization's activity has all but grounded to a halt since the start of the Spring 2012 semester.

Panther Power's motto has been "we invoke a sense of pride into each and every student of FIU by hosting events to enhance campus life as well as build a sense of community."

Pep rallies, tail gate parties, organized bus rides to games and athletic

picnics have been some of the attempts to raise awareness among the student base. It seems that all of those will have to be put off for some time. Currently, the organization has but a single active member and is on indefinite hold for recruitment purposes.

"The organization is currently on hold for recruitment reasons. Most of the people graduated and are no longer part of the organization," said Ivy Seigel, Assistant Director of Campus Life. "Some of them moved on, some work for FIU."

Currently, there is only one candidate being considered and as a result, the executive board which the organization used in the past to convey plans is offline indefinitely until its ranks are bolstered.

Panther Power came under fire during the Fall 2011 semester due to the organizations negligence in submit-

"I would use the facilities if they were advertised more. Right now, we usually hear about stuff last minute."

Channon Spencer
Freshman, advertising major

ting mandated Event Audit Reports to the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Operational Review Committee, headed by SGC-BBC Senator at Large, Oluwotobi Adekoya.

As a result, Panther Power's funds were temporarily frozen. This was not timely documented and enforced and had no practical effect on the Winter Wonderland event, which proceeded as planned.

"It was a minor hindrance at best," Seigel said.

Student support for the organization is quite high and many people seem eager to be a target audience.

"I would use the facilities if they were advertised more. Right now, we usually hear about stuff last minute," said Channon Spencer, a freshman and Advertising major, referring to the carnival during Valentine's Day week.

What seemed to draw the most attention to people was shuttle rides to FIU games; many were quite certain they would partake in any activities where transport was organized in a social and friendly manner, such as Juliana Aragon, a junior international relations major, and Ezra Mintz, a senior majoring in advertising. While both seemed rather uncertain whether they would spend a lot more time on BBC, they would likely take advantage of the bus rides.

Despite the current state of affairs, the consensus seems to be that more event awareness would be a great way to get people involved on campus. Panther Power is due for Campus specific Activities and Service fee monies hearings and deliberations commencing on Feb. 24 to decide their financial fate for the upcoming fiscal year.