

 <p>EGYPT</p> <p>Protests bring down Mubarak's regime</p> <p>Egypt exploded with joy and tears of relief after pro-democracy protesters brought down President Hosni Mubarak with a momentous march after he finally resigned Friday.</p>	 <p>SUDAN</p> <p>105 die in fighting between army, rebels</p> <p>Two days of fighting in Southern Sudan between the region's army and a rebel faction killed 105 people in a reminder that violence can still explode in the volatile region.</p>	 <p>CUBA</p> <p>Two prominent dissidents to be freed</p> <p>Cuba has agreed to release two prominent dissidents who have refused for months to accept exile in Spain, including the husband of a major opposition group leader.</p>
--	--	--

Bill in Senate could allow guns on campus

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

New legislation recently introduced to the Senate aims to turn Florida into an open-carry state, allowing concealed weapon permit owners to carry their weapons openly – even on public University campuses.

Senate Bill 234, proposed by Republican State Senator Greg Evers, would allow those “in compliance with the terms of a concealed carry license [to] carry openly notwithstanding specified provisions.”

If passed, SB 234 would also limit a prohibition preventing the carrying of concealed weapons on all school campuses, to allow them to be carried on University campuses; the only exception being sporting events.

Additionally, concealed weapons would still not be allowed into any K-12 schools, police stations, detention facilities, courthouses or government buildings.

Members of the Florida Police Chiefs Association and several State of Florida University police chiefs, including FIU Police Chief Bill King, have come out in unanimous opposition to the measure.

“I don’t think a University setting is the right setting for people to openly carry weapons,” said King, who believes having guns carried openly on campus would be an extra burden on Universities, forcing them to

change procedures for taking reports and their active-shooter situation responses.

SB 234, which defines “concealed weapons” as any “handgun, electronic weapon or device, tear gas gun, knife, or billie,” comes in the wake of a mass shooting in Arizona and the accidental shooting death of a Florida State University student. Events like these, and the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, have gun-rights advocates suggesting that deaths could have been prevented if people had been armed.

Since the shootings in 2007, 22 states have introduced similar bills that would allow concealed weapons on campuses and all have failed, according to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

“The fear of instances like Tucson and Virginia Tech has caused a lot of people to look at their personal protection when it’s really not an issue,” said King. “The more weapons that you have on one campus, it just causes a lot more concern for the other students who are here.”

Several student organizations across Florida have also come out against the measure. Both University of Florida’s Student Government Association and the SGA Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus have passed resolutions condemning SB 234.

“Even at FIU we are no

GUNS, page 2

GET YOUR GREEN ON



PHOTOS BY LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

The Black Out Green On event was held in the housing quad to promote environmental awareness and was organized by Student Government Association at Modesto Maidique Campus Sustainability Coordinator, Sasha ‘Bleu’ Waters. Senior Scott Kearney and junior Vicky Morales (above) enjoy free food. University native dance crew ‘Illmatik’ (below) performed as a part of the night’s entertainment.

Changes to GRE have some students changing plans

LIS MESA
Contributing Writer

Rodolfo Martinez’s newly purchased cap and gown hung over a stack of Princeton Review GRE prep books from 2008 that clutter his desk.

Martinez, 23, a Florida International University student who graduated in December, plans on taking the GRE General Test in March, despite the fact that he’s not considering applying to graduate school for another couple of years.

He is one of thousands of students who are uneasy about the changes starting Aug. 1, 2011 on the GRE General Test, used by most graduate schools throughout the United States as a common measure for comparing the applicants to their programs.

“I’ve been a full-time student all this time and now [in the spring] I’m going to be a full-

time employee,” Martinez said. “I don’t have time [to study] but there is no way I’m not taking the GRE after August.”

This announcement has set students at FIU in motion as many change their plans to take the GRE earlier than anticipated.

“I would say we’ve definitely seen a high level of enrollment in the last few months,” said Lee Weiss, director of Pre-Graduate Programs at Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, a company that provides tutoring services for students.

“Our enrollment has been growing.”

According to Educational Testing Service, the Princeton, N.J. company that produces and sells the test, the new revised version will be about three hours and 45 minutes, 45 minutes longer than the current GRE, with additional time for small breaks.

The same concepts of basic math will still apply to the Quantitative Reasoning section, but the revised test will focus on math that you

can apply to real-life scenarios and will require students to be able to interpret more data. The new version of the GRE will provide an on-screen calculator.

The multiple-choice questions will include more than one correct answer and students will have to choose all the right answers from the given choices. There will also be new numeric entry questions, which will require the student to enter the answer into a box instead of selecting the answer from the choices given.

The more drastic changes can be seen in the Verbal Reasoning section of the revised GRE as there will no longer be antonyms or analogies. The revised version is said to have more focus on higher-level cognitive skills, which will require stronger reading skills.

Text Completion questions will test this skill by leaving out crucial words in short passages and requiring the student to fill them in. New ways of answering questions include questions

with more than one right answer and highlighted sentences within passages to focus the test taker.

The analytical section will no longer provide the students with a choice of topics, but just give them one. The student will still write two essays, one to evaluate a logical argument, and the other to express views on a critical issue.

A new scoring scale will be used. Instead of the scale of 200-800, reported in 10 point increments for the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections, the new scale will be reported on a 130-170 score, reported in 1 point increments. The Analytical Writing scores will continue to be reported on the same 0-6 scale.

This narrower scale for the Verbal and Quantitative Reasoning sections guarantees that in the revised GRE small differences in scores don’t look as big as they would have with the

GRE, page 2

Students, faculty oppose new 'open-carry' legislation

GUNS, page 1

strangers to acts of violence, such as the regrettable stabbing of Kendall Berry, which is why we feel strongly as a Student Senate that we should take a strong stance against any legal acts that could facilitate further acts of violence at our University," said SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Hector Mujica, who proposed the resolution.

The resolution's co-sponsor, College of Arts and Sciences Senator Chris Cabral, agrees with Mujica's sentiments.

"I've seen people almost come to blows over a parking space [at FIU], and now you want to give these people guns? I'm pretty used to leaders at the state level making terrible decisions, but this actually surprised me," said

Cabral, who believes SB 234 would have a profound impact on in-class discussions and cause professors to be intimidated.

"It's hard to give constructive criticisms to someone who has a gun on them," said Cabral. "I'm not opposed to guns in general, but I'm opposed to guns being carried around in the public sphere."

Thomas Breslin, chairman of the University's Faculty Senate, shares similar concerns and told Student Media that there is "no appreciable faculty support" for SB 234.

"Why add the fear of being shot to already existing tensions over deadlines, grades, academic conduct, refusals to write letters of recommendation or discussion of controversial topics?" asks Breslin. "I personally would

look on someone other than a police officer carrying a gun at the University as somewhat disturbed and anti-social, and, if carrying it openly, sending a threatening message to fellow students and professors."

While the measure would only allow those who have been issued concealed weapon permits the ability to carry guns openly, King argues that it is "very easy" to get a weapons permit in Florida.

According to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Licensing, to be eligible for a concealed weapons permit you must be 21 years of age, a US citizen with proof of residence and be able to demonstrate competency with a firearm.

Possible reasons for ineligibility include: prior felony

conviction, misdemeanor crime of violence within the last three years, two or more DUI convictions within the last three years, being committed to a mental institution or judged mentally incompetent, or having a record of alcohol and drug abuse.

Florida prohibits concealed weapons on all school campuses, making it one of 49 states that either bar them outright or let the individual schools decide on the matter.

Currently, Utah is the only state that allows concealed weapons on its college campuses. This includes nine degree-offering public colleges and one public technical college. For a combined total of one hundred semesters, none of these schools saw a single incident of gun violence (including threats and

suicides), gun accidents or gun thefts.

While those statistics may serve to defend the deterrence argument of SB 234 supporters, King believes this argument doesn't "hold any weight at all."

"All it takes is that one incident where you end up having a gun battle in a classroom and you'll have an uproar," said King.

He hopes the measure will fail but believes it has a chance to pass due to Florida's mostly conservative legislature and the strength of pro-gun lobbies like the National Rifle Association.

"The legislation is irresponsible," said Breslin. "I hope that the legislature, protected by metal detectors and squads of armed guards, does not pass this legislation."

STARGAZER



KARINA TELLEZ/THE BEACON

Mike Smith, FIU's telescope manager and member of the Astronomy Club, brought out a telescope on Feb. 11 in GC to promote the club's Valentine's Day event. The event is called Romance Under The Stars on Feb. 14, where couples will be invited to observe the stars by candlelight.

Uncertainty felt by many students over test changes

GRE, page 1

broader scale of the current version, while big differences are still able to stand out.

"Basically, everything is changing about the test," Kaplan's Weiss said. "Anytime anything changes, students have some uncertainty. You have a test right now that's a very predictable test."

"It hasn't changed for a very long time," he said. "Why take something new that's a little undefined? I think a lot of students would rather take the test now."

This is the situation facing FIU graduate Jose Bantula, 23, who moved to New York City in the summer of 2009

to pursue a career in photography. Working as a concierge at Ace Hotel in the city, Bantula hopes to take the GRE before the changes take place.

"If I take it now, the results will be good for the next five years," Bantula said. "It's a good back-up plan."

Even though the revised GRE is being advertised by ETS as "good news" for the student's who will take it in August, the new format is already alienating some.

James Salle, 24, an English major at FIU, has started looking at other options.

"The problem I face is that there are few ways to prepare for a test that nobody has taken before," he said. "So I become

the beta-class and they can work out the kinks for future test-takers.

"But where does that leave me? Getting a mediocre score on a test that grad schools won't know how to properly evaluate," Salle said.

"I think that instead of taking the GRE, I'm just going to apply to an MFA program where my portfolio sways the admissions office, rather than an arbitrary test based on knowledge learned specifically for the test."

Lis Mesa, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOURNALISM 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

Students dislike highway

HIGHWAY, page 8

that he's only been involved in one fender-bender on his commute to school.

Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Alex Annunziato sees the danger of I-95's Miami-Dade/Broward stretch daily. He feels the causes of the crashes are two-fold.

"I think it's the volume coupled with the level of distraction that's present in the driving environment these days," he said. "That really is a recipe for what we've been seeing here."

Despite modest improvements, Annunziato believes there's still more work to be done.

"We've seen that per mile driven, the actual number of injuries and fatalities along I-95 has actually declined," Annunziato said. "It's still relatively high and certainly it's a focus of ours to try to alleviate that."

Debrah Doty of the Miami-

Beach Police Department says too many people are trying to multitask on the roads and says smart phones are a big problem.

But Tancredo Hernandez, sociology major, feels the reason for the dangers of I-95 extend beyond mere distractions.

"What makes driving down I-95 so rough is the weather," he said. "Some days I can barely see what's in front of me. Those are the days I see the most accidents."

SunPass lanes separating long-distance drivers from short-distance commuters have been put in place in Miami-Dade and parts of Broward.

Drivers feel the lanes create more traffic for those traveling short distances and are often more dangerous.

They point to the fact that many of the poles used to divide the lanes have been knocked down and left as debris.

FDOT spokesperson

Barbara Kelleher countered that these lanes actually alleviate another problem common to I-95 — too many drivers.

While there might be too many drivers, Sindy Vazques, a biology major who takes I-95 for school and work, says there's too much construction.

"Maintenance is the problem — that and terrible driving — but mainly maintenance," Vazques said. "There are cracks everywhere and potholes everywhere. How do you have potholes on a road where people are going 60?"

She says repairing the roads creates a Catch-22.

"Either you have poor roads or a construction crew taking up too much space," Vazques said. "Either way, we're screwed."

Ronnie Figueroa, a December 2010 journalism graduate, produced this story in the JOURNALISM 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

THE BEACON



E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

JORGE VALENS

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

PHILIPPE BUTEAU

PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF

CHRIS TOWERS

NEWS DIRECTOR

GABRIEL ARRARÁS

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO

LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA

SPORTS DIRECTOR

JOEL DELGADO

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS

RICO ALBARRACIN

IGOR MELLO

LIFE! EDITOR

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

ASST. LIFE EDITOR

ALBA TOWERS

OPINION EDITOR

JASMYN ELLIOTT

ASST. OPINION EDITOR

NEDA GHOMESHI

PHOTO EDITOR

ESRA ERDOGAN

BBC PHOTO EDITOR

ELIZABETH BRUNA PINEDA

COPY EDITORS

JOHN MELECIO, GISELLE RODRIGUEZ,

DANIELA PEDROZA

PAGE DESIGNERS

LAURA ALONSO, MICHAEL

COSTA, KAYLIN KONCHAK, CRISTINA

MIRALLES

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

VICTORIA LYNCH

BUSINESS MANAGER

SAMANTHA GARCIA

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ALFRED SOTO

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
jorge.valens@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

More of the same in home loss

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

Despite missing four players due to injury and suspensions, the Golden Panthers still had a chance to tie or hit the winning shot against the Ragin' Cajuns. Instead, a traveling violation was called on senior guard Phil Gary with two seconds remaining as FIU lost a 72-68 nail biter to Louisiana.

Following the turnover, a pair of free-throws from Louisiana's La'Ryan Gary with over a second left, iced the game for the Ragin' Cajuns. He finished the game with 12 points.

Head Coach Isiah Thomas did not agree with the late-game call by the officials.

"I thought he was fouled. If he did travel, I though he was fouled before he traveled. I thought he was bumped several times on that play, driving to the basket," Thomas said.

The Golden Panthers (9-15, 4-8 Sun Belt) have hit their lowest point of the season, having lost eight out of their last nine contests, including a current two-game losing skid.

With the loss, FIU is now currently in fifth place in the East Division of the Sun Belt Conference, with four games in the regular season remaining.

PLAYERS ARRIVE LATE

To make matters worse for the Golden Panthers, Eric Frederick and Brandon Moore were suspended for the game.

"Frederick and Moore were late for the game, so I didn't play them," Thomas said.

Moore and Frederick were spotted entering the U.S. Century Bank Arena 15 minutes prior to tip-off. It is unknown if Moore and Frederick will miss any action in the future.

As a result Thomas didn't play them. Frederick leads the team in rebounds with 5.4 per game, and Moore leads the team in blocked shots with 21 this season. The Golden Panthers were downsized that night, relying more on youth and athleticism than some of their bigger players.

If that wasn't enough to put them in a tough position, FIU's third leading scorer Marvin Roberts was still out with a knee injury he suffered against FAU on Feb. 5.

FIU only had 15 points from the bench that night while Louisiana (9-14, 6-5 Sun Belt) had 20.

SMALL LINEUP

During the game, Thomas threw in a much-needed spark by starting Dominique Ferguson.

It took a while for Ferguson to make his presence known on the court as he finished the



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Dominique Ferguson [above] scored 16 points in home loss.

game with 16 points and four rebounds on 37 minutes of play.

With the Golden Panthers choosing a smaller line up, Ferguson was the only player standing above 6-5.

The 6-8 freshmen, has become a regular for FIU in the last couple of games.

"The same thing keeps happening... we are capable of being a really good team. Our record could be flipped around after all of these tough losses," said Ferguson. "We keep fighting hard, but the

end result hasn't been in our favor."

FREE-THROW WOES

According to Thomas, his team's weakness as of late has been finishing games on the charity line.

FIU went 21-30 from the line against Louisiana.

Visit our web site for more content, visit our web site for more content, visit our web site.

www.FIUSM.com

SPORTS REPLAY

Golden Panthers drop exhibition with D.C. United

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

BASEBALL

The Golden Panthers continued their offseason training with an offseason match against D.C. United of Major League Soccer on Feb. 9. Things didn't go very well for FIU, failing to score a goal in a 4-0 shutout at Lockhart Stadium in Ft. Lauderdale.

The scoring started early for D.C. United, which is currently training in South Florida as they prepare for the 2011 MLS season, when Stephen King scored in the 12th minute to put them on the board. Just three minutes later they would add another goal when Yang Men scored off a cross pass from Kurt Morsink. Two more goals would help them secure a win for D.C. United.

It was not the first time the FIU has squared off against an MLS team. In 2009, FC Dallas defeated FIU by a score of 9-0 in similar exhibition match.

But just a year later the Golden Panthers would avenge themselves with a 1-0 victory in a rematch with FC Dallas.

Garrett Wittels was given Preseason Player of the Year honors by the Sun Belt Conference while teammate Mike Martinez was named to the Preseason All-Sun Belt team.

Wittels is currently two games away from breaking the NCAA hit streak record of 58 games set by Robin Ventura. The FIU infielder was named the Sun Belt Player of the Year in 2010 after hitting in every game of the season and finishing with a team-best .410 batting average.

With a .375 average and nine home runs to go with his 55 RBIs, Martinez has proven to be a valuable member of the FIU offense and will look to build on those numbers going into his junior season.

The Golden Panthers, who won the SBC tournament last summer and earned a regional berth, were predicted in a preseason coaches poll to finish second in the conference, only trailing Florida Atlantic.

FIU received one out of 10 possible first place votes.

TENNIS

After weather delay, FIU earns first conference win

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

After having the weather delay the start of the match against the Red Wolves, The Golden Panthers got a much need win.

FIU swept Arkansas State 7-0 to gain their first win in Sun Belt conference play. Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall'au was impressed with her team's performance.

"Coming into the match, the girls were very prepared," Applebaum-Dall'au said. "Their level expectations was one of excellence and high standard. They came out focused and ready to win every match, and they did."

Liset Brito started the momentum for the Golden Panthers, as she able to overpower Arkansas State's Emily Crowe in straight sets (6-2, 6-1).

Christine Seredni had an easier time with Jenny Herring, as Seredni won in straight sets (6-1, 6-1) to put FIU up 2-0.

Lisa Johnson got off to a hot start by winning the first set against Janie Nowland 6-1. Nowland made a furious comeback in the second set, but it was not enough as Johnson put the finishing

touches to the set to win 6-4, giving the Golden Panthers a commanding 3-0 lead.

Giulietta Boha would continue the streak of straight set wins for FIU, this time against Biljana Miloshevska, with a straight set 6-3, 6-0. Maria Spenceley would mirror Boha's match win, as she won in straight sets 6-0, 6-3 over Ceara Howey.

ASU's Loana Teu was able to break the Golden Panthers straight-set streak by taking the first set 6-4 over Rita Maisak. Maisak responded in the second set with an overpowering 6-1 win.

The third set saw the two players go into a tiebreaker situation, with Maisak coming on top 10-6.

The Panthers finished off the afternoon with a doubles sweep with a come-from-behind victory by the duo of Giulietta Boha and Christine Seredni, who overcame a 3-0 deficit to beat ASU's Nowland and Miloshevska 8-6. This is the first win in conference play for FIU.

"It helps us to know that we beat one of the teams that we might play in the future," Brito said. "It's huge. Every win, for me, is very important."

SOFTBALL

Golden Panthers' season begins with mixed results

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers took the field for the first time on this weekend as they hosted No. 22 Ohio State and Kentucky on opening night and took on Memphis and DePaul the following day as part of the Combat Classic.

OHIO STATE 2, FIU 1

The Golden Panthers would lose to Ohio State in a pitcher's duel by a score of 2-1. Jenn Gniadek would pitch a complete game for FIU, giving up six hits over seven innings and recorded eight strikeouts.

"I think I did pretty good," Gniadek said after the game. "Our hitting was a little off but catch us on any other day and it's a win."

The Buckeyes would strike first in the top of the second as Rachael Shepherd hit a home run down the left field line to give the Buckeyes a 1-0 lead

"It was a pitch that I missed," Gniadek said of Shepherd's home run. "It was not my dominant pitch and

SOFTBALL, page 4



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

Erika Arcuri [above] prepares for an at-bat vs. Memphis.

First win of season comes in thriller vs. Memphis

SOFTBALL, page 3

she got a hold of it.”

The Golden Panthers would counter with long ball of their own when Jenny Welch hit a 2-2 pitch from Buckeye starter Kasie Kelly over the wall in right-center field in the bottom of the fourth to tie the game at 1-1.

“[Kelly] surprisingly threw me outside every single pitch because that is my pitch,” Welch said afterwards. “I was surprised with that.”

As a whole, however, the lineup against Ohio State struggled against pitcher Kelly, who surrendered only one earned run over five innings of work.

The deciding moment in the game came in the fifth inning when the Buckeyes had the bases loaded. A weak ground ball to Brie Rojas forced her to record the out at first instead of going for the play at the plate, bringing home the winning run.

KENTUCKY 5, FIU 0

Kentucky would keep the Golden Panther offense at bay in their matchup as Rachael Riley would pitch a complete game shutout for the Wildcats en route to a 5-0 win.

Freshman pitcher Mariah Dawson made her season debut for the Golden Panthers and would pitch six innings, giving up five earned runs and recording nine strikeouts.

“Our offense really did not show up today,” coach Beth Torina said.

The Wildcats captured an early 1-0 lead after a wild pitch by Dawson with the bases loaded.

The biggest blow came in the same inning when Brittany Cervantes hit a three-run homer to left field to give Kentucky a 4-0 lead.

“We were one pitch away from a completely different ballgame,” Tornia said of the home run. “Dawson had eight or nine strikeouts and I think that is great performance for a freshman

to come out against a team from the SEC...the kid has a bright future.”

The Wildcats would tack on another run in the fifth inning to complete the scoring.

“We were pressing so much,” Welch said afterwards. “We were told, it’s Ohio State, it’s Kentucky and we are [the type of team] where we want to win. We will relax [on Saturday] and be us.”

FIU 7, MEMPHIS 6

The Golden Panther offense finally came to life as they defeated the Memphis Tigers in a thrilling 7-6 ball game on Feb. 12.

The Panthers would score four runs in the bottom of the first. Beth Peller, would notch the one of the four runs on a single to right field which scored Brie Rojas.

The Tigers would fight back by scoring two runs in the fourth and four more runs in the sixth inning to give themselves a 6-4 lead late in the game.

With one more opportunity in the bottom of the seventh inning, the Golden Panthers would get consecutive hits by Rojas, Ashley McClain and Welch to cut the lead to 6-5. FIU would load the bases and Slowik would single to right to tie the game.

The game would end moments later on a wild pitch by relief pitcher Lauren Carley to seal the 7-6 victory.

DEPAUL 6, FIU 4

The Golden Panthers were unable to put consecutive wins together as pitcher Jenn Gniadek would struggle against DePaul, giving up four runs in two innings of work in a 6-4 loss to the Blue Demons on Feb. 12.

Ashley McClain would come in to slow the Blue Demon offense. The Golden Panthers would score on a double by Slowick which plated two in the fourth to cut the lead to 4-3. Depaul would score in the sixth and seventh to seal a 6-4 victory.



REBECCA VILLAFANE/THE BEACON

Brie Rojas [above] slides into home and Jessy Alfonso [left] prepares herself on defense during the Golden Panthers' come-from-behind victory against the Memphis Tigers on Feb. 12. The win over the Tigers would be the only win FIU would garner in the first two days of the opening season, which included a loss against No. 22 Ohio State on opening night.



BASEBALL

Wittels prepares for new season amidst accusations

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Sports Writer

He's been tempted over the past eight months. The dark locks now extend well below the helmet of college baseball's reigning hit king. But superstitions are superstitions, and Wittels vowed not to get them trimmed until his 56-game hitting streak, still going from last season, ends.

“Gets annoying sometimes,” Wittels said, tugging one of his curls. “But it’s not that bad.”

Hair, Wittels can laugh about.

But there's more hanging over him than that.

Wittels' status for the Feb. 18 start of FIU's season, when he was to resume pursuit of Robin Ventura's 58-game Division I record streak set in 1987, is unclear, after he was charged in a rape case in the Bahamas in December.

The university's decision on his status is expected next week, although the charge will likely be pending for several months.

Wittels declined to discuss specifics of the case in an interview with The Associated Press, on advice of his attorneys. He was freed on \$10,000 bond and allowed to return home without entering a plea. Bahamian officials do not plan to begin a preliminary evidentiary inquiry until April.

“The day that everything came out, that was the hardest day of my life,” Wittels said.

He is accused of forcing sex on a 17-year-old girl. The age of consent in the Bahamas is 16. Wittels was with a group of friends, some of whom were charged raping both the

female who accused Wittels and another 17-year-old as well.

“I just put myself in a bad situation,” Wittels said.

Coaches and close friends say that when Wittels is on the field or in the batting cage these days, he seems the way he was last season. Wittels batted .412, was the Sun Belt Conference's player of the year, he was tabbed Friday as the preseason pick to win that award again, and helped FIU reach the NCAA tournament.

When the streak was in jeopardy, he was at his best, going 7-for-7 in situations where he was down to his final at-bat without a hit.

For someone who hit .246 in 2009, last season was more than a breakthrough.

“He's handled it like an absolute champ,” FIU coach Turtle Thomas said. “He is solid as a rock between his ears. He's been raised to expect to do well and be the best and practice hard, play hard. He's been raised to be a winner. And he's clutch. It could end Feb. 18 or it could go a long time into 2011.”

Thomas was tightlipped when asked about Wittels' legal matters, saying only he has not lost any faith in his shortstop.

“None whatsoever,” Thomas said.

ESPN plans to broadcast FIU's opening series. Wittels got more media attention than he thought possible last season, and finds himself curtailing use of Facebook and Twitter because wants to keep some sense of privacy.

The constant attention, he says, can be too much.

“You can't really worry about what people think about you,” Wittels said. “The

“You can't really worry about what people think about you... you just have to know who you are and that the people who are around you are your backbone.”

Garrett Wittels
FIU Infielder

No. 1 thing I've learned throughout this whole thing, really, is that you just have to know who you are and that the people who are around you are your backbone. You'll have your fans, your haters, all these people... but the people around you are the ones who'll have your back.”

That includes the FIU clubhouse.

The attention Wittels' streak generated last season never seemed to truly bother teammates. The only thing that the Panthers regularly bicker over is the type of music that should blare pregame, rap, country or reggae.

“We're focused on the whole team and that's really what's important,” Thomas said. “From what I know, they've handled it very well. They understand. It's good for them. It's good for the program. It's good for their maturation process as kids and ball-players to play with a little expectation on them.”

Wittels went through that expectation process last summer.

He grew up in the Miami area, and other than a stint playing summer ball in Virginia

in 2009, had not spent extensive time away from home in his life. So his 2010 summer season was about as far from Miami as possible, in Alaska, 5,000 miles away.

He's allergic to cats; his host family had them as pets. He felt at times like he needed a break from the whirlwind season. He hit .254 in 32 games. And his hitting streak, his personal one, anyway, ended.

But the hair remains.

“I can't quit,” Wittels said.

FIU will gather Saturday for its annual start-of-season baseball banquet, and Wittels plans to wear his 2010 championship ring. He's only slipped it on a few times, choosing instead to simply look at it when he needs inspiration for this season.

It's a reminder of the storybook 2010 and makes him briefly forget everything, positive and negative, swirling around him.

“It can't be a one-year championship. It can't be one year of hitting .400,” Wittels said. “Sports is about ‘What have you done for me lately.’ All I'm worried about right now is balls and strikes, wins and losses, just playing ball.”

THAT LOVIN' FEELING

Campus feature foretells love-filled future

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Asst. News Director

The pressure to have a perfect Valentine's Day can take its toll on any one, but it seems that one kiss at the University's "Kissing Bridge" is all it takes to ensure romantic bliss.

Linking the Ryder Business and College of Law with the rest of campus, the lovingly dubbed "Kissing Bridge" has sparked true love for over 40 years.

According to the Student Alumni Association tradition, this bridge has crossed over the heart-shaped pool, also known as Turtle Pond, since the opening of the Modesto Maidique Campus in 1972.

Students, much like they do today, chose to sit along the pond with friends or significant others. Soon enough, the pond's charming ambiance embellished by the scattering of small turtles, attracted more and more couples to choose it as a kissing spot.

Since this trend started back in the 1970's, SAA has reported several alumni coming back to FIU to tell the story of their first kiss on the bridge. They come back not only to share a revered memory, but to warn of its supernatural "powers" to legitimize everlasting love. SAA supports the idea, and shares its legend that every couple who kisses on the bridge will be together for life.

Whether students buy into it or not, the kissing bridge has been a part of the University's celebration of Valentine's Day for years. Students and faculty are always welcomed to celebrate the day of love out on the bridge where food, fun and a little

romance will make up the event "A Parisian's Valentine's Day" from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 14.

Whether or not love can be found on the bridge, it has undoubtedly swept through the hallways and corridors of the University a time or two.

Walking through campus and even through the kissing bridge caused Elizabeth and Alex Pena, FIU alumni and recent newlyweds, to recall the memories that sparked their romance at the University.

"FIU really did bring us together," said Elizabeth before her husband added, "It's a really big part of who we were, and being on campus reminds us of it all."

Claiming that he was a "bad boy" when they first met, Elizabeth thankfully admits that Alex cooks for her almost every night—including an upcoming surprise dinner as per their usual Valentine's Day tradition.

When Elizabeth and Alex first met, they were connected socially through their fraternity and sorority, but other couples like Brooke Wertman, a junior sociology major, and Mychal Revales, a junior, found romance in the confines of the classroom.

"I noticed him on my first day of freshman year, because we had two classes together. One day he sat a seat away from me in one of the classes we had together and we just started talking, and eventually he asked me to get some lunch with him," said Wertman.

Being together for 2 years and going to the same school, Wertman enjoys the spontaneous moments when she sees Revales throughout her day.

"What I like best is when we acci-

dentally run into each other in between classes."

Although tests are going to prevent them from celebrating on Monday, Wertman is excited to "get dressed up" and go to dinner and ballet this weekend.

While Wertman and Revales enjoyed their first encounter in class, the story for Charlene Blevens, assistant vice president and interim controller, and her husband, Dr. Fred Blevens, honors fellow and journalism professor, was somewhat different.

"He was an instructor, and I took a journalism course of his but I had enrolled in the wrong class. He kept trying to kick me out of class, but I refused to leave. Maybe if I would have listened, I'd have done better—he gave me a B," said Charlene.

Long after that class ended, Charlene was dating someone else when she encountered Fred again.

"That was pretty weird. He was actually one of my students too, and he remained a very good friend for some time," said Dr. Blevens.

The Blevens duo doesn't need to "make a big deal" out of Valentine's Day, because they'll be celebrating 29 years of marriage in April.

Upon hearing the tradition associated with the kissing bridge, Charlene excitedly said, "I guess we better get over there, but I think we've had a pretty good start so far."



CARLOS MONINO/THE BEACON

College sweethearts and FIU alumni Elizabeth and Alex Pena share a kiss on the famous Kissing Bridge. The Pena's, who married in June, are part of numerous couples who met at the University and partake in the Kissing Bridge tradition.

A bad Valentine can leave a permanent scar

The time of year is here for flowers, balloons, candy and hearts.

People are running around, trying to muster up the courage to show affection towards special people. Couples wait to sit down at a place to eat. After all that, then what?

Valentine's Day is the one official day out of the year for men and women to declare their love for one another.

With all honesty, this has not been a good day for me in the past. My first true Valentine's Day memory was in high school, when I found out that my then-girlfriend was cheating on me.

A couple of years later, I was dumped on Valentine's Day and ended up watching the movie *Hitch* with a male coworker. Also, a girl stood me up on a dinner date. Her excuse was that she was invited to a movie with her friend. All of these instances occurred within a five-year span and left me a little scarred.

"With some people, I think Valentine's Day reopens wounds that past loves have

left," said FIU alumnus Agustina Prigoshin. "That pain makes people dislike the day, especially if they're single."

What makes people dislike Valentine's Day? For some, such as myself, it's the memory of horrible past dates.

"The worst Valentine's Day I have had is when I had a huge fight with my boyfriend," said Zeysha Mangual, a junior at FIU. "It eventually led to us breaking up the next week."

I am in no way insinuating that people shouldn't show affection to one another. I actually like to take random opportunities to surprise a girl. I just don't find it necessary to dedicate a holiday to it.

Another reason for the hate on Valentine's Day may be that some people have a really high expectation for something to happen.

"The fact is that most people go all out with their feelings on this one day," Prigoshin said.

The pressure doesn't just fall on people who are single and looking for something

to do, but also for couples who look to make this a memorable day.

Am I guilty of having expectations for Valentine's Day?

Yes. I consider myself a hopeless romantic.

I am someone who listens to love songs, such as "Haven't Met You Yet" by Michael Bublé. I get sucked into romantic comedies, like *How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days* and *You've Got Mail*, and I honestly ask myself "Could that happen to me?"

I don't hate the holiday. It is a way of reaffirming your love to someone. What people do is blow the whole day out of proportion. Maybe what should be happening is that we should tone down all of the hype and keep it simple.

"I have friends that go out and celebrate the day, regardless if they had someone or not," said junior Patrick Benedetti, a psychology major at FIU. "They would go and be with friends or people they considered loved ones. Doesn't have to be a boyfriend or girlfriend, just someone you really care about."

Benedetti might be on to something. If

you're single, go casual and hang out with friends.

If you're in a relationship, show them your love for them, but don't overdo it.

Take time to enjoy the people around you.

It may be a holiday that may have hurt you, but why not do something special for someone close to you?

With all that being said, I will probably be roped into finding a way to make this day memorable.

No matter what has happened in the past, I look forward to the day that Valentine's Day means something special to me.

Maybe I just want to be part of something special.

"People believe that for Valentine's Day, sometimes miracles happen" Mangual said.

COLUMNIST



RICO
ALBARACCIN

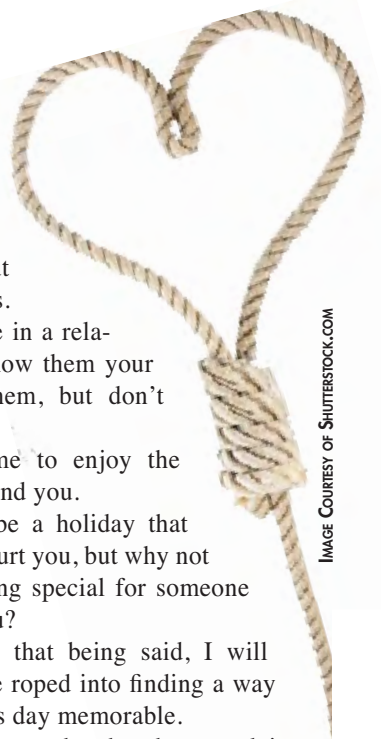


IMAGE COURTESY OF SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

FASHION FINDS

Romantic holiday is just an excuse to wear a flirty dress

I'm not a big Valentine's Day girl. It's probably because I really hate the color pink and this holiday decides to shove it in my face for weeks.

But being the clotheshorse I am, I love Valentine's Day only because I get the chance to buy a flirty dress and heels and someone buys me flowers. That I can handle. Whether you have a date or not, you should relish in the cutesy vibe of the holiday and go out. This Valentine's I'll be having a dinner party with plenty of food, my girlfriends and lots of wine.

That being said, here are my tips for looking great on Valentine's Day.

JUST WEAR HEELS

Wearing heels does wonders for your body by elongating your figure. It also automatically forces you to suck in your midsection and stand up straighter.

Depending on how well you work with heels, choose between wedges or platform

pumps.

I'm not an expert in walking with heels but I can't resist the glam of a Louboutin look-alike. A sky-high heel balanced with a platform front looks great with a lot of outfit choices.

COLUMNIST



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ

The shoe is practical and since I know I won't be able to bear the pain all night, I make sure to be equipped with a heel grip and ball of foot comfort pads. They are inexpensive and Dr. Scholl's has a whole line of shoe accessories to keep your feet happy.

If you're terrified of looking like a goof in heels, try wedges. The platform helps you with balance and it's a lot easier to get around. Let's say your date takes you to the park for a picnic, walking through the grass in heels could potentially look a lot like a scene out of a John Hughes movie.

Make sure the style has ankle support because it's easy to twist your ankle in any kind of tall shoe.

WEAR A DRESS

Wear a dress simply because you can wear jeans any other date night. Valentine's is a lot like New Year's where girls indulge in getting gussied up and putting on a dress. Keep the style flirty with an A-line style skirt. I love the look of a mini a-line skirt because it has the sexiness of a mini but it's not as provocative as a body-con.

The key to a good mini is to keep the skirt short and the top covered. If you're showing leg, stray away from showing cleavage. If exhibitionism is your thing, try a backless dress. Urban Outfitters offers several versions of the style at a moderate price. Like I mentioned earlier I despise the color pink, but I'm not against wearing red on this romantic day.

Urban Outfitters and American Apparel made body-con style dresses famous after ripping off high-end designer Herve Leger's style and introducing it to the masses. It's a skintight dress that is designed to look like the dress was "bandaged" to the body.

I am a fan of body-con dresses because they are flattering despite what you may think. The dress is so tight that it gives the body a nice hourglass shape whether you have one or not.

KEEP ACCESSORIES TO A MINIMUM

If you're wearing a patterned dress (by the way, when else can you recklessly wear floral?), keep your accessories neutral. I consider metallics to be neutral so stick with a pewter or gold clutch and shoes to keep your accessories from competing with your dress.

I'll be wearing a nude color dress and match it with beaded clutch and red shoes to jazz up the outfit. As for jewelry, I'm really into chunky necklaces right now. I wouldn't pair it with anything other than simple diamond studs and a watch.

The same goes for cocktail rings. The oversized ring doesn't need help from any other accessories to make an outfit complete.

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

ON THE PROWL

Don't fret being single on Valentine's; throw a party instead

Being alone on Valentine's Day isn't necessarily a bad thing. Yes, it's a stupid, commercialized excuse for the flower, chocolate and greeting card industries to make a pretty penny, but it can also be a day of great self-realization.

If you're single on Valentine's remember this:

- Love yourself. If you can't do this simple task, you won't be able to successfully dedicate yourself to loving anyone else.
- Buy yourself a bouquet of your favorite flowers or a box of your favorite chocolates and indulge in your own company.
- Don't let anyone make you feel bad about being alone today. I've been single

for a few years now and they've been the best of my life. After being in two long-term relationships back-to-back, I had forgotten how great it felt to be single and that being a little selfish was totally acceptable. I've been able to focus on planning for my future and enjoying my friendships in the present.

COLUMNIST



LIANAMAR DÁVILA SANABRIA

- When you get home from your long day today, do something nice for yourself like taking a long candlelit bath or just pull out your credit card and splurge on yourself a little.
- Afterwards, make a list of what you love about being single or write yourself a type of love letter with all the things you love about you. Once you're finished, read it and keep it safe for future reference.

you love about being single or write yourself a type of love letter with all the things you love about you. Once you're finished, read it and keep it safe for future reference.

• Take advantage of this special day to show your loved ones, family and friends that you appreciate them. Send them personalized Valentine's Day cards or gifts. You can also plan to have or make dinner with them to just enjoy each other's company. Call it an "Un-Valentine's Day Dinner" if you have to lure your single friends in.

- If you're not quite at this point, just stay active and busy so the day will fly by.

Don't sit at home and sulk about how you're single on Valentine's Day, instead treat it day like any other day. No matter what you do, stay clear of potential places couples would go because you'll only cause yourself to be depressed and lonely.

On the Prowl is a bi-weekly column on dating and relationships. Look for it every other Monday.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011****INTERNATIONAL VALENTINE'S BALL**

FREE food and drinks for all FIU students! Performances from UM and FIU Ballroom Club as well as a dance competition. Games, prizes and much more!
WHEN: 7-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

FIU STRING SEMINAR

WHERE: TBD

A PARISIAN VALENTINE'S DAY

WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Kissing Bridge

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

WHEN: All day
WHERE: Inside GC and by the Green Library Breezeway

ROMANCE UNDER THE STARS

The Astronomy Club will be hosting your Valentines Date! Get ready for star filled night with your special someone(s).

WHEN: 8-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Astro Pad

TAP DANCING LESSONS

WHEN: 7-9 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

SPC PIT EVENT: VALENTINE'S BUILD-A-BEAR

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

SOC CLUB FAIR

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011**BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA**

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

FIU STRING SEMINAR

WHERE: TBD

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART

WHEN: All day
WHERE: Inside GC and by the Green Library Breezeway

BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDIES

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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

WHEN: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: MARC International Pavilion

CSO MEET & GREET

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: MMC Faculty Club

FACULTY RECITAL SERIES: AMERNET STRING QUARTET

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$15 FIU faculty, staff and seniors, \$25 general admission
WHERE: FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

MAPS STUDY GROUPS

WHEN: 8-9:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 287A

MOVIE NIGHT

WHEN: 8-11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC TBA

THE MUSIC MAN

ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

The FIU School of Music presented The Wind And Percussion Arts Series: Chamber Series for Winds at the WPAC on Saturday Feb. 5 .

STATE OF THE FIUNION

Student involvement needed to fight

Our economy has suffered and states are finding ways to compensate. Over the last few years, we all have seen the effects of statewide budget cuts to education. Our tuition has risen 15 percent annually, and it looks like it will continue to rise for the foreseeable future.

The variety of courses offered across different majors has diminished, leaving students with less options and difficulty enrolling. Many students who rely on the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program have seen their aid reduced.

Student Government understands these items are of the utmost importance for many students. While tough times have affected us all, education must not be viewed as an easy or acceptable place to make cuts. We at Student Government are engaging Florida Senators and Representatives, letting them know of student concerns, especially regarding upcoming legislation.

For instance, textbooks are currently not included in the upcoming tax-free week, despite having been included in the past. We understand that these are tough economic times and understand the amount we pay for books is extremely

large, which is why we have decided to take a stand and make it known that it is important for textbooks to be included in tax-free week.

Also, while economics is important,

Ultimately, if Student Government is going to have an impact on... the overall quality of student life, we are going to need your help.

overall quality of life and well-being is also a concern. Upcoming legislation is looking to allow individuals with concealed weapons permits the right to carry handguns on campus. We at Student Government, while respecting the Second

Amendment, have student welfare as our chief concern and thus are against this legislation.

Ultimately, if Student Government is going to have an impact on these and other items of legislation, as well as the overall quality of student life, we are going to need your help. Now is the time to stand united. There are variety of ways to get involved on and off campus, some of which require only a few minutes of your time.

On March 22, you can join us for Rally in Tally, where we meet with state Senators and Representatives in Tallahassee, FL. If you are interested in joining us at Rally in Tally, please contact us and we will provide you with more information.

These are just some ways that SGC-MMC is working on behalf of students. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas you'd like to share please feel free to contact me at sga.lobbying@fiu.edu.

-Christopher Diaz, SGC-MMC Student Lobbying Coordinator

State of the FIUnion is a bi-weekly column addressing University issues from the perspective of the Student Government Association. Look for it every other Monday.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Proposed gun bill a poor solution to improve security

The Beacon cannot support State Bill 234 because the thought of an openly armed campus is frightening.

Supported by Governor Rick Scott during the campaign trail, Senate Bill 234 aims to permit the open carry of firearms statewide and on college campuses. *The Beacon* cannot support legislation that we believe compromises the safety of the University community and security measures already in place by the Department of Public Safety.

Furthermore, the idea of this bill going into law is foolish and poorly conceived. In the event a verbal fight comes to blows on campus, the situation can turn tragically different with the presence of lethal weapons.

According to University Chief of Police Bill King, the passage of this bill would do little more than give students access to violent materials that may not be in the best of hands, whether or not they have a permit, posing a threat to students and faculty.

Thomas Breslin, chair of the Faculty Senate, said it best: "Why add the fear of being shot to already existing tensions over deadlines, grades, academic conduct, refusals to write letters of recommendation, or discussion of controversial topics?"

Some may argue that the open presence of firearms on students would be a deterrent for crime and school violence, we disagree. The visible presence of firearms at the University could lead to a heightened sense of fear in the University community.

The bill would also alter the dynamic between the University community and Public Safety officers. In the event of a campus incident that can range from a simple traffic stop to a shooting, un concealed weapons would introduce another threat that an officer would face.

As cartoonish as a gun fight may seem, it would be nearly impossible for the officer to find an aggressor in a room full of armed students possibly exchanging gunfire.

In light of this, Public Safety department spokespersons for several universities have already come out against the bill, and the University's Student Government Association has already passed a resolution "condemning" the legislation.

The Beacon is all for improving the safety of our University. However, that job should be left in the hands of Public Safety rather than the unskilled hands of the average member of society.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Save a child's Heart this Valentine's Day

There are two types of people: Those who like Valentine's Day and those who don't. While many students here at the University are getting ready to surprise their sweethearts with gifts, others feel that the meaning of Valentine's Day has been lost in consumerism.

Well, I think that Valentine's Day still shines as a time when people make the extra effort to share and make others feel good. You don't have to give fancy candy or jewelry. There are other options to consider and one you should definitely know about. This year on campus, you could Save a Child's Heart.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, Shalom FIU is hosting "We Heart Your Hearts," a student-run global campaign to raise money for 3 children

who need cardiac surgery. The Children, Muaz (age 3) from Ethiopia, Seba (8 months) a Palestinian from Gaza, and Yaa (age 1) from Ghana are all suffering from congenital heart disease.

The international humanitarian organization, Save a Child's Heart, is working on bringing these children to the Wolfson Medical Center in Israel where they will receive free medical treatment and life-saving surgeries.

As an international university, I think it is important for the University community to support SACH. With students from all over the world, we have the power to extend a helping hand on a global level, and in my opinion we have the responsibility to do so.

The mission of Save a Child's Heart is to improve

the quality of medical care for children in developing countries who suffer from heart disease and to create centers for competence in these countries. SACH has treated more than 2,500 children from over 40 countries where adequate medical care is unavailable.

According to its website, 40 percent of the children who underwent cardiac surgeries are from Africa, 49 percent are from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Iraq and Morocco, 4 percent are from Eastern Europe and the Americas and 7 percent are from Asia.

Cupcakes and heart shaped cards will be given away on Valentine's Day from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. outside the Graham Center Main Entrance to raise awareness for the cause. The goal of the "We Heart Your Hearts" campaign is to raise

the \$30,000 needed to give these children a second chance at life.

Because the surgeons associated with SACH do not work for profit, the costs are low and the funds are used to cover transportation to Israel and expenses related to treatment. SACH is completely funded by private donors.

I ask the campus community to show their hearts and their love for Muaz, Seba, and Yaa this Valentine's Day and prove to the cynics that this day is still about love.

If you would like to help Save a Child's Heart, send a message to shalom.fiu@gmail.com or visit the Shalom FIU orgsync page. For more information about SACH go to saveachildsheart.org

FIU Shalom is a pro-Israel student organization.

VERBATIM

"Part of the Valentine's Day hatred is not so much about actually disliking the holiday's crass consumerism—there's no rule that you have to overspend or buy a pre-made card—than fitting in with a culture of other smart, savvy, pop-culture-and-processed-food haters."

Torie Bosch, Columnist
Slate Magazine

DISCLAIMER

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters (550 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

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.



COLOMBIA

FARC to release 2 hostages

A Colombian ex-senator who is a liaison between the government and FARC rebels says she's on her way to receive two hostages the rebels have promised to release.



VENEZUELA

Scuffles break out in congress chamber

Scuffles and a fistfight erupted between allies and adversaries of President Hugo Chavez in Venezuela's National Assembly on Thursday, forcing security guards to separate two battling lawmakers



PUERTO RICO

University professors announce strike

The Puerto Rican Association of University Professors is staging a 24-hour strike in support of students who have clashed with police during protests over a new fee.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Negro League Exhibit brings baseball fever to campus

KATIE LAWRENCE
Contributing Writer

Baseball fever started early at the Biscayne Bay Campus as an event showcasing the Negro Baseball League and their accomplishments was hosted in the Wolf University Center as part of the University's Black History Month activities.

Students wandered through booths of photos and memorabilia on the afternoon of Feb. 8 in the Wolfe University Center while televisions played movies charting the historic accomplishments of the Negro League. Even some former league players were on hand to take pictures and share stories of their time in a tumultuous era playing America's greatest game.

The event was sponsored by the Department of Campus Recreation in partnership with More Than a Game, a non-profit organization based in Fort Lauderdale that educates the community about the history of blacks in baseball and promotes the game to inner-city children.



Left: Vintage baseball jerseys hanging in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center at the Negro League Exhibit on Feb. 8. Right: Baseball memorabilia of the negro league era.



PHOTOS BY LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

"It's really about keeping the history alive, and getting kids into it," said Danny Phillips, founder and executive director of More Than a Game. "Kids today want to play basketball or football, so we try to remind them how fun baseball can be."

Phillip, a former minor league player, coach, and lifelong baseball fan, founded More Than a Game in 2004. The organization has since put on numerous events with the African-American Library in Fort Lauderdale, worked with Old Dillard Museum

and private collectors to bring memorabilia to the masses, and even started inner-city youth little league teams, the last of which Phillip said brought almost 200 kids out.

Derek Davis, the curator of Old Dillard Museum in Fort Lauderdale

works closely with Phillip to help bring the spotlight back to baseball, and to stress the importance of its history to black players.

"For the negro league, they were entrepreneurs. They had to build and make a living doing this. That shows the ingenuity they had even through diversity," said Davis.

Keeping in the spirit of the ballpark, hotdogs, nachos, and popcorn were served (notably absent: beer), and students mingled amongst replica jerseys from teams based on the uniforms from as early as 1907.

John Gray, formerly of the Indianapolis Clowns, and Chico Arenas of the 1957 Cuban Giants, set up shop at a booth with photos and statistics from their heydays.

Gray, who played for five years making 300 to 500 mile bus trips a night for eight months and was not allowed to stay in hotel rooms with his team, often comes out to the More Than a Game events.

"It's a history," Gray said. "Our job now is to never let it be forgotten."

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Council passes resolution to add more recycling bins

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff writer

Camilo Hernandez, a biomedical engineering freshman, wants Biscayne Bay Campus to run on natural energy by the time he graduates. For now, the lower division senator from Columbia just wants everyone on campus to recycle more.

Hernandez presented, and the Senate passed, a resolution for the Panther Pickup Recycling Campaign on Feb. 7, which proposes to add new recycling bins and move old ones to higher circulation areas.

Hernandez said the Panther Pickup bill would need to be allocated about \$500 from the senate discretionary fund to cover costs of advertising and doubling the amount of bins on campus, from about 15 to 30.

"Maybe we could throw in events," Hernandez said. "We want

to encourage students in a new way, and to give them knowledge about our recycling system so it could better benefit everyone."

Hernandez based the recycling bin reform on a resolution Michelle Reyes, former SGC-BBC lower division senator, was working on to support the green movement made at BBC.

"Not that many students in this campus know that our recycling system is single stream, which means you can place anything in any of the bins," Hernandez said.

Single stream is possible because the materials will be sorted out at a recycling compound. This means even though some bins are shaped like a bottle and have a bottle-sized hole for discarding materials, anything recyclable is acceptable.

According to the Recycling Program Outline from the University's

Custodial Services, Recycling & Solid Waste Management, the single stream project was implemented in June 2009 after a single stream recycling plant was opened in South Florida.

Hernandez is improving a map Reyes made of BBC that shows high, medium, and low circulation areas. The two-story walkway from the Wolfe University Center to the Glenn Hubert Library is classified as high circulation, and is noted for having three trashcans on both levels, but no recycle bins in sight.

In a paper Reyes wrote on what's wrong with the campus recycling system, she listed areas with a lack of, or incorrectly labeled bins. The paper ends: "and the list goes on."

While the bins were originally placed by SGA, Hernandez said it needs to be strategized and discussed with building managers to make sure there are no fire hazards.

Ruth Bonami, an English senior, said she buys a drink everyday on campus, but doesn't always recycle.

"I try," Bonami said. "If there were more recycle bins, I'd definitely recycle every time because I'd feel bad throwing something in the trash when there is a bin next to it."

Once the Panther Pickup bill is passed and funds are appropriated, Hernandez said he will meet with a graphic artists to design a new theme for a recycling campaign.

He will work with Jennifer Grimm, the environmental coordinator in the Office of the Provost, BBC.

"I hope [Grimm and I develop] some type of trust system there, where I can just go to her and she can help me out," Hernandez said. "She knows a lot more about the environment than I know, and about what's going on around campus."

This is the third resolution

Hernandez has presented in two semesters on the council. The first resolution was to provide nicotine gum for smokers during the transition to a smoke-free campus.

Working on the Panther Pickup resolution has made an impact with Hernandez.

"It inspired me to write a paper about the Great Pacific trash island, where trash is being collected in the water, forming almost an island of garbage" Hernandez said. "I'm really interested in the environment."

Hernandez hopes to make a career out of engineering innovation, such as making gasless cars and incorporating photosynthesis into electronics.

Becca Griesemer works as a Beat Writer covering the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

I-95 sits atop list of nation's most dangerous roadways

RONNIE FIGUEROA
Contributing Writer

Although University students taking Interstate 95 to and from campus face a less dangerous commute to school today than they did in years past, accident and fatality rates on the highway still soar above the national average.

During the past five years, more than 20,000 accidents and 163 fatalities occurred on Miami-Dade and Broward counties' 42-mile stretch of I-95, according to data compiled by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Last year, however, marked a low in both categories for the past 10 years, with most officials attrib-

uting the drop to road and traffic flow improvements.

The improvements, however, aren't enough to dethrone South Florida's 88-mile stretch, which includes Palm Beach County, from the top spot in the United States in terms of fatalities per mile over the past five years with 3.13. The next closest is New Jersey's Interstate 76 with 1.64 fatalities per mile.

The National Highway Safety Administration ranked it the most dangerous highway from 2004 through 2008. During that span, Miami-Dade County alone averaged more than 100 injuries per mile.

With the majority of FIU's 42,000 students living off its two campuses, driving to class can pose a greater challenge than school itself.

Fort Lauderdale native, Patterson Murphree, treks I-95 every weekday to get to Biscayne Bay Campus.

"There's never a dull moment on I-95," he says. "You're either getting cut off or flipped off. I think I see an accident every day."

Murphree considers himself lucky