



LIBYA

First Arab country flies over Libya

Qatar became the first Arab country to fly combat missions over Libya on Friday after NATO agreed to take command of the no-fly zone part of air operations.



PALESTINE

Gates pushes peace amid bombings

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad sounded willing to renew efforts toward peace with Israel while Palestinian entreaties to Israeli leaders were publicly rebuffed.



ISRAEL

System deployed as shield from rockets

Its newly developed "Iron Dome" rocket defense system for the first time on March 25 to defend its southern communities from attacks by Gaza militants.

Facebook: You're invited to protest in Egypt

JONATHAN SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

The message caught sophomore Kirillos Habib by surprise. Born in Shobra, Egypt, he and his parents had lived in the United States since 2001.

But on Jan. 22, Habib opened his inbox to find a message sent through Facebook, inviting him to a protest in Tahrir Square, Cairo.

Habib, a member of Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, had heard about the uprising in Egypt through his church. But with the call to action in his inbox, Habib became one of thousands of young Egyptians, some living a continent or an ocean away from Egypt, invited to participate in the mass movement that would in 18 days demolish the regime of a despot who had ruled for 30 years.

Habib was surprised by the message, but the uprising did not surprise him. Egypt had needed a revolution, he said, and it was about time it got one.

And Egypt's history had given Habib reason to hope that the protestors in Tahrir Square would be successful. "In 1919," Habib said, "there was another revolution, and that was successful."

In 1919, Egyptian nationalist leader Saad Zaghloul petitioned the colonial British to recognize Egypt's independence. The colonial administration jailed him and his compatriots, igniting massive strikes across the country.

Men and women, merchants and students, Christians and Muslims poured into the streets and the British government caved. Egypt won its independence from Great Britain in 1922.

Habib felt that a nation whose people had so boldly rebelled against the oppression of British colonialism should have the strength to end an autocracy led by one of its own sons. The precedent was clear.

But Mubarak's government, virtually unchallenged for 30 years, was not a foreign colonial power; if there were to be a revolution in Egypt, something needed to dramatically upset the regional status quo. And that, said Habib, was exactly what nearby Tunisia did.

"[The protestors] were definitely motivated by Tunisia," Habib said, "It was the last straw." But there was a sense of agitated tension in Egypt, he said, and in the wider Middle East before the revolt in Tunisia that ended the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Professor Charles MacDonald, a Middle

THROUGH THE WIRE



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

The Aesthetics and Values exhibit opened on March 24 at the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum. Every year students from the Honors College curate a show while working with local artists. Senior Alexandra Montesino (left), a coordinator for the show, and Lisa Sakowitz (right) observe artist Cristina Lei Rodrigues' work.

Week dedicated to Graduate Students

NICOLE CASTRO
Asst. News Director

The first Graduate Student Appreciation Week, hosted by the Graduate Student Funding Committee, Student Government Association and the University Graduate School, will be held March 28, 2011 through April 1, 2011.

The event will begin on Monday, March 28 with the scholarly forum, where graduate and professional students from science, technology, engineering and math will have the opportunity to display their posters, presentations and research to the FIU community.

Tuesday will be the continuation of the scholarly forum with presentations from law, education, social science and humanities.

Winners from the scholarly forum will be awarded at the recognition reception on March 31 at the College of Law Atrium.

Students will have the chance to be recognized for three categories.

The Provost Award for Graduate Student Engagement will recognize nominees who have demonstrated significant local, regional or global community engagement. The Outstanding paper or Manuscript will recognize outstanding papers or projects and the Mentorship of

Graduate Students will recognize excellence in teaching.

The Tuesday graduate student resource fair will allow graduate students to see the many resources available to them at the university.

Additionally, Dr. Russel Lucas and Dr. Ronald Cox from the School of International and Public Affairs, along with graduate student Reza Sanati, will be part of a panel at the Uprisings in the Arab World and U.S Foreign policy lecture scheduled for Wednesday.

A special dinner will take place at Chili's and is open to all graduate students including medical and law students.

Engineers to fundraise for good cause

ANALIA FIESTAS
Staff Writer

Enjoying a meal with friends at a local Chili's can be an easy way for students to contribute to a humanitarian cause.

Engineers Without Borders, a national organization that aids the underprivileged around the world, will be hosting a fundraiser at a select Chili's on March 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Any customer that visits the restaurant that day can benefit EWB because a portion of each patron's paycheck will go to the organization.

EWB is a non-profit humanitarian organization that partners with developing communities worldwide through engineering projects that involve and train engineering students. The organization completes public engineering work assignments that focus on sustainable water sanitation.

"Our organization loves to work with water. For example, if communities are not receiving clean water or if they do not have a good and reliable water system then that is when EWB steps in," said Andrew Hipolito, member of both the hydrology and fundraising team at EWB.

Members from EWB are currently reconstructing part of Costa Rica's water supply—the reason for the Chili's fundraiser.

According to Hipolito, Costa Rica obtains their main water supply from spring rains. In order for the water to spread to the villages, spring boxes trap the water. These boxes have undergone weather damage and the water is often contaminated from animals that climb up on them.

Hipolito explained that that the spring boxes have been rebuilt, and the fund-

NEWS FLASH

Mark Kelly: Gabrielle Giffords “Remarkably Well”

Gabrielle Giffords’ husband, Mark Kelly: the astronaut said at a press conference that his wife is beginning to walk and talk and “improving every day.” Kelly will command the Shuttle Endeavour that takes off April 19, and he said they are awaiting final approval from Giffords’ doctors to see if she can attend the ceremony.

He said he visits his wife every morning at the Houston rehab facility where she is recovering before he heads to NASA for training, and then he goes to the hospital in the evening. But he had a somber note to add: Kelly said Giffords is starting to comprehend and cope with the shooting that left six dead.

NATO to Take Over Full Libya Mission

The U.K. foreign secretary, William Hague, says NATO will take over command of the entire military operation within days. So far, NATO has agreed to take over only the no-fly zone, which they may do as early as the weekend, so for the time being the U.S., Britain, and France are still responsible for strikes against Gaddafi’s ground forces.

NATO’s limited takeover of military operations is partly the result of differences among the NATO allies about what the operation should be and what its goals are, with France pushing regime change and Turkey balking at aggressive bombing.

In the meantime, French and British forces continue to strike Gaddafi’s forces, bombing an artillery battery and armored vehicles near the town of Ajdabiya.

– Compiled by Nicole Castro

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 26, in the Opinion section, the editorial referred to the Engineering Campus, when the proper name is the Engineering Center.

In Vol. 22, Issue 28, in the News section, it was incorrectly stated that Claudia Puig will replace Albert Dotson as chair of the Board of Trustees. Mayi De La Vega will be the new BOT chair.

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charges against speaker dropped

JAMES L. ROSICA
AP Staff

Prosecutors dropped corruption charges against former Florida House Speaker Ray Sansom on Friday after the judge in his trial rejected a key witness.

Circuit Judge Terry Lewis ruled that prosecutors had not shown enough evidence that a conspiracy existed in response to a motion to introduce testi-

mony by Bob Richburg, a former college president who had been charged in the case before agreeing to testify against Sansom. Without Richburg’s testimony, prosecutor Willie Meggs said he could not continue.

He dropped the charges after Sansom and co-defendant Jay Odom agreed to pay restitution.

Sansom had been charged with scheming to get a \$6 million state

budget appropriation in 2007 to build a hangar at the Destin airport for Odom, a local businessman and major Republican donor.

Defense lawyers said the money was for a much-needed and hurricane-proof emergency operations center for the city of Destin.

Charges were also dropped against Odom,

Sansom, 48, and Odom, 54, had been charged with

grand theft and conspiracy to commit grand theft in connection with the appropriation.

The project was funded in 2007 but never built, and the state got its money back.

Meggs’ theory of the case was that Sansom wanted Northwest Florida State College to build the project and include some classrooms to call

SANSOM, page 3

All proceeds to fund Costa Rica trip

FUNDRAISER, page 1

raiser money will aid the construction of new storage tanks. During the summer, EWB will return to Costa Rica to build the 100 cubic-meters tanks.

“On our first trip to Costa Rica, we scouted the area, surveyed everything to see in what kind of situation they were at. On our second trip, we rebuilt their spring boxes. We sealed them from the back so that the residents could get clean drinking water,” said Hipolito.

The organization is hoping that the Chili’s fundraiser attracts many donations to go towards the almost \$25,000 total amount. Any customers interested in giving money to EWB must inform the restaurant’s staff that their check should go to the fundraiser.

“When people have

dinner at Chili’s and they tell the manager that they’re there on behalf of FIU’s EWB, ten percent of the checks is given to us,” said Hipolito.

“The people at Costa Rica use a lot of water and unfortunately, they do not receive a large supply of water. The storage tanks will supply the residents with water during the dry seasons,” said Hipolito.

The idea for the fundraiser came from other

fundraising organizations. United Way, for example, selected different restaurants for interested donors to have a good meal while contributing to the organization.

There will be a meeting with information on the project prior to the fundraiser open to anyone interested. It will take place the same day of the fundraiser at 5:00 p.m. in the Civil Engineering department’s meeting room of the Engi-

neering building. Hipolito explained that students could also donate in different ways. Interested donors can go to ewb-usa.org, and follow the instructions for donations or mail a check to the engineering campus under the name of “Engineers Without Borders – FIU.”

Chili’s, located on 87 NW. 13 Terrace, will welcome any students who are interested in attending the fundraiser.

THE BEACON

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Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

at Modesto A. Maidique Campus (MMC)

International Adoptions After Natural Disasters


Laura Boudon
College of Medicine




Tuesday, Mar. 29, 2011 12:30-1:30pm
ZEB 150 (College of Education Building)

Free Lunch Provided

presented by **The New York Times**





GoGlobal.fiu.edu

Middle East expert finds parallels across uprisings

EGYPT, page 1

East expert who has written extensively on uprisings and armed conflicts in the region, drew a parallel between the circumstances in Egypt and those in Iran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution that swept the shah from power.

Both uprisings, MacDonald said, were preceded by “a revolution of rising expectations ... that created a feeling of being cheated, of being wronged – which is a very powerful source of unrest.”

In pre-revolutionary Iran, many were angered by the shah’s public extravagance while much of the country languished in poverty.

In the Arab world today, families with TVs and computers consume pixilated images of wealth, luxury, political and social freedom, that is generally denied to them.

Financial crisis hit the region, the middle class slid towards poverty and the poor towards desperation. The people watched on TV as the wealth of their nations were poured into the designer homes, cars and personal ward-

robes of rulers who called themselves guardians of the people’s interests.

Finally, something snapped.

In Tunisia, the authorities confiscated the pushcart of a young man who supported his family selling fruit and vegetables off his wooden cart by the roadside. Publicly humiliated by the police, 26-year-old Mohamed Bouazizi walked to the street in front of the local municipality building, poured fuel over his body and set himself on fire.

In this act of anger and despair, Bouazizi gave voice to the ire of many across the region frustrated by poverty and government corruption.

His message resonated in Egypt.

“There wasn’t enough money, not enough jobs,” Habib said. “[Mubarak] was stealing all the money for himself – there was just an explosion of emotion. All of a sudden, everyone wanted to overthrow the regime – because they were fed up.”

But for Habib, the revolution really began earlier in Alexandria. “On New Year’s Day,” Habib

said, “there was a suicide bombing, in front of a church.”

Extremists had bombed the Two Saints Church in Alexandria during a mass. 21 people died.

And Habib said there was widespread anger at the Mubarak government as a result of the attack.

Radical groups, he said, had been threatening Egypt’s Christians for months before the bombing, and “... the government knew about it, and didn’t do anything. Basically, this event sparked major controversy. Before the protests all over the country, there were protests about this event – about the lack of ability to secure the Christian areas in Egypt.”

Protests in the Christian communities started immediately. AP reports from the time recount angry protesters chanting, “Mubarak, the Copts’ blood is boiling!” and attacking policemen. The police responded with clubs and tear gas.

There was a seething anger at a security force which had abused the populace under the pretext of security and then failed to provide it when it was

FINAL TOUCH



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Sophomore Adam Israel, an architecture student, adds final touches to a midterm model for his Design 4 class.

needed most.

“The government said the bombing was committed by foreigners,” Habib said, “but meanwhile, the country’s police were terrorizing their own people.”

MacDonald pointed to Egypt’s long-standing emergency laws as a source of great anger at the regime. “The emergency laws which existed in Egypt,” he said, “had just gone on way too long,” and the wide powers they granted the Egyptian government were often abused.

The laws, enacted after the assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar

Sadat in 1981, had been in power as long as Hosni Mubarak – and were just as deeply resented.

The Coptic Christians’ anger at the government security forces after the bombing fed into a wider discontent with the conduct of the Mubarak government.

“It’s not just an issue that the government completely ignores or neglects Christians,” said Habib. “It’s the whole people – everyone is affected because the government is so corrupt. It’s the youth that were suffering most from the bad conditions – the corruption, the

unemployment.”

Though Habib had supported the uprising and watched it progress with faith that the protesters in Tahrir Square would succeed, he was unprepared for the moment that Hosni Mubarak left the country. “I couldn’t believe it at first,” Habib said. “Then I started being concerned about what’s going to happen after.”

For this story in its entirety, check out fiusm.com

www.FIUSM.com

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fla. House Speaker to pay \$103,000 in restitutions

SANSOM, page 2

it an “educational facility,” which would qualify it for state money for educational buildings.

Charges were also dropped against Odom. He declined comment outside the courtroom.

“It became clear that the state and the defense and the court have a fundamental difference of understanding about the law of conspiracy,” Meggs said after court adjourned. “From the direction of the court’s ruling, that you can’t steal the appropriation, we would not be able to prevail to show theft.”

Sansom and Odom each agreed to pay \$103,000 in restitution to Northwest Florida State College in return for Meggs dropping the case.

The college had spent more than \$300,000 in design and planning costs for the Destin facility, which it later had to return to the state.

Sansom’s lawyer, Stephen Dobson, said his client would likely have to borrow the money.

Sansom, holding back emotions, thanked God and

his family during the months leading up to trial.

“We could tell it was a tough ride,” he haltingly told reporters. “But when I first met with my attorneys, they told me, ‘Ray, the truth will set you free,’ and we saw that today.”

“I want to thank the justice system,” he added. “I had a chance as a legislator to fund the justice system, and I didn’t quote get it (then), but I get it today.”

“Here’s the sad part: That building is (still) needed ... I knew it was needed 15 years ago.”

Of Meggs, Sansom said he had told him at the grand jury, “Indicting a legislator for a budget item is no way to stop legislation. But he wouldn’t listen to me.”

He said he still loves education and hopes to keep his job at a charter school in Okaloosa County. Of any further political aspirations, he said, “I’m not concerned about any political future. My future is in God’s hands.”

James Judkins, Odom’s attorney, said even though Meggs dropped the charges, the defense team felt they would have won.

Judkins then launched

into a diatribe against news media that had reported on the case and against Meggs

personally.

Meggs “took it this far, to the tremendous waste

of taxpayer money and the lives of these men who have been on trial,” he said. “This

was a silly case, a stupid case that should never have been brought.”

Graduate Student Appreciation Week March 28 - April 1, 2011 @ MMC

EVENT AGENDA

Monday, 3/28

Scholarly Forum (posters and presentations); Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Health and Medicine
Location: GC 243
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, 3/29

Scholarly Forum (posters and presentations); Social Science, Humanities, Law, Education
Location: GC Ballrooms
Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday, 3/30

Graduate Student Resource Fair
Location: Chapman Plaza
Time: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Thursday, 3/31

Recognition Reception (Scholarly Forum and UGS Provost Awards – by invite only)
Location: College of Law Atrium
Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Friday, 4/1

Global Awareness Session
Location: TBD
Time: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm

GradSkellar @ Chili’s Too, hosted by the Modern Languages GSO (MLGSO)
Location: Chili’s Too
Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Sponsored by: SGA, Graduate Student Funding Committee and the University Graduate School

BASEBALL

Fielding miscues, sparse hitting sink FIU at home

BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers fought hard but just could not get the bats going enough in a 6-4 loss to the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

Although the Golden Panthers scattered seven hits throughout the night, they stranded ten base runners in a number of key situations, dampening R.J. Fondon's solid performance on the mound as the starter. "R.J. Fondon threw outstanding tonight," coach Turtle Thomas said. "That's probably about as good as he can pitch right there."

In the first, Ivan Hartle and Kes Carter both singled. Then catcher Jose Behar attempted to make a pick off of Carter at first, but first baseman Rudy Flores dropped the ball, allowing both runners to advance. Logan Robbins then hit an infield single that brought home the first run of the game.

After that, Fondon settled into a groove and would last six innings and pick up five strikeouts with only one walk. Ryan Huck of Western Kentucky got the juices flowing with a solo home run to lead off the fifth and extend the

lead to 2-0 for the Hilltoppers. But Fondon would bounce right back to pick up two of his five strikeouts on the night.

Leading off the sixth inning with a Hartle single, Robbins then singled and allowed Hartle to advance to third. But Fondon then picked off Robbins on first, followed by a ground out to short to end the inning.

When pitcher Jose Velasquez came on in relief of Fondon, he picked up two quick outs with runners on first and second. But a passed ball advanced the runners, which then set up Hartle's single to bring home the third run of the evening.

After Behar led off the seventh with a single, Patton then hit a shot to right that advanced Behar to third. With two outs, Garrett Wittels then put the Panthers on the scoreboard with a double to center to make the game 3-1.

In the ninth, the Hilltoppers loaded the bases and picked up a run on a Matt Rice sacrifice fly. Carter then ripped a triple to center to bring home two more runs to make it 6-1.

The Panthers made it interesting in the bottom of the ninth.

After a hit by pitch and walk issued by Rye Davis, Patton doubled down the right field line to bring home a run to make it 6-2. Flores then hit a double down the right field line to bring home two more.

However, it was just too little too late, as the Hilltoppers then got Mike Martinez to line out to end the game.

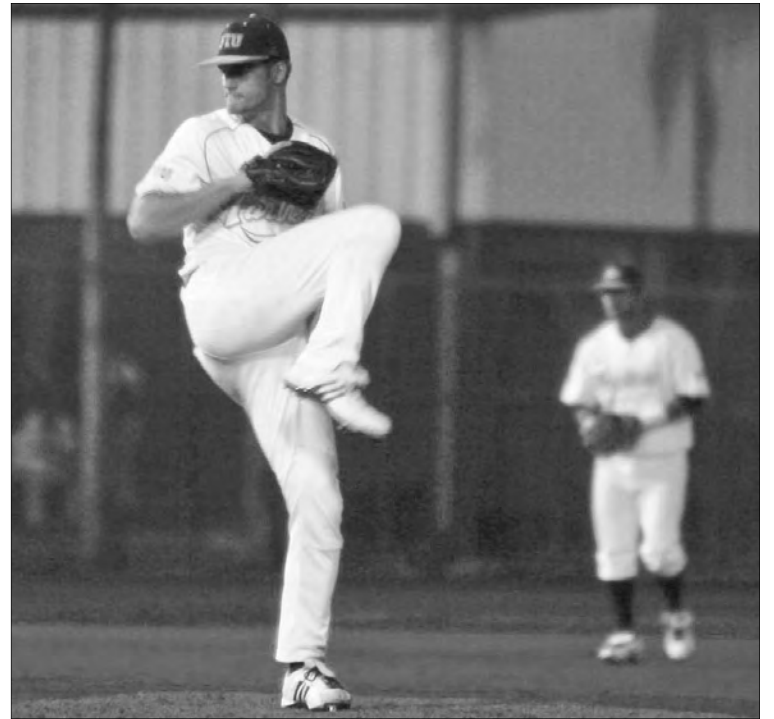
"You got to score some runs to win," Coach Thomas said. "That's the bottom line."

WKU 3, FIU 2

It was a tough battle for the Golden Panthers, but in the end the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers proved to be too much, defeating FIU 3-2 in the first game of a three-game home series.

Defense played a key role throughout the game as FIU committed four errors while Western Kentucky had none. Although only one defensive mistake ended up leading to a run, it ended up being the difference.

"We need to shore up the defense a little bit," coach Turtle Thomas said. "We had some miscues there in the field that we need to make to win that kind of



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

R.J. Fondon [above] pitched six innings and struck out five, but received little run support in a loss to Western Kentucky on March 26.

baseball game." The scoring got going when Kes Carter led off the second inning for the Hilltoppers with a solo home run, but then Haig rebounded to strike out the side.

The Golden Panthers (14-10,

1-3 SBC) responded right away with two runs of their own in the bottom half of the second. Following lead off singles by Tyler James Shantz and Jabari

BASEBALL, page 5

TRACK & FIELD

Strong performances at road invitational show promise

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

This season has been about getting better every week for the men's and women's track and field team.

Following their great performance last week at the Feldberg Invi-

tational, they improved as a team and as individuals at the UCF invitational on March 25 and 26 to show they have what it takes to compete with the bigger schools in the nation.

This season, coach Eric Campbell has heard what he has known all along: that FIU is making a name

for themselves on the track and field circuit.

"I'd say the second or third meet in was when I would start to hear the mumbling and grumbings of a lot of the local coaches," said Campbell. "That feels good because it lets you know as a coaching staff that you're

headed down the right path."

On the first day of competition, both Sebastian Castillo and Daniela Espino came in first in the steeplechase. Castillo ran a time of 9:33.34 on the men's side, and Espino got a time of 11:11.27 for the women's. Also, Marissa McElveen placed

Bethune-Cookman, Florida Atlantic, Florida Gulf Coast, Jacksonville, Miami, Nova Southeastern, Palm Beach Atlantic, Maryland, Cincinnati, Rhode Island, Georgia Southern, Tennessee, University of Florida and host Central Florida.

Even with being in competition

STILL WORKING



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Golden Panthers enter final week of spring practice before their annual Blue vs. Gold game on April 2 at FIU Stadium. With concerns at various positions at both sides of the ball, FIU hopes to use this time to see who will emerge at different positions.

“Now they understand that they... can actually compete with the bigger schools in the country.”

Eric Campbell
FIU Track & Field Coach

second in the women's long jump with a jump of 6.14m.

"Right now all the teams all across the country participate in track meets that are really to help us prepare for our conference meets and obviously the national championship," said Campbell. "You really know how a team is based on how the kids perform from one week to the next."

One of those kids, Benia Gregoire, set a personal best 53.33m on her hammer throw. Although she did not place in the hammer throw, she was able to place the next day in the women's shot put, getting a first place finish.

The schools that attended this two-day meet along with FIU were

against much bigger schools, FIU held their own and proved that they will be a force to be reckoned with when it comes time for the national championship.

"It's kind of exciting to see our kids perform against the bigger schools because now they understand they're not just potentially good, but can actually compete with the other bigger schools in the country," Campbell explained.

On Saturday, FIU's individual events continued to place well.

Tyson Kemp came in first in the men's shot put for the field event. On the running side, The Golden Panthers took both second and third

TRACK, page 5

Strong outings by Fondon, Haig not enough for wins



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Golden Panther offense struggled during the first two games in their home series with Western Kentucky.

BASEBALL, page 4

Henry, Joel Capote sacrificed them over on a bunt. Jose Behar then picked up an RBI when he grounded out to third. Pablo Bermudez then singled home Henry to give FIU the lead.

In the fourth, the Hilltoppers (15-6, 4-0 SBC) bats came to life, picking up three consecutive singles, leading to a run that tied the game. But Haig would work out of it to only give up the one run.

In the fifth, Haig struggled a bit, starting out the inning with an error, walking the next batter, and conceding a single. A sacrifice fly from Ivan Hartle brought home a run to give WKU the lead, but Jared Anderoli was then tagged out trying to advance to second, which limited the damage for FIU. Then Matt Rice hit a shot to center, but Joel Capote made a spectacular catch to save a run.

The key play of the game was a costly error by first baseman Rudy Flores that led to the deciding run coming across.

In the seventh, Haig's night came to halt after giving up a two hits and then hitting the next batter. He finished the game with seven strikeouts. Mason McVay then came on to shut the Hilltoppers down without giving up a run.

Following a Henry walk to open the bottom of the seventh, Behar ripped a shot down the left field line that was difficult to determine whether the fielder caught or not. In the confusion, Henry rounded third, but then it was found he actually dropped it and Henry ended up in a pickle between third base and home.

"We were running, and we held [Henry] up at third," Thomas said. "And he kind of kept running. Its just a miscue that's all there is to it."

Though the Golden Panthers showed some sparks of a comeback, they could never put all the pieces together to score the tying run.

"When you don't sniff a run for seven innings it's pretty hard to win," Thomas said.

MIAMI HEAT

Spoelstra getting his message accross to team

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

Trust. Effort. Process. Sacrifice. Consistency.

Those are Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra's real starting five.

Not players, but buzzwords the foundation of the message he's been trying to instill within the Heat for the past six months, and they'll stay in his vocabulary rotation all the way through the season's final buzzer. It's a delicate balancing act for coaches, trying to stay on message with a team while not appearing to be saying the same thing day after day.

Ask the Heat, and they say Spoelstra is finding a way to avoid that problem.

"He kind of changes it up," Heat forward LeBron James said. "You don't want to try to say the same thing over and over and over. That's when it kind of just drowns out guys. Spo kind of keeps it fresh. He's young and hip enough to know what's fresh, so he gets his point across, but he changes it up a lot for us."

Clearly, the Heat are listening to pretty much whatever it is Spoelstra is saying.

Friday night's 111-99 win over Philadelphia got Miami to the 50-victory mark for the season, the first time the Heat have been there since the championship campaign five years ago. Miami is within a half-game of Boston for the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference and has won seven of its last eight games since dropping five in a row.

The buzzwords are buzzing right now.

"I don't get tired of it and I know that's the most impor-

tant thing for this team," Spoelstra said Saturday. "When you do three press conferences a day, you guys probably get tired of it. But that is the message. We have to stick to our process."

And Spoelstra does that, almost without fail.

A year ago, it was "purity," usually in reference to giving effort. This season for the Heat started with "sacrifice," especially after James, Wade, Bosh, Udonis Haslem, Mike Miller and others all agreed to take less money than they could have gotten elsewhere to fit into Miami's salary structure. For a while, Spoelstra took to calling the Heat a "Band of Brothers," which even was the theme for his Christmas gifts to players and a phrase he used again Saturday. With the playoffs looming, Spoelstra can work "consistency" into nearly any sentence these days as well.

"Uh, ummm, who said it was fresh? Coaches are repetitive," Wade said, breaking into a sly grin. "That's what they do. They say it enough to where it sticks. If it don't stick the first, second or third time, he's going to keep saying it until it sticks. So when he comes with something, when he wants us to focus on something, whether we're losing or winning, that's what we're focused on."

James has played for a variety of coaches with a variety of styles, from Paul Silas to Mike Brown in Cleveland, Larry Brown and Mike Krzyzewski with the U.S. Olympic teams, and now Spoelstra in Miami.

The methodology tends to change from guy to guy, but the points typically remain the same, said the NBA's two-time reigning MVP. And whatever it is that Spoelstra's selling to the Heat,



LYNNE SLADKY/AP PHOTO

Erick Spoelstra [above] finding ways to avoid sounding repetitive to team as Heat begin hit their stride before the postseason.

James says he's buying.

"We're growing together with him every day," James said.

Just about any coach in any sport will wrestle with this question: How do you stay on point without becoming a bore? It's certainly not exclusive to Spoelstra, not by a long shot.

Spoelstra simply doesn't worry about it. It's his process.

"We still have room for

improvement," Spoelstra said.

"We are unique, we feel, to other teams. We still don't know necessarily what our ceiling is and we've got to keep on striving for that. Part of that is consistency. Part of that is getting more players involved, aggressive and confident."

He's expressed all those sentiments before at times this season. They seem to be working.

Campbell pleased with team progress this season

TRACK, page 4

in the men's 100 meter dash with Kristian Campbell finishing second and Alexander Paul winding up in third, respectively. Carla Mills placed third in the 100 meter hurdles with a 13.71 time and Marris McElveen grabbed second place in the 100 meter dash at 11.79.

Both were also part of the second place team that included Lakeisha Kelley and T'Keyah Dumoy in the women's 4x100 meter relay with a time of 45.10.

Finally, the team of Jeremy Feacher, Michael Bejarano, Jermaine Felix and Pedro Bigorra finished third in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 3:14.46. This was the second event that Bejarano placed in, as he also came in first place in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 53.82.

This was a non-scoring invitational, and scoring will not be kept until conference meets and the national championship.

The team's next meet will take place in Gainesville on April 1 at the Pepsi Florida Relays. They have five meets in total until they go to the Sun Belt Outdoor Championships and NCAA Outdoor Championships.

The team will be back in Orlando one more time on May 5 for UCF Twilight.

SOFTBALL

Golden Panthers split road doubleheader at North Texas

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

FIU (16-15; 4-1 SBC) lost both games in a double-header against No. 15 Baylor (27-4; 1-0) on March 24, but also split the first two games of a three game series against North Texas (14-16; 2-6 SBC) on March 26. The win snapped a three-game losing streak for the Golden Panthers.

NORTH TEXAS 3, FIU 2

FIU took the lead in the fourth inning when Kayla Burri delivered a one out RBI single before they ran themselves out of the inning when Rojas was retired while attempting to advance to third on the hit. Burri was tagged out trying to advance to second on the same play.

The Mean Green loaded the bases in the bottom of the fourth on a pair of errors by the Golden Panthers. Lesley Hirsch plated a run on an infield single and North Texas took a 2-1 lead on a sac fly.

In the sixth inning, the Mean Green added another run on a RBI single by Renae Bromley.

Burri completed her 2-for-3 day with a solo homer in the seventh to bring FIU to within a run of tying the game, but North Texas pitcher Brittany Simmons closed out the game.

FIU 12, NORTH TEXAS 3 (5)

In game two, the FIU lineup broke the game open by scoring five runs in the third inning, highlighted by a grand slam from Burri. "She did a really good job," Torina said of Burri. "I think she was seeing [the ball] really well."

The Mean Green scored three runs in the third inning off of three FIU errors and a Courtney Bradshaw RBI single.

"We played some of our worst defense," Torina said of the third inning. "We definitely need to clean up the defense."

In the fourth, FIU scored five more runs on consecutive singles by Jessy Alfonso, Peller and McClain. Another run scored on a bases loaded walk to Rojas and a sac fly by Burri scored the fifth run of the inning.

Dawson pitched a complete game for FIU as she recorded her sixth win while striking out seven.

BAYLOR 2, FIU 0

The Golden Panthers were unable to scratch out any runs against Bears starting pitcher Liz Paul as she pitched a complete game, giving up just four hits.

"She [pitched] a good game against us," coach Beth Torina said. "We just couldn't figure [Paul] out."

The Bears scored first on an

RBI single by Dani Leal and would score again in the fourth inning.

The Golden Panthers best scoring opportunity came in the sixth inning. FIU loaded the bases with two outs, but pinch hitter Jackie Tetlow grounded out to end the inning.

"We did struggle offensively," Torina said. "We just couldn't figure it out offensively."

FIU's Jenn Gniadek pitched six innings and allowed three hits, but it wasn't enough to pick up the win.

"We [pitched] well right back at them," Torina said. "They really didn't hit anything hard off of Jenn all day."

BAYLOR 4, FIU 3

In the second game, untimely errors hurt FIU as Leal hit a two run homer after a runner reached on an error to stake Baylor to a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

A combination of hits by the Bears and errors by the Golden Panthers extended Baylor's lead in the second inning when they scored on a throwing error by catcher Megan Horne. The Bears added another run on a Kathy Shelton double.

FIU chipped away at the lead with a two run third inning with RBI hits by Beth Peller and Ashley McClain. The Golden Panthers last chance to tie the game came in the



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Mariah Dawson [above] pitched a complete game and struck out seven in road win at North Texas on March 26.

seventh with runners on base and Ashley McClain at the plate.

McClain, who went 2-for-4, singled up the middle scoring a run to cut the deficit to 4-3, but Baylor's Whitney Canion struck

out Brie Rojas to end the game.

"I thought our offense was really good," Torina said. We faced one of the better pitchers in the country and we scored runs off of her."

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Price You Pay	\$ 19,353.97
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LEARNING ART



LINDA LEE / THE BEACON

1. MFA student Ivania Guerrero's work.

2. Artist Cristina Lei Rodrigues' inspiration for her sculpture was nature. Her works resemble organic scenes.

3. Aesthetics and Values student Kharla Salazar (right) explains Jacin Giordano's piece to senior Kristofer Ruiz (left), a philosophy major, and senior Lisandra Cassola, also a philosophy major.

4. Junior Katie McCarty (left), a social work major, and Junior Tingjun Chen, an education major, look at artist Jen Stark's "Sunken Sediment, 2010." Stark attempts to explore the intricacies of nature "with an explosion of color and form through the use of paper-cutting."

5. Josh Neel's piece uses a weight scale and gold bricks to bring the phrase, "worth your weight in gold" to life.

Student exhibit now at the Frost

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

The reception for the official opening of the Aesthetics and Values exhibit was Mar. 23 at the Philip and Patricia Frost Art Museum.

This year's exhibit included

works by well-established artists Jacin Giordano, Karen Rifas, Daniel Arsham, Cristina Lei Rodrigues and more.

The show, which was curated by students in John Bailly's Aesthetics and Values class, allows local artists more exposure and teaches students art appreciation.

"Being a business major, I don't usually get a chance to do anything artistic at all. I had the opportunity to do something most can't do unless they're pursuing a masters degree in fine arts," says junior Allen Feliz, who is studying management and information systems.

Alternative student band ready for debut

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

Rostislav ‘Steve’ Vaynshtok, a sophomore public relations major, draws influence and inspiration from a lot of bands many people have probably never heard of before. Zombi, Rataat, Mogwai and Explosions in the Sky are just some on that extensive list.

In an industry often marked by mass-market appeal and reproducing carbon copies of the mundane, auto-tuned style, a breath-of-fresh-air appeal can be just the ticket to getting noticed.

Fight like Animals was formed in the summer of 2009; however, the original line up parted ways only a few months later. Vaynshtok explored the solo realm for a while before regrouping with Brett Flaherty, the band’s then-producer, in March 2010.

“After the other founding member left, I had cancelled all my remaining shows and had gone through a few auditions for potential new band mates, but no one fit. Then one day some buds invited me to do a show at Churchill’s [Pub] with them and I figured, ‘It’s been a few months, I should really get back into things.’ So, I called Brett,” said Vaynshtok. “He was the only person

who knew the songs inside and out. We rehearsed a few songs and got back into the swing of things. It was around that time that I asked him to be a permanent member of the band.”

THE BEACON: Who does what in the band?

STEVE VAYNSHTOK: “I write the majority of the songs, actually all of the songs. Then Brett [Flaherty] adds his parts, does the programming for the drums and synths [synthesizer], unless I’ve written it with a certain synth pattern. He programs it all and sends it back. Then we get together and rehearse it. Once it’s down pat, we finalize some parts, chop some parts up and voila! It’s very easy to work with someone who knows exactly what he wants to do with the song.”

T.B: What’s the story behind the name “Fight Like Animals”?

S.V: There’s this epic painting of two men fighting with animal heads instead of their own. It totally got me. Then we eventually found out the acronym for FLA is also the abbreviation of Florida. So, I guess we’re a 305-till-we-die band, even though we have no intention of being one.

T.B: How would you categorize your sound?

S.V: I hate putting labels on things. We’re definitely not hipsters. If I had to categorize us, I’d just call it good music.

T.B: What can you tell me about your band in terms of releases, signings, endorsements, etc.?

S.V: We’ve got an EP for sale on Bandcamp.com right now. It’s our first EP. We’ve also got physical copies that we’re only selling at shows, but if someone bothers me while I’m in the bathroom, I’ll probably sell you one. Just catch me at an awkward time if you want one outside of a show. The EP is set to officially release on May 21 of this year on iTunes, Amazon, Rhapsody [etc.]”

T.B: What has been your most memorable experience?

S.V: Playing Anti Pop 2009. It was just super dope all around. We got to pack up a van, head to Orlando, and mingle with famous people. We got these wristbands that every band got, and nothing was off limits to us. It felt really Hollywood, and I loved it. I’ll always remember how we were on the lowest spectrum of that festival but still sharing a bill with [bands] Minus the Bear, The Antlers, Grieves, Yacht and I Fight Dragons. It was the event that cemented my ‘I’m going to be doing this forever’ attitude.”

Up until very recently, Fight Like Animals had been signed to Grannie Annie Records. However, conflicts arose over a lack of initiative

on the label’s part, and the band decided to part ways with them. Though untimely and bitter, the departure has not affected the band’s other connections in the industry. Gibson Guitars, Orange Amplifiers, Visual Sound, a guitar pedal company, Wolfetone Custom Pickups and Blackbird Pedalboards currently endorse Fight Like Animals.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIGHT LIKE ANIMALS

Cover art for Fight Like Animal’s debut album, “In the Company of Monsters.”

FASHION FINDS

Fashion magazines and blogs a cure for bland wardrobe

I love to read fashion blogs and sites to catch up on what’s in style, to get inspiration and to kill time. I’m really good at the last one, by the way.

There are plenty of fashion blogs that embody everything stylish. My problem with a lot of blogs, though, is their reliance on fashion magazines and zany styling. Call me boring, but simple style ideas that are easily incorporated into your daily life are a lot more appreciated by the typical girl. Plus, being a blogger is pretty much the best job ever because a lot of bloggers get tons and tons of stuff thrown at them for

free.

My top pick for blogs that incorporate top fashion advice with simplicity is the blog Cupcakes and Cashmere.

The reason I like Cupcakes and Cashmere so much is because of the personal feel the blog has. The blogger, Emily Schuman, posts daily on all the things that inspire her.

Whether it’s outfit ideas, baking and cooking recipes or interior design, Schuman’s lifestyle is simple, chic and accessible. Schuman is the ultimate “girly-girl” when it comes to fashion and she doesn’t sacrifice comfort—except when it comes to her killer shoe selection, which any shoe girl will love to look at. Plus, every outfit she shows her readers is a combo of vintage pieces she picked up at flea markets and picks from my

all-time favorite store—Forever 21.

I also really like the blog This Time Tomorrow. She doesn’t post as often but her style has an awesome 70s feel that’s irresistible. My favorite thing about her site is that almost everything is from inexpensive retail chains.

The Cherry Blossom Girl is a really popular style blog, but I can’t relate to it. Yes, everything is beautiful and impeccably styled, but the site brings me more sadness than joy. I’m a brat and get so upset to see her flaunt her Chanel and Mulberry carelessly. She’s French and perfect looking, too. Ok, I’m just really jealous of her life.

When it comes to fashion sites that aren’t blogs, InStyle.com is number one on my list. The site is just as useful to me as the magazine which I’ve been reading since I was a young teen.

They have online exclusives not featured in the magazine that help you out with hair, makeup and picking the perfect outfit for a night out.

Glamour.com is my online best friend as well.

There are plenty of websites that offer

daily newsletters about style and other little tidbits that lead to an aesthetically pleasing life.

A friend of mine introduced me to Daily Candy which sends out emails about sales and introduces the masses to smaller brands that aren’t easily found at department stores.

Since I watch “The Rachel Zoe Project” religiously, I get a kick out of receiving daily updates from Ms. Zoe about what’s in at the moment. I’m totally contradicting myself by saying I enjoy Rachel Zoe’s fabulous style ideology because nothing on her site is in a reasonable price range. She’s built her name as a brand and is the leading stylist in Hollywood. Her style cannot get more ridiculous or unattainable than that.

Reading these sites really helps me get ideas for new outfits. It is also a great tool for figuring out what trends can or can not work for you. I suggest signing up for newsletters and checking out the blogs frequently.

If you’re nuts like me you’ll read blogs as often as you check your email.

Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday.

COLUMNIST



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LANGUAGE IN BRAZIL



WHEN: 12-1:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 278A

HATHA YOGA



WHEN: 1:30-2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Behind the organic garden

SOLAR PARTY

Come out and gaze at the Sun with our telescopes!
WHEN: 10-11 p.m.
WHERE: MMC AstroPad

SCHOLARLY FORUM

Posters and presentations: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Health, and Medicine.
WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 243

“NEOLIBERALISM, GLOBALIZATION, GRASSROOTS RESISTANCE TO MILITARIZATION AND BORDER VIOLENCE IN MEXICO”

An introduction by Veronica Leyva.
WHEN: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC LC 110

KATHY GRIFFIN



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$49 to \$79
WHERE: Knight Concert Hall

FEDERALIST SOCIETY AND AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY PRESENT:

Debate: How Should We Interpret The Constitution?
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Large Courtroom

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011

MOVIE NIGHT: “BATTLE ROYALE”



WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC DM164

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS

Come out and help EWB as they fundraise at two Chili’s locations. Chili’s will donate 10% of each check from customers who say they are dining on behalf of EWB!
WHEN: Daily
WHERE: Two Chili’s locations

BEGINNER’S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDIES

WHEN: 7:30-8:15 a.m.
WHERE: MMC ROTC Trailer next to W10A

GARDEN INTRODUCTION

WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Greenhouse in front of Alonzo Mourning High School on the way out of FIU.

SPC PIT EVENT

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GCPit

IN THE HEIGHTS



WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$25 to \$69
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House

SCHOLARLY FORUM

Posters and presentations: Social Science, Humanities, Law, and Education.
WHEN: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

MIND TRICKS



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Mentalist and Illusionist Wayne Hoffman performs in the GC Ballroom on March 23. The event was held by SPC-MMC.

ECON WITH NEDA

Money management course is essential

Understanding the concept of saving and applying this principle to one's lifestyle is a common struggle, especially amongst college students.

COLUMNIST



NEDA GHOMESHI

Creating a financial plan is not the most desirable practice for most incoming freshmen, let alone the most considered. To help students understand the necessity of financial planning and developing a saving habit, I think that a course specializing in managing personal finances should be part of the University Core Curriculum.

According to the University, the UCC provides the "broad, well-defined curriculum that enables graduates to think critically, analytically, and creatively." To me, money management is a concept that students should be required to think about during their time at the University. In order to ensure that students are not ignoring the importance of money management, a course needs to be incorporated into the UCC.

With today's tough economy, students need to be better educated about the benefits of saving versus constant spending.

Courses should be mandatory to encourage and teach students about the different possible ways of saving.

In general, the benefits of saving for the future is not a concept that most Americans are well informed about. According to a 2010 survey conducted by Harris Interactive of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, "34 percent of Americans (77 million people) gave themselves a grade of C, D or F on their knowledge of personal finance." Due to these disappointing and quite embarrassing statistics, we need to start spreading this knowledge at an early age to help the society as a whole.

Ben Baker, who teaches an annual personal finance workshop at Davidson College said, "I will never understand why our education system puts so little value on practical things...an understanding of finance and personal responsibility has a direct impact on the quality of life of everyone."

Baker's statement solidifies my belief that universities need to take a more active role in educating our pupil and mandate personal financing courses, starting at the University. Understanding the importance and relevance of personal finances is not

innate and needs to be taught.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin concluded that "Barely one-third of them [students] had taken a college course that included personal finance content." Basically, most college students graduate without ever taking a course about finances. This reality should be a concern for FIU.

Marilyn Landrum, a student assistance associate with the Missouri Department of Higher Education, said universities should "require personal finance courses." Also, Michelle Singletary, a staff writer for the *Washington Post* said, "College students shouldn't be handed a degree without having taken personal finance classes." All of these examples exhibit the importance of implementing a mandated course on personal finances and the values of saving for all University students.

After graduation, our students should understand the basic fundamentals of personal financing. It is the University's responsibility to provide the tools and education for its students on this basic knowledge.

Econ with Neda is an economics op-ed column. Look for it every other Monday.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Low candidate and voter turnout at BBC insulting

As election day for the Student Government Association draws near, there is a stark contrast between the state of affairs at the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses.

This year, the Student Government Council at MMC is seeing its most competitive election since 2008 across the entire council. Only two senate seats are going uncontested, which is a great accomplishment considering its history of uncontested elections, particularly in the presidential and vice presidential ticket.

However, the troubling state of elections at SGC-BBC includes uncontested presidential and senatorial races.

There is one candidate running for the two Honors College seats, two for the two School of Hospitality and Tourism Management seats, two for the two College of Arts & Sciences seats, and one for the three Senator-at-Large seats. The remaining 36 council senate seats are set to be empty.

The Beacon questions how a council with such a low number of viable candidates, most of which are running uncontested, can even be considered a legitimate governing body. The democratic process which has been created to ensure proper student representation is being undermined.

If students do not truly have a choice as to who will comprise their council, it negates the point of having one, let alone an election. These circumstances make this election look like a necessary formality rather than a serious opportunity for students at BBC to decide who would best represent their interests.

One improvement that can be made is making the application and deadlines available both in office and online at the start of the semester to allow more students to take the opportunity to run. It would also give the Elections Board ample time to evaluate candidates' eligibility so last-minute disqualifications are eliminated.

The lack of voter participation needs to be improved, and "free," student-funded pizza will not solve the problem. However, eliminating candidate obscurity will. The week before elections is not enough time for students to become familiar with their candidates through campaigning, let alone be fully aware of the election. The campaigning period should be extended to allow students to become more informed and engaged in voting.

Recently, we addressed the inefficiencies of SGC-BBC's council, ultimately concluding that a one-council solution would benefit the entire student body. Instances like these elections serve to strengthen that point.

Having one council would give students a consistent image of student government, one that consolidates marketing efforts and approaches students with a unified presence. Additionally, a unified student government would have a single elections commissioner who can focus on implementing, marketing and deploying elections efforts across the University. Furthermore, the elections commissioner would preferably be appointed in the Fall as opposed to the Spring, giving them even more time to prepare.

This, combined with an extended application and campaigning period, would give students more time to realize they can run for positions. More candidates will yield more voters.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Housing budget must be reevaluated

As announced at a recent Senate meeting on the 21st of March, the Residence Hall Association will receive \$22,680 to operate for the 2011-12 academic school year, all of which is being allocated only for attendance at conferences and to facilitate town hall meetings.

As a Housing Senator, I am obligated to do what is both just and necessary to enhance the resident student experience at FIU. As a result, I have devised some solutions that I am certain will prove to be instrumental in securing additional funding for RHA.

The first is to revise of the proviso language allow RHA to utilize allocated funding for whatever purpose necessary. The proposed proviso language for RHA states that "...we approve \$22,680 for student conference and town hall meetings..."

This essentially means that for the 2011-12 academic school year, RHA has no funding to facilitate programming for residents of FIU. Revision of this proviso language would

be a step in right direction, with regard to assisting RHA in achieving its objective providing programming and events to its constituents.

The second is to revisit and re-allocate the MMC Budget. In light of everything discussed, the SGC-MMC Budget Committee should be compelled to revisit the currently allocated MMC Budget and allocate less funding to line items such as emoluments (\$95,000), the SGA Banquet (\$6,000) and discretionary and contingency (\$25,000) and re-allocate additional funding to RHA.

SGC-MMC is obligated to do whatever is both possible and necessary to ensure that governing councils subordinate to it have all the resources necessary to serve its constituents. Certainly, re-visiting and re-allocating the budget to better serve RHA is, at the very least, plausible.

The third is that the Departments of Residential Life and Housing considering subsidizing RHA's budget annually. While

university housing is struggling with a \$90 Million mortgage, it is customary at most institutions of higher learning that Housing and Residential Life fund any and all hall councils and associations. A feasible plan would be a ten year plan that would obligate the Departments of Housing and Residential Life to fund 50% of RHA's budget, in increments of 5% each year until the 50% subsidy is achieved.

It is imperative that the Departments of Housing and Residential Life realize that FIU residents are more than students; they are customers whose needs and desires should be facilitated in an efficient, effective manner.

With that being said, expecting these Departments to fund 50% of the budget of a student run organization that is geared towards enhancing the residential experience is not un-reasonable.

The fourth and final solution is that the residual funds in the Accumulated Cash Balance (ACB) account be utilized to subsidize RHA's budget for the 2011-12

academic school year. At the end of each fiscal year, all un-used student activity and service fees are placed into an account, known as the ACB, which accrues interest and may only be utilized in cases of emergencies, which is managed by the Division of Student Affairs.

The Division of Student Affairs should consider allocating to RHA the difference between what the SGC-MMC Budget Committee has provided to RHA and the funding that RHA has requested for the 2011-12 academic school year, from the ACB.

While many may question whether or not this instance qualifies as an emergency, what we do know is that RHA's level of commitment and dedication to its residents is well within the realm of both the letter and the spirit of President Rosenberg's "World's Ahead" Initiative, and as such, rightfully deserves an opportunity to continue to do so.

*-Dean Gabriel Williams,
Housing Senator,
SGC-MMC*

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (550 words maximum) in to opinion@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.

Campus community and county restore mangroves

KATIE LAWRENCE
Staff Writer

A mangrove restoration project at Biscayne Bay Campus has successfully collected and planted 1,200 mangroves throughout Oleta Park and BBC.

The project, which the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management sponsored, started in 2009 with the help of the Alonzo and Tracy Mourning High School and intends to use education and preservation to help fill in some of the gaps in the protected areas on campus and at the park.

“The entire campus used to be a mangrove forest,” said Jennifer Grimm, environmental coordinator at BBC. “We are trying to restore what we can to the areas available.”

Rapid urbanization over the past 100 years has depleted the resources of Florida’s coastlines,

and the delicate relationship within the ecosystem has caused the need for government intervention. Mangroves became a federally protected species in 1996, and laws regulate against trimming and altering existing plants

Red mangroves, one of the three species of mangrove including black and white, has been the focus of the efforts because of their tremendous impact on the ocean and wetland ecosystems. They provide protection and habitats for many small creatures, as well as a sturdier shoreline and shoreline protection from elements such as wind and floods.

“These wetland communities, which are essential to the general health of the estuarine ecosystem, where replaced by eroding, unconsolidated shorelines,” said Gary Milano, Coastal Habitat Restoration Program Coordinator

of DERM, who spearheads the efforts on campus. “These proposed restorations could benefit species from manatees to bald eagles.”

DERM has also begun the process of removing invasive species from campus, including the Australian Pine and Brazilian Pepper, which grow rapidly and take over and kill native species, as well as take up space that could be used for more beneficial species. The efforts will coincide with the planting of the new mangroves and will be of no cost to the county, rather, saving it nearly \$40,000 in the project as a result of a plea agreement through the State Attorney Office.

The project plans to restore approximately 12 acres of habitat within the University, pending university approval of seven more acres, and comes with a price tag of \$1.2 million dollars.

“The project is phased to allow

for progress, then application for more funds,” said Milano.

Miami-Dade has contributed \$700,000 to the efforts initially. The University has not contributed any money, but hosts the program.

Students from the University and ATM high school, as well as an environmental summer camp, collected the initial 1,200 propagules, or mangrove seedlings, and nurtured them to maturity in plastic cups filled with salt water until they were capable of being planted in soil in a greenhouse on campus. When their roots were strong enough they were then replanted in the protected areas.

The next round of propagules, slated to be ready for planting in September 2011, is numbered at about 2,500 seedlings.

“We [at FIU] haven’t tracked [the seeds] specifically, but what we’ve seen through county data,

they have had about a 90 to 97 percent success rate,” said Grimm. “Hopefully we will continue to see this kind of progress.”

Student interest has been brewing, and Grimm eventually hopes to start a mangrove adoption program.

“A lot of the time students come in for service learning, and then they want to come back on their own to see it through,” said Grimm of the propagules they gather. The adoption program will allow students and faculty to nurture a seedling at home to maturity, and participate in its planting.

With the 2,500 plants becoming ready in fall, the need for planting at the University will be close to filled.

“But we are manipulating different situations that improve growth and survival rates,” Grimm said. “Hopefully this will be a long term ongoing project.”

MARINE SCIENCE

Marine Science building houses key research piece

JERONIMO BOZA
Contributing Writer

With the incentive of one day being able to offer purified water to the faculties and students, the Marine Science Department located at the Biscayne Bay Campus is working in the development of a desalination structure whose objective is to purify the water coming from the bay for the use in student’s projects and the faculty’s research.

The mechanism was installed in 2006, the same year the building was built, with intention of exploration and conservation of marine sources.

The actual production of the salt water system is already completed and some professors are currently able to use it for their research.

Although the instrument has been in operation for some missions, the ultraviolet sterilization system is not fully installed yet and the uses for more deep investigation are limited.

“The infrastructure to purify the water was installed the same year the building was built; however, we are still missing some essential instruments before being able to completely supply the water needed

The infrastructure to purify the water was installed the same year the building was built; however, we are still missing some essential instruments before being able to completely supply the water needed for our purposes.

Adolfo Fernandez, building manager
Marine Science building

for our purposes,” said Adolfo Fernandez, the marine science building manager and also the most informed person about the construction and process of the desalination machine.

It has been five years since the desalination machine was first set into the building’s construction, and during that time the marine science faculty have been trying to get all the essential pieces needed in order to make it work at the desired level.

Throughout 2010, they worked on its construction, and most of the essential work done was made during the last months of the year.

“Part of the system was finally purchased in 2009 and assembled throughout 2010,” said Fernandez. “I believe most of the work to install it was accomplished during

October 2010.”

According to Fernandez, the desalination machine will represent a wide source of research, which will continue the progress of certain missions.

One of their projects consists in the Coral Holding System, which studies the diversity of coral species, and is conducted by one of the faculty members Dr. Rebecca Vega Thurber.

There is also the maintenance of water species, by bringing them into tanks or the aquarium located on the first floor where the staff can look after the specimens, observing them from the embryonic to maturity phase.

“This will help our faculty that work with the coral reef system as they collect live coral to [study, maintain and preserve

other water specimens] by bringing salt water into the tanks,” said Fernandez.

The entire accomplishment of the desalination system will assist the faculty members and the students in extensive ways.

It will allow the expansion of research fields for investigative matters, it will increase the possibilities to detect contaminated water coming through the bay, and facilitate the studies of marine species.

The process of putting this purifying machinery to work is something the students of the Marine Science Department are still not deeply aware of.

This process excludes the students and focuses on those who are in charge of building the structure and the devices needed to finish it.

This does not mean the students are not able to develop their investigative projects; the use of this source is totally open to fair use depending on the type of research.

“The students have all the access to operate it under certain parameters of investigation for the correct development of their projects and research,” Fernandez said, “It’s only a matter of discussing this with the faculty members or with me, since I am the building manager.”

UPCOMING SPC EVENTS

Rainbow Cafe

- Time: 11 a.m.
- When: March 31
- Where: WUC 245

Deeap Sea Fishing

- Time: 12 a.m.
- When: April 4
- Where: Haulover Marina

UPCOMING SPC MOVIES

Little Fockers

- Time: 3 & 7 p.m.
- When: March 31
- Where: WUC Theater

The Green Hornet

- Time: 3 & 7 p.m.
- When: April 7
- Where: WUC Theater



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MEXICO

Report: 230,000 displaced by drug war

The Swiss-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center has done a study which suggests at least 230,000 people have been displaced in Mexico because of drug violence.



HAITI

'Baby Doc' Duvalier hospitalized

Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier has been hospitalized in the Canape Vert hospital after having chest pains. No details were given about his condition.



PERU

Peru police: Van der Sloot lying about laptop

A study of Joran van der Sloot's laptop shows he is lying when he says he killed a young Peruvian woman in a fit of rage because she discovered his connection to Natalee Holloway's disappearance while using it.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

At-large candidate aims to help internationals

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff writer

An international student who was "really, really lonely" during his first week at the University is running for senator-at-large, and will work to ensure other students have better first impressions than he did.

Odimayo "Tami" Oluwatamilore said he had to find his way around the University himself, and resorted to doing most things online, such as registering for classes.

"Because of my accent, I felt reluctant to ask questions when I needed help," Oluwatamilore said.

Originally from Nigeria, Oluwatamilore has lived in Miami for three years. He now describes living in the city as being a lot of fun, but it wasn't until he received some advice that he began making steps to feel that way.

"A friend gave me the idea: if you want to make friends, join clubs," Oluwatamilore said.

Oluwatamilore promptly became an intern in the student government association.

During the internship, Oluwatamilore has grown familiar with how the council operates, and said he knows

"I imagine it like each international student is given a buddy that helps them go through the year."

"basically everyone" on the council, mentioning: Special Events Coordinator Marie Wray, Senator Pablo Haspel, and President Christin "CiCi" Battle.

Haspel said Oluwatamilore has already helped many cabinet members accomplish projects, and his commitment shows great promise as a member of SGC-BBC.

"It is also great to have people who share the burning passion for something, and he has clearly shown that to me," Haspel said in an email to Student Media.

Nancy Hernandez, director of International Student and Scholar Services at BBC, said BBC is currently responsible for 400 S1, or student visas.

Oluwatamilore said the issue is domestic and international students

should feel welcome at the University initially, not just over time.

"I think there are events we can use to bring international students together," Oluwatamilore said. "The first week of school, they should come together. There should be more dinners."

But Oluwatamilore wants the dinners to be mandatory and scheduled around the first week of the semester, in order for each senator or student to be paired with an international student to mentor.

"Something peer advisors should do," Oluwatamilore said. "I imagine it like each international student is given a buddy that helps them go through the year."

Oluwatamilore also calls for surveys to be given to students for helpful ideas.

Haspel, who has recently taken the speaker pro tempore position, agrees there should be more events that allow mingling for freshly arrived students.

"In terms of events, I think we have quite a large presence of international students on campus, and as such it is a good idea to use [activity and services] funds to promote integration among all students," Haspel said, "And I will support him if he creates activities which involve the entire student body, since it will make international students feel more like regular students, as opposed to being defined by the term 'international.'"

An international student himself from Argentina, Haspel stressed the importance of SGC-BBC's role in organizing events to make all students feel welcome.

"They are first and foremost

students, and as such SGC is mandated to represent and create opportunities for students, which means as long as they are planned properly, they will surely be successful," Haspel said.

Another minor concern Oluwatamilore has that he will possibly take up as senator is with the College of Arts and Sciences, as he is a biology major that plans to get a masters in psychology to become a therapist.

Oluwatamilore believes some of the classes CAS requires in order to graduate aren't actually relevant to certain majors.

"I like everything about the college, except some of the mandatory courses are really unnecessary," he said, giving an example. "Calculus 2 might not be necessary; statistics is better for pre-med."

Though only 19-years-old, Oluwatamilore is a junior because students graduate early in Nigeria, around the age of 16, he said.

Oluwatamilore joined SGA to approach the issues he sees with a proactive attitude. It was after he saw members of SGA who didn't accomplish their goals that he decided to join.

"I said: I'll just try myself."

BRINGING IN SPRING



PHOTOS BY JESSICA PEREZ/THE BEACON



Top Left: Students tie red yarn around their wrists in an exercise meant to show everyone is connected by blood and came from a womb. The exercise was part of the Spring Equinox event held in Panther Square on March 23 which the Multifaith Council sponsored.

Top Right: The Rev. Linnea Pearson, adjunct professor of religious studies, leads students in a prayer as the Spring Equinox event starts

Bottom: Pearson, a professor of religious studies (second from left), talks to students and staff about spiritual elements and how it relates to humans during the Spring Equinox.