



AUSTRALIA

Floods claim the lives of at least 4

Flash floods swept through an Australian city, killing at least four people, trapping others in cars and some clinging to trees as rains brought in the worst flooding in decades.



MYANMAR

Draft law enacted for men, women

Myanmar has enacted a law that could draft men and women into the armed forces and mete out prison sentences of up to five years for draft dodgers.



SOUTH KOREA

Talks initiated on attacks, nuke program

South Korea rebuffed a North proposal for talks to ease tensions but extended its offer to discuss military attacks blamed on Pyongyang and North Korea's nuclear program.

Replacement vice president confirmed

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

Alina Gonzalez was confirmed unanimously by the Student Government at Modesto Maidique Campus senate to fill the vacant position of SGC-MMC vice president during a senate meeting held Jan. 10.

Gonzalez will take over the position, which was left vacant at the end of the fall semester after former SGC-MMC VP Nick Autiello tendered his resignation due to being implicated of underage drinking with interns during a Student Government intern retreat.

"It has been a great privilege to serve the students of FIU, but due to recent events I cannot in good conscience continue to hold my office," Autiello wrote in a letter to Student Media last fall.

During the confirmation process at the senate hearing, Gonzalez explained that she promises to do "the best she can to her ability," building off

the experience she has gained during her three years in SGA.

Gonzalez, a junior majoring in political science and international relations, has served as chief of staff to current SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez since the beginning of her term. Prior to that, Gonzalez had served as director of internal affairs in 2009 and was awarded "SGA Intern of the Year" during her time as an intern her freshman year in 2008.

"I've experienced three different administrations and it's definitely helped me acquire different skills that I think are needed for the vice presidency," said Gonzalez in an interview with Student Media.

SGC-MMC Speaker Pro Tempore Hector Mujica vouched for Gonzalez's experience within SGA, citing the need to have someone with experience fill the position in order to avoid having to train someone new before SGA's upcoming budget process.

IN THE HEIGHTS



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

The new School of International and Public Affairs building was officially opened for classes on Jan. 10. The first and second floor of the building hold several classrooms while offices can be found on the floors above. SIPA is a LEED-Certified building and features a unique rooftop garden visible from lobbies on the third through fifth floors.

"She is the most qualified person for the position," Mujica said.

Gonzalez told members of the senate that one of her goals as vice president is increasing communication between

the legislative and executive branches.

The role of vice president requires Gonzalez to sit in at senate meetings, where she can serve as the tiebreaking vote if a scenario in which a tie

occurs.

"I'd like to see more collaboration between both the executive and legislative branches in order to ensure that their goals are completed," said Gonzalez. "I will take it upon

myself to meet with each delegation at least once a month to ensure that there is collaboration between both branches."

Gonzalez also hopes to

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Rowan offers students a secular view into religion

STEPHANIE FERNANDEZ
Contributing Writer

Instructor Kelley Rowan grew up in a secular home, across the street from a conservative Catholic family. At an early age, she became intrigued by world religion.

That recipe added up to Rowan becoming an atheist and teaching Women in Religion in FIU's Religious Studies Department.

"I love the community it builds," Rowan says about the idea of religion. "I love the rituals, but I can't come to believe in anything imaginary. I guess I'm too old."

Raised in a family where she was taught to focus on rational thoughts, Rowan believes there is no way she could turn to religion, except to teach it.

Lesley A. Northup, interim dean of the Honors College, said this might not be a surprise.

"Maybe atheists are the best teachers about religion, since they don't have a particular faith stance that could skew their objectivity about the value of various different religions," said Northup, who also is an associate professor of religious studies.

Rowan said most of her students appreciate the fact that she is an atheist, probably because students do not want a professor preaching their own religious beliefs.

Rowan teaches her students the importance of language and symbols, but suggests that they should change with the times.

Each semester she asks her students to explain the engagement ring's purpose and the usual response is its symbolism of "love"—a response that Rowan vigorously challenges.

"So you don't love him then? You're not offering him a ring," she says. "He loves you, but you don't love him?"

Students are often confused in the beginning, but are led to understand that Rowan is trying to push them into creating their own symbols and language.

Rowan tries to introduce the notion of equality with ways to modernize the concept of marriage.

"The word ceremony means it's about power," she says. "It's a ritual between two men. It's where the father passes his property and gives it to another man. I don't view myself as property."

To Rowan, this ritual has an underlying patriarchal reasoning that likens the marriage ritual to ownership of things like cows, bulls and linens. Rowan suggests a woman shouldn't be bought off with jewelry.

Some men may disagree, but Rowan's husband, Osvaldo Antonio Musalam, is not one of them.

"I completely respect

her beliefs and honor them," Musalam said. "The ring was never what our relationship was about and if we had chosen to not have wedding bands or engagement rings or any other

variation that would be fine with me. It's our commitment to each other that matters, not the jewelry."

Rowan and her husband do share wedding bands and

had a nontraditional ceremony. They made sure to not include the words, "Who gives this woman?"

ROWAN, page 2



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Religious Studies Professor Kelly Rowan lectures on aspects of international religious cultures.

New confirmees, some vacancies left

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Monday's Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus senate meeting shed new light on the policies and members that will take up the torch of SGC-MMC this semester.

Former SGC-MMC Vice President Nicholas Autiello resigned towards the end of last semester, and President Helena Ramirez brought SGC-MMC Chief of Staff Alina Gonzalez to the senate to be confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Vice President. The senate voted and Gonzalez was officially confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Vice President.

Afterwards, Octavio Mella came before the senate to be confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Chief Justice, after

former SGC-MMC Chief Justice Veronica Guerra stepped down during the winter break.

Guerra's resignation came after an offered internship in Tallahassee, which propelled her to step down and accept the offer. The SGC-MMC senate voted unanimously to confirm Mella as the new SGC-MMC Chief Justice.

"I am very excited about being confirmed," said Mella. "I intend to implement some changes to the judicial branch of SGC-MMC because it is an important aspect of SGA, and I would like to see it grow to its fullest potential and make sure that justice is served."

After Mella's confirmation, Sanjeev Udhvani came before the senate to be confirmed as the new SGC-MMC Attorney General, filling the spot left

vacant by former SGC-MMC Attorney General Altanese Phenelus, who graduated in the fall 2010 semester.

"I'm happy that I was confirmed, and I have plans to make sure that Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus gets a judicial court system," said Udhvani.

Although three new people were confirmed to fill recently vacated seats, other resignations that are having an impact.

Among other members of SGC-MMC who stepped down was Comptroller Maria-Rosa Blanco, who was offered an extension to her internship, which would end with a job offer.

"We are already interviewing students to fill the spot left vacant by [Blanco]," SGC-MMC President Helena

Ramirez said.

Two SGC-MMC senators also resigned from their positions over the break, adding two more vacant seats to the roster.

Stating that personal and other work related responsibilities needed to take precedence, Honors College Senator Joanne Myler stepped down.

Following Myler's resignation, College of Business Senator Matthew Mockridge also stepped down from his position.

The College of Nursing chair remains as the only other senate chair position that has not been filled.

No applications are currently being looked at for the open seats.

SGC-MMC will have its first joint council meeting this Wednesday.

Search ongoing for new chief of staff

SGC-MMC, page 1

increase transparency within SGA to gain back the trust of the Student Body, after a fall semester which she described as "intense."

"Internally we know that a lot of things occurred out of

our control, but I think actions speak louder than words," said Gonzalez. "Showing students that we are doing our job gains back trustworthiness. It's not something that you can just say; you have to act upon it."

Gonzalez added that both she and Ramirez will be doing

their best to ensure the Student Body knows they are here to help them.

While the position of SGC-MMC vice president is no longer empty, a new candidate must be found to replace Gonzalez as SGC-MMC chief of staff.

Both Ramirez and Gonzalez will be hosting interviews for the position, however, no candidates have been found yet.

While the search is ongoing, Gonzalez will continue to serve her role as chief of staff, on top of her new vice presidential duties.

Rowan a staunch promoter of equality

ROWAN, page 1

Rowan feels that this question refers to the giving away of something that no one ever owned, and hopes that women eventually notice something wrong with that idea.

Rowan actively donates to prevent domestic violence in India through the Unitarian Universalist Association, a reli-

gious organization that focuses on promoting equality for women. Due to her suppressed immune system and busy schedule, she regrets not being able to travel to India, but hopes that when the timing is right she can become more involved with UUA's Holdeen India Program.

Her interest in donating to battered women stemmed from

personal experience.

"I've seen that it's not just stupid people who get stuck in those relationships," she said. "It can happen to anybody."

Rowan is actively involved in an organization called International Institute for Human Understanding, for which she is preparing a new series of lectures titled, "Illuminating U." The organization's lectures

focus on equality issues, violence, poverty and ethics.

Torben Riise, Rowan's colleague from IIHU, said Rowan's work in women in religion gives a better understanding of our current society and political issues.

"Kelley understands the importance of bringing this information to a male audience," Riise said. "Men have, historically and even today, no grasp of women's role in society; many of today's maladies are results of that. She (Rowan) has the ability to stay fresh and atop of new development in these issues."

Rowan's teaching style has set her apart from other professors who place emphasis on ancient beliefs.

Some have told Rowan they have helped friends who were dealing with domestic violence. From "thank you" emails to changed views on the idea of giving or receiving an engagement ring, students have been captivated by her class.

"Professor Rowan made her lessons so interesting because she always had something personal through her own life to add to class that always made each topic more relatable and exciting," said senior Cheryl Malone.

"There was something about her teaching techniques that left me wanting to learn more and to inform my friends and family about things we would discuss."

WEIRD NEWS

Man Arrested for Making Explosive Sex Toy

Blowup sex dolls, sure. But what about sex toys that blow up?

Police in Minnesota arrested a 37-year-old man accused of planting explosives in a sex toy, which he allegedly intended to give to one of his ex-lovers.

Authorities in Waseca County believe Terry Allen Lester stuffed gunpowder, BB pellets and buckshot into a battery-operated device and planned to deliver it to one of three women with whom he had experienced bad breakups

Investigators say they found out about the dangerous device only after a building manager forced Lester to leave an apartment where he had been staying with two women on Dec. 31.

2-Headed Cow Born in Tbilisi, Georgia

A cow in Georgia has given birth to a two-headed calf. Farmer Irakli Dzhgarkava, shown with the calf on Imedi television, says the cow is refusing to allow her strange offspring to suckle, so they are giving it milk from a bottle.

He says the calf eats with both heads. Friday's television report says people have been coming to the village of Martvili to see the grayish-brown calf since it was born Jan. 2.

The village is located in western Georgia, about 170 miles from the capital, Tbilisi.

Suicidal New York man leaps, but saved by garbage pile


A would-be suicide jumper in New York was alive on Monday after leaping from a ninth-floor window but landing in a giant heap of garbage uncollected since the city's massive snowstorm a week ago.

Vangelis Kapatos, 26, was hospitalized in critical but stable condition after jumping from his apartment on West 45th Street on Sunday afternoon, authorities said.

Sanitation workers have not collected trash since the December 26 storm dumped more than a foot and a half of snow on the city. Mounds of garbage several feet high line many sidewalks.


Police said the trash bags below broke Kapatos' fall and that he left no suicide note before jumping.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo



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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.



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BW82

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Roberts leads FIU to third straight win in conference

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

Whenever the Golden Panthers face off with the South Alabama Jaguars, they usually find themselves coming up short at the end.

Things finally changed as the Panthers soundly defeated the Jaguars 73-62 on Jan. 8, improving their winning streak to three games as they prepare for a difficult two-game road swing out west against North Texas and Denver.

"We are getting better," Coach Isiah Thomas said "I'm very satisfied with the win. It was a successful weekend and we'll get prepared for the next road trip. I like the way my team is playing."

With a staunch defensive effort early on, the Golden Panthers were able to win their first game against the Jaguars since a meeting in early 2007 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Marvin Roberts, who has struggled most of the season matching the kind of point production he was able to churn out last season, burst through with a team-high 18 points for the game.

Alex Legion also provided a spark for the Golden Panther offense with 15 points of his own to go along with six rebounds.

"I'm definitely feeling more comfortable out there," Roberts said. "Hopefully we'll more of these kinds of wins to come."

The Golden Panthers (8-7, 3-0 SBC) were also able to rebound the Jaguars (7-8, 1-3 SBC) underneath the basket, something FIU has struggled to do all season long. Eric Frederick helped lead the effort down low with 12 rebounds for the game.

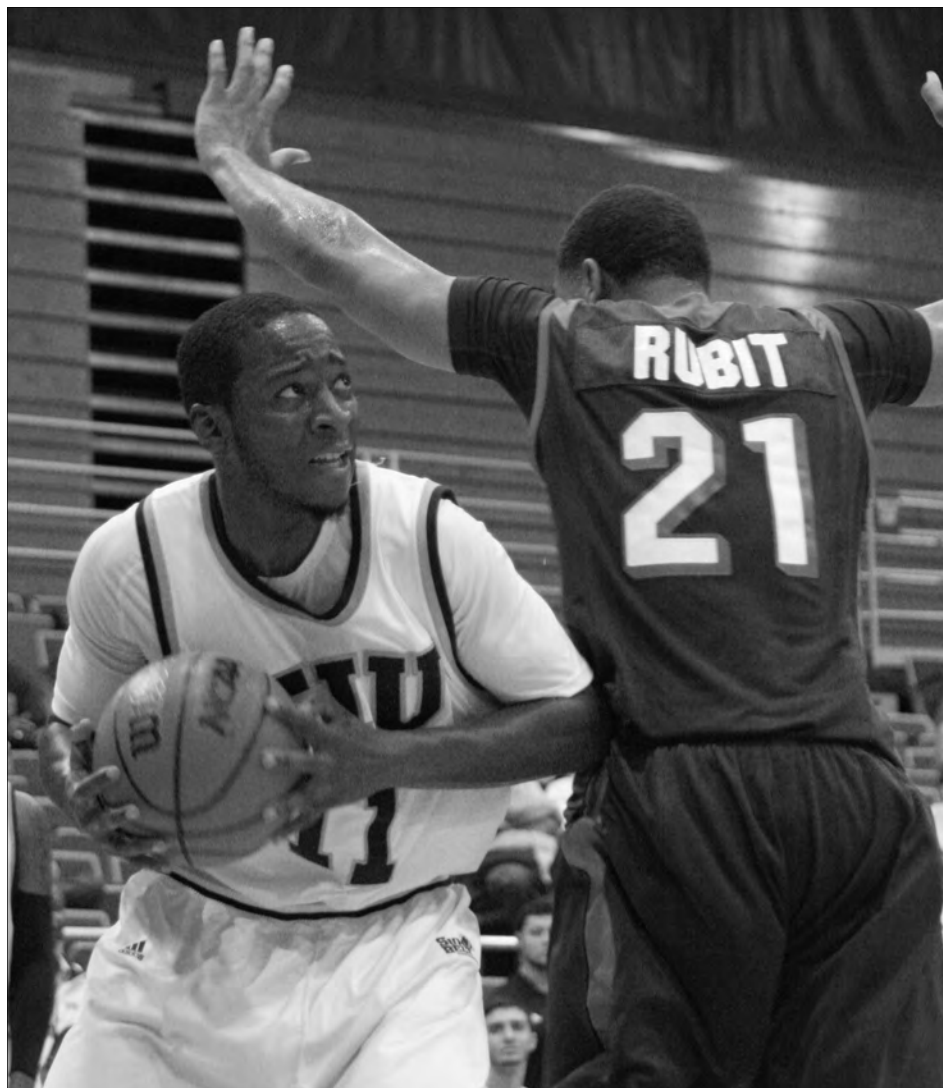
"It's important for us [to rebound] because we do a good job getting stops," Thomas said. "When we get a team to miss it's important that we complete it with a rebound. It's not just one person's responsibility."

Despite leading by as much as 18 points, South Alabama was kept alive by the play of Martino Brock and Augustine Rubit.

Rubit provided fits for FIU down low, finishing the game with 20 points and 12 rebounds as he made things difficult for the Golden Panthers.

Brock registered a game high 22 points, but it wound up not being enough to slice significantly into the second half lead built up by the FIU offense.

All this came in spite of Dominique Ferguson's foul trouble, which limited his playing time and fouled out of the game with over 12 minutes left in the second half.



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

Marvin Roberts [left] tries to make his way past South Alabama's Augustine Rubit [right] in the second half. Roberts scored a team-high 18 points in the FIU victory.

Ferguson was not the only player on the Panther roster who was in trouble in the foul department and that led to a number of opportunities for the Jaguars at the charity stripe.

But South Alabama was unable to capitalize, missing 12 of their 24 team attempts

from the free throw line.

Brock was responsible for much of their woes, converting just four of 13 attempts.

Jeremy Allen also continued providing consistent production on offense for the

MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 4

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers snap seven-game skid in home win



REBECCA VILAFANE/THE BEACON

Elisa Carey [left] registered 10 rebounds along with eight rebounds to help lift the Golden Panthers over South Alabama.

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

With a seven-game losing streak on the line, the Panthers broke out of the monotony and into a positive spell to get back into the conference race. With a stingy defense and a balance on offense, the Panthers got a much-needed win.

FIU (6-11, 1-2 SBC) managed to hold South Alabama (9-7, 1-3 SBC) to their lowest total of the season on Jan. 8, as the Panthers won a 48-43 defensive battle.

"We controlled the game with our defense," Fanni Hutlassa said. "We held them to 43 points when they usually score above 65. I think that was the most important thing. With our offense, we just executed it and got our shots."

The Panthers started with suffocating defense, stopping the Jaguars from any penetration. While FIU slowed down USA, the Panthers struggled to get points on the board as the score was only 13-10 with 10 minutes left in the first half.

Jerica Coley hit a three pointer with 8:45 left in the first half that sparked the Panthers on a 16-6 run. Both teams traded three pointers to finish the first half 29-19. Michelle Gonzalez loved how the offense was

moving the ball around in the first half.

"I think we were getting back to not letting them penetrate too much," Gonzalez said. "On offense, we focused on using all 30 seconds of the shot clock, working on finding the open shot, getting our players open and it was working well."

"We played some really nice defense and we communicated well," Coach Cindy Russo said. "It's a team that likes to penetrate a lot and we played a match-up zone and we're getting better at it."

The Panthers got off to a bad start in the second half. USA guard Sarda Peterson hit two three-point shots, with another one coming from Christian Shelter to cut the lead to one. It seemed as though the FIU defense was not ready to defend the three-point shot.

"They were moving the ball well at the beginning of the half," Gonzalez said. "They were not running that offense at the beginning of the game, but it took two shots for us to get use to that offense."

It did not take long for the defense to tighten up, as FIU forced USA to take bad shot after bad shot.

The Jaguars were held to 32 percent shooting in the second half, with 28 percent for the entire game.

The Panthers began to put up a streak of points that gave them a lead as big as nine, when they lead 42-33 with 5:38 left in the game.

The Jaguars put together a 10-2 run to be able to cut the lead down to one with 1:43 left in the second half.

It would be the last points USA would score, as FIU held on to a 48-43 win.

Russo felt they were able to do things that they didn't do before.

"I thought they were going to make a run. I didn't think we would beat them by 20 points," Russo said. "This is a very good team so we made some adjustments. The biggest thing we did tonight was rebound at the end and not give up second chance shots."

With the win, the team looks to build confidence in the coming games and possibly start a winning streak, especially with Elisa Carey coming back from her knee injury.

"I hope we build on this going forward. Elisa [Carey] coming into the mix is huge and she's a great leader and it's going to help us out a lot," Russo said.

"It helps us a lot, especially with the losing streak," Hutlassa said. "Now everyone can get more confident, get more together, and we want to keep it up."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Addition of Ferguson and Legion provides needed spark

When Isiah Thomas took the coaching job with the Golden Panthers nearly two years ago, he stressed that this team would be a work in progress.

And so far this season, it has become apparent that progress is being made on the court for a team that had struggled and stumbled in Thomas's first season at the helm.

It is clear to see that the product on the court assembled by Thomas this season has been a vast improvement from the squad that played for the NBA Hall of Famer at this point last year.

The team struggled earlier this season without Dominique Ferguson and Alex Legion in the blue and gold and, with a couple of exceptions, looked disappointingly reminiscent of that undermanned and shallow team that was unable to compete even in an average basketball conference like the Sun Belt.

TURNING POINT

But the injection of the heralded freshman and the highly-regarded transfer has provided a much-needed spark to this Golden Panther squad.

Since Ferguson stepped onto the hardwood, FIU has won four of its past five games and the team has averaged 80 points per game during that span. Before that, a Ferguson-less Panther team was averaging just less than 70 points per contest.

Thomas has compared Ferguson's style of play to Lamar Odom and with good reason: not only can the lanky forward post up down low, but he can also pull up and drain a shot from beyond the arc from time to time. He is the kind of player that can do a bit of everything.

Legion himself has also been a significant addition to the team, providing a consistent long-range threat as well as displaying an ability to change the game with a big shot at an opportune time in any given game.

Not only that, but a victory over Arkansas State on Jan. 6 gave the Panthers their seventh win of the season, matching their win total from last season with about half a season still left to play.

Having both of the floor helped initiate the transformation that is currently taking place and that will continue to progress as the season wears on.

GREAT TIMING

And the timing for their arrival could not have been better, showing up just a couple weeks before the conference schedule began and the weight of significance of every matchup became measurably heavier.

So far, the Golden Panthers have gotten off to a fast start against Sun Belt

foes but the toughest matches still lie ahead.

Despite their lack of formidable size, having Ferguson and Eric Frederick in the same lineup is a vast improvement to what they had in 2009 and will be enough to compete in a conference that is not necessarily known for its big men. And this team will continue to improve as they play more games together as a collective unit and the chemistry improves.

Ferguson's numbers have been modest in the early days of his collegiate career, averaging less than 10 points and five rebounds a game. But he has tremendous upside and those numbers will undoubtedly improve as the season moves forward. They need to if the Golden Panthers expect to make a run for a conference crown.

This is a team that needs to prove itself against traditional Sun Belt powers Western Kentucky and North Texas as well as a rapidly improving young Florida Atlantic team up I-95.

They will get their chance soon enough.

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

SUN BELT MEN'S BASKETBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
East Division			
FIU	8-7	3-0	.533
Florida Atlantic	11-6	4-0	.647
Middle Tennessee	7-9	2-1	.438
South Alabama	7-8	1-3	.467
Troy	2-13	0-3	.133
Western Kentucky	5-9	0-2	.357
West Division			
Denver	8-9	4-0	.471
North Texas	13-3	2-1	.812
Arkansas State	7-10	2-2	.412
UALR	9-9	1-2	.500
Louisiana-Lafayette	3-12	1-3	.200
ULM	5-12	0-3	.294

*All records up to date as of Jan. 10

Panthers acknowledge room for improvement

MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 3

Golden Panthers, adding 13 points for the Panthers and converting both of his three-point attempts from beyond the arc.

On the whole, FIU converted 31.3 percent of their shots from downtown, helping thwart off any late comeback attempt by the Jaguars.

Thomas has been pleased with the way his team has been able to improve, especially with most of his players now beginning to gel and get accustomed to each other's style of play.

"They're still learning each other, still trying to figure out where each one is going

to be," Thomas said. "The longer we keep practicing hopefully they'll be more comfortable with each other."

Even the players themselves acknowledge that this may have been their best overall performance of the season as a team, seemingly in control for nearly all of the 40 minutes of play.

However, they still know there is much room for improvement as the season progresses and they enter the more difficult portion of their conference schedule.

"We have our confidence up," Legion said. "Now that we're all together we should be a lot more competitive and take care of business on the road."

MIAMI HEAT

Stern contends LeBron free agency boosts ratings

COLIN FLY
AP Sports Writer

LeBron James disagrees with NBA Commissioner David Stern that interest in his free agency last summer brought more fans to the league.

James said there are so many great players in the league that he didn't think he individually had anything to do with what Stern said were better TV ratings.

"I think it's great," James said. "Another NBA season, another great year for everyone. Everyone that's a part of it. You've seen fans love the game of basketball once again."

"So if I had anything to do with it, which I don't; there's too many players, there's so many great players I don't think individually I had anything to do with it. Just trying to do my part."

In an interview with foxsports.com on Friday, Stern said he still wishes James would have chosen a different way to announce he was leaving Cleveland for Miami in the offseason instead of a one-hour TV special.

NBA attendance is down

slightly this season across the league, with Miami being a notable exception, averaging nearly 2,000 more fans a night.

But TV ratings have been higher more than 30 percent so far compared to last year.

"I think it's great. I think with our team, with the Knicks being a global icon, them being good once again, the Celtics and Lakers always being good and a lot of other teams. Orlando, some more surprise teams in this league, but I think it's great any time you have great basketball around the league, and great competition helps," he said.

But Stern said he believed some of the ratings boost came from the offseason free agent frenzy for James that culminated in a one-hour TV special dubbed "The Decision."

"I think when you have so many people tune into an event some of whom have never watched a game before it does raise the interest of a certain number of people to tune into the games," Stern told foxsports.com.

Stern said he still believed James should

have chosen "a little bit different way" to announce he was leaving Cleveland for Miami in a move that was widely criticized at the time.

Stern also said he and James have a good relationship and that the most scrutinized player in the league is booed as "theater" and not because he's actually a villain in the eyes of fans.

"I think that LeBron is growing into his influence and potential power," the commissioner said. "I think he is working hard to be a good ambassador for himself and the game."

James and the rest of the Heat have certainly proven to be entertaining in their first season together, jokingly referring to themselves as the "Heatles" after the Beatles for attracting big road crowds.

If the Heat win all five games of this current trip, they'll tie the Lakers' NBA record of 16 straight victories away from home in 1971-72.

"Funny thing is we've heard a lot of boos for the first few quarters and either late in the third or the fourth quarter, we've heard some cheers," James said.

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Day of events to commemorate earthquake

JESSICA MENDOZA
Staff Writer

One year after the devastating earthquake, the FIU Community will reflect and pay its respects to Haiti through art and education.

The Office of External Relations, The Frost Art Museum and The Graham Center Art Gallery are all doing something to commemorate the disaster and its devastating effects. These events are open to the public and free to students and will include two art exhibitions, events and activities.

Curated by artist Fred Thomas, "Kenbe Pa Lage (Keep the Faith)" will be an exhibit that will display traditional and contemporary Haitian art.

Alongside Thomas' work, Dominik Ambrose Alexandra Barbot, Levoy Exil and Donald Obin will showcase works involving Haitian themes such as religion and society. It will also include social commentary and historical documentation. This exhibition will present the public with a tiny semblance of the Haitian people and their relentless and passionate spirit. These works will be on display from Jan. 10-30 in the GC Art Gallery.

Another art exhibition that will continue commemorating the efforts in Haiti is the "Base-Paint Tents" on display in front of The Frost Art Museum.

FIU will work toward creating ten pieces of art with canvas tents and other materials. The Base-Paint tents will

be used for a library, classrooms and other workshops and stations for learning at the property of L'Athletique d'Haiti in Cite Soleil in Haiti.

Curated by artist Antuan, this project will feature FIU aiding and promoting the arts in Haiti. FIU will also receive the help of fellow philanthropies Fundacion Manos del Sur and the Step by Step Foundation by acting as a classroom once taken back to Haiti.

The tent designed by Leonel Matheu displays the union between sky and earth.

"We see how trees of skies descend or ascend over the universe that, at the same time, sustain The Earth in a context of stars," said Matheu.

This art exhibition will benefit the children of the capitol in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. These works will be available for viewing from Jan. 10-30, 2011 in front of the Museum on the Avenue of Arts, near the performing arts center and the museum.

The Marc Pavilion will host a lecture held by some of our guest faculty like Professor Grenvill Draper of the Department of Earth and Environment, Co-Director Juan Pablo Sarmiento of the Disaster Risk Reduction Program and Professor Alex Stepick of Global and Sociocultural Studies. Besides these professors, the Teach-In's "Haiti: One Year Later" discussion will have other guests available to speak on related topics. The teach-in starts at 2:00 p.m.

At exactly 4:53pm,



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

The Base-Paint Tents were created by artist Anuando and will serve as a library, classrooms and other workshops and stations for learning at L'Athletique d'Haiti in Cite Soleil in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

students, faculty, and members within our community are asked to stand for a moment of silence to remember those caught amid the catastrophe. The moment will be commemorated in the GC Pit.

To conclude a day of remembrance and enlightenment, FIU students have planned a festive night to celebrate the achievement of the Haitian people: A Night of Commemoration. It will serve as a celebration in light of the growth and progress of Haiti. It will be a celebration of independence, triumph, but most importantly, a celebration of life. This fun and festive event is not only sponsored by FIU but by FIU's Haitian Student Organization. It will take place in the GC Ballrooms at 6pm.

"It's important to realize

how a country restructures itself after a disaster and I think Haiti's done that well with a lot of support from other countries.

I really like that FIU hasn't forgotten what happened to our neighbor country and we're celebrating their achieve-

ments after the disaster while remembering what was lost," said Karina Marquez, a junior psychology major.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

New southern grill lives up to its hype

Now that it's 2011, it's about time that South Florida got some real Southern cuisine.

I spent my pre-New Year's Eve at Smoke't Southern Kitchen and Tap, 1450 S.

Dixie Hwy, trying out the new restaurant that took over the former location of J.J.'s American Diner.

Although the closing down of a good restaurant always breaks my heart, I must say that Smoke't is a worthy heir to the throne.

The restaurant takes the typical Southern bar and classes it up with a dark blue palette with a kitschy white cow spot pattern, a full bar and a separate lounge area that is well-separated from the often bustling dining room. Several table games complete the overall casual scene.

The bar options at Smoke't are quite extensive. Along with a full beer and wine list, their Deep South-inspired cocktails are definitely worth a try. I had a Peach Tea Cooler, which added vodka and a smidgen of Bellini mix to sweet tea. It ended up being a fantastic adult take on a summer favorite. Smoke't also has a Mason Jar Madness menu where 32 ounces of five original cocktails can be had for only \$8. I had a sip of the Island Punch mason jar, which was an explosion of refreshing pineapple punctuated with a hint of rum (note: as always, drink responsibly and never drink and drive).

The dinner menu at Smoke't has a wide variety of Southern classics such as fried chicken, chili and brisket, alongside newer inventions such as their "Redneck Rolls," which puts a barbecued spin on sushi.

For dinner, I settled on a classic burger

topped with Cheddar and fried onions with fries and coleslaw. When my meal arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to see the ubiquitous burger bun was swapped with two slices of toasted white bread.

Furthermore, the burger itself was a beefy half pound and my fries were served in a petite paper bag. Overall, the burger was incredible: juicy, savory and filling. The fried onions gave it a fabulous crunchy texture and an unexpected spicy kick that was easily cooled off with the sweet coleslaw.

I also had a chance to sample their baby back ribs and sweet potato fries, and I wish I had ordered those instead. The ribs themselves didn't need sauce; they were well-seasoned and the tender meat fell off the bone with very little effort.

The sweet potato fries were crispy on the outside and fluffy on the inside. At first, I found it strange that they were served with a side of maple syrup for dipping, but upon trying the two together, I highly doubt I will eat sweet potato fries any other way ever again. The sweetness of the syrup and the salty exterior of the fries were the perfect compliment.

As for the pricing, Smoke't comes in at mid-range with entrées costing \$10-\$20, maybe a little extra depending on what you order. However, I can guarantee that you will get your money's worth, as I barely finished my own meal.

With a daily and late-night happy hour and a range of weekly specials, Smoke't Southern Kitchen and Tap has the potential to be the next low-key, down home hangout for the college crowd. It comes highly recommended by me.

Food for Thought is a bi-weekly column on food. Look for it every other Wednesday.

COLUMNIST



JASMYNE ELLIOTT

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2011

CLS VOLUNTEER FAIR



WHEN: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

SGA LECTURE SERIES: DAN SAVAGE

Founder of the It Gets Better campaign spreads positive messages to the LGBT community about coming out, being gay and a healthy sense of self in the face of bullying.

WHEN: 6:30-7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free but tickets are required. They may be picked up at the WUC Info Desk, the BBC Campus Life & Orientation office in WUC 141, the SGC BBC office in WUC 301 and the SGC office at MMC in GC 211.
WHERE: BBC WUC Ballrooms

SPC OUTDOOR EVENT

WHEN: TBA
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Lawns

CSO ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION DEADLINE

WHEN: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

MORNING YOGA

WHEN: 8-9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: TBD

JUMP INTO THE NEW YEAR!

FREE Bungee Jumping, FOOD, and Tye Dye shirts!
WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Lawn

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL MMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING

The Student Government Council MMC meets at the beginning of every semester to discuss issues concerning the student body. These meetings are open to the public.
WHEN: 4-6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011

INVOLVEMENT FAIR

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

SPC: SAILESH THE HYPNOTIST



Sailesh has taken the art of live entertainment and slammed it into the twenty-first century.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

SAMPOORNA YOGA

We begin the class with meditation, a round of Oms, asanas/postures, and of course ending the class with a nice final relaxation as we meditate quietly in the grass.

WHEN: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GL 100 Grass outside of GC Ballrooms

CHEF DOUGLAS RODRIGUEZ

Chef Douglas Rodriguez shows you how to prepare his signature dishes at Whole Foods Coral Gables.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Whole Foods Market

VIRUS SYNDICATE



Virus Syndicate is the project of MCs Goldfinger, JSD, and Nika D, and producers MRK1 and Plasticman.

WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: The Vagabond

RINGLING BROS. BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS: FUNUNDRUM

WHEN: Daily from Fri., Jan. 7 until Mon., Jan. 17, 7:30pm
HOW MUCH: \$23.20 to \$114.55
WHERE: American Airlines Arena

**Ever wonder why your
friends call you Mandy?**

**Ever wonder why everyone can
sing along with Copacabana?**

**Ever wonder where your parents
had been the night you were conceived?**

Wonder No More

MANILOW

JANUARY 28
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Bank Atlantic Center

JANUARY 29
Miami, FL
BankUnited Center

Tickets start at 10 bucks and are available at
800.745.3000 or **www.ticketmaster.com**

Simple habits prove beneficial for semester

MARGARET CHEBAT
Contributing Writer

As the holiday season comes to a close, we are faced with the task of preparing and organizing ourselves for a new semester. As we step into the new year, we leave behind all of the memories that were created last semester and look forward to the opportunity to create many more this semester.

With a new semester, comes new beginnings, as well as opportunities to start fresh and put your best foot forward. It allows us the chance to try new things, explore the unknown and make deep connections.

However, with all of the events and activities whirling around campus, it is easy to become distracted and neglect our countless assignments. Nevertheless, there is no reason to become overwhelmed with the workload. Here are a few tips that can help prevent a disastrous start to the semester:

PLAN AHEAD

The sooner you get started on assignments, the better. By planning ahead and setting goals for all of your assignments, the semester will prove to be less stressful and will allow for other activities, such as getting involved on campus, performing community service or enjoying some downtime for yourself.

STAY ACTIVE

The best way to keep your energy levels up is to keep moving. Whether it is at the Recreation Center or around campus, find a way to exercise. With all of the campus activities you are sure to find something that can be a fun way to relieve stress and feel renewed.

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Getting to know the individuals in your classes may prove to be beneficial throughout the semester. By doing so, you will be able to form study groups that can help when dealing with major assignments or exams. Not only can these friendships help you during the semester, they can help you build connections for life.

STAY ORGANIZED

The more organized you are, the better control you will have over your workload. There are many ways that you can stay organized: desk calendars, agendas, computer memos, and online notes, to name a few. The trick is finding the method that works best for you. Once you find a system, everything else falls into place.

The best way to tackle a semester is to find a method that works best for you. Many students often feel overwhelmed and blame the workload or their professors; this is due to a lack of preparation. If one is sufficiently prepared, the course should not be as burdensome. Regardless of what fits your style, let's make it a great semester.

Daylight savings useful year round

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Since its inception in 1784, daylight savings' time has evolved to create a system in which clocks are changed by one hour at the start and reversed by one hour at the end on a bi-yearly basis.

Although the purpose of daylight savings' time can still be applied to modern society, the benefits are much different than they were when the idea was first conceived.

The tradition should be further streamlined to stay in the daylight savings' phase all year around. With the extra daylight provided by daylight savings' time, a considerable amount of energy is saved in the evening hours of the day. Although this is somewhat offset by extra energy use in the early morning, there is a less energy use overall during daylight savings' time.

The daylight savings' phase is also much safer for many citizens. Statistics show that the extra daylight reduces crime by up to 10 percent and reduces traffic accidents. It also lowers risk for children on days like Halloween, when many people are walking around outside.

The increased visibility lowers risk of muggings, robberies and crimes based on the low visibility advantage of night time. It also improves visibility for drivers for

“The increased energy conservation, simplicity and safety makes sticking to daylight savings' time worth it

another hour in the evening, providing a marginally safer environment.

The bi-yearly switch from daylight savings' time to standard time is also a cause for confusion in many parts of the country. Many train systems have difficulties adjusting to the changes and often run late, early or not at all when it is time to switch. Many plane and bus services experience similar problems and must change departure and arrival times in the hours following a daylight saving switch.

Every state has the right to choose whether they participate in daylight saving time and this causes disparities in neighboring states and even in neighboring cities. For example, the time in Indiana is divided not only by the Eastern/Central time zone line, but also by disagreements in whether to use daylight savings' time, as some counties participate and some do not.

Although the daylight savings' process

is regulated by the federal government, some states still choose not to participate, such as Hawaii and Arizona.

The use of daylight savings' time can also cause problems with international travel. Countries like Canada, Europe, Russia and Spain observe daylight savings' time, but may start and stop on different dates. Other countries like China, India and Australia do not participate.

The extra daylight in the evening has many benefits other than just conserving some energy and should be kept year round. The increased energy conservation, simplicity and safety makes sticking to daylight saving time worth it and many states have already done away with the switching.

Many of the benefits of daylight savings' time can still be retained while doing away with much of the confusion regarding time disparities between cities and states.

Gender inequity rooted in tradition

YUE WANG
Contributing Writer

My friend, a Chinese girl, recently dated an American boy. As soon as she introduced her boyfriend to us, the news spread overnight and shocked every Chinese student. Instead of receiving her friends' blessing, they jeered and laughed. Many Chinese girls think that she is very open and rebellious. Furthermore, many Chinese boys think that she is immoral and look down upon her.

Everyone is human, but one's gender or the color of his or her skin still determines one's status in society. Gender or racial discrimination is deeply rooted in society. Education can be one of the means to reduce female discrimination but it is not the best means.

In Chinese-American culture, such discrimination is attributed to many factors.

Firstly, it is due to the male chauvinism in this society. Some people today still believe that men are superior

to women. Men always have the upper hand in all household and external affairs and women have to abide by what they say.

This concept has been accepted, adopted and passed from generation to generation. Parents teach their children this dynamic; therefore, it is deeply rooted in their upbringing. If anything disturbs the rule, they will be punished.

According to the Yin-yang theory in China, Yin (women) and Yang (men) together form the world and Yin-Yang constantly interacts, never existing in absolute status. If one challenges or overthrows the other, the world will be destroyed. To change people's original discipline is of great importance.

Secondly, it is because of the system in the society. Women in the United States today are more likely to attend college than men. But even with their outstanding academic records and high diplomas, women are still not warmly welcomed in the job market because

employers are worried about marriage and maternal issues which will influence their working efficiency.

To be a wife and to be a mother are the happiest things

The relics of conservatism and feudalism prevent Chinese women from challenging men's position in society

mixed ethnicity as well as culture and tradition. Still, the relics of the conservatism and feudalism prevent the Chinese women from challenging men's position in the society.

Overseas, Chinese female students often struggle with the choice of eastern or western tradition. Due to the conformist mentality, they seldom speak to the foreign male students and only date Chinese boys. This results in an increase of single Chinese female students in the U.S.

Education can serve as one of the methods to reduce the female discrimination. Society should also provide more chances for women to succeed.

In the U.S. we often encounter the notice "Seats for women" on the bus or other similar notices in public. The notices indicate that people today still need to be reminded of women's position in the society.

Hopefully in the future the notices can be carved in everyone's mind rather than on a wall.

for women to accomplish, but today they have become heavy burden for them. In the U.S. many women lose their jobs after maternity leave.

Thirdly, it is attributed to the culture and tradition. America is proud of being a "melting pot". It is a pot of

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

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 regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to opinion@fiusm.com

VERBATIM

"If there's one piece of economic wisdom I hope people will grasp this year, it's this: Even though we may finally have stopped digging, we're still near the bottom of a very deep hole."

Paul Krugman,
Winner of Nobel Prize in Economics



ARGENTINA

4 Argentines detained with ton of cocaine

Four Argentines, three the sons of former high-ranking officials in their country's Air Force, were arrested in Spain for allegedly transporting almost a ton of cocaine in a private plane.



MEXICO

27 deaths rock Acapulco

The image of this beach mecca has taken a new hit from Mexico's drug violence, with 27 people killed in less than a day, including 14 men whose bodies were found with their heads chopped off.



VENEZUELA

Chavez: Burning of gov't building terrorism

Authorities have evidence of arson in a fire that badly damaged a government building used by officials carrying out farm seizures, President Hugo Chavez said Sunday, calling it an act of terrorism.

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Journalism students and pros work together

LIANAMAR DÁVILA
SANABRIA

Asst. News Director

"In Brazil we don't have high school newspapers or radio stations, so I never had experience working in journalism before. I don't know why but I just chose journalism and got into it not knowing much about it," said recent School of Journalism and Mass Communications graduate Isadora Rangel.

Rangel is one of 23 journalism students or recent graduates participating in *The New York Times* Student Journalism Institute being held in the Scripps Howard Foundation Lab in Academic II since Jan. 3 running through Jan. 16.

The inaugural Institute was held in January 2007 with four SJMC students in attendance.

"The finished product is really rewarding when you see it and when you think that someone is going to read it and they're going to know something they didn't know before because of you, I think that's the coolest part," said Rangel.

After attending the University of Kansas in Lawrence on a full-ride volleyball scholarship for two years, Rangel decided it was time to move to warmer weather and closer to her native Sao Paulo, Brazil.

"The first three months there were pretty tough on me because I felt pretty lonely, the girls were



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Isadora Rangel, a University alumna (right), working with Patrick Farrell, a video journalist for The New York Times, working at The New York Times Institute in Academic II room 242.

different and I didn't have that many friends," said Rangel.

While playing for the University volleyball team, Rangel also managed to make time for a nine-month *Miami Herald* internship in the "Neighbors" section covering the city of Cutler Bay.

"*The Herald* internship opened my eyes; it showed me this is

what I wanted to do. I thought, 'Man, this is cool; I like doing this,'" said Rangel.

"FIU has an extraordinary journalism and mass communication program, and its activities in working with Spanish-language journalists, both in the U.S. and abroad, has attracted lots of attention," said Don Hecker, director of the

Institute and manager of copy editing training at *The Times*. "The growing reputation of FIU and SJMC make it a particularly good fit for the Institute. We've gotten some great students from FIU."

Rangel graduated from SJMC in December 2010 with her bachelor's degree in journalism. After the Institute, Rangel will be

heading to Stuart, Fla. where she will begin her fellowship from the Scripps Howard Foundation as an online producer at The Stuart News.

"Honestly I don't know what I'm going to be doing 10 years from now, being a New York Times editor wouldn't be that bad or having my own show on CNN like Anderson Cooper," said Rangel.

The Institute is a 10-day intensive program bringing news professionals with student members of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

All expenses are paid by *The Times* and the University alternates hosting duties with the University of Arizona every other year.

Students are competitively chosen to be mentored by veteran journalists from *The Times*, *The Boston Globe* and *The Times Company's* Regional newspapers in a real-life newsroom environment covering the cities where the Institutes are held.

One of *The Times'* editors called Allan Richards, associate dean and associate professor in SJMC, up one day in 2006 after he submitted a proposal to host the Institute.

"We're going in to see Uncle Arthur," he said.

Uncle Arthur was the publisher of *The Times*, Arthur Sulzberger Jr. Twenty minutes later Richards received a call back and SJMC had landed *The Times*.

Org. of American States: boot Haiti gov't candidate

JONATHAN M. KATZ
Associated Press

An international team of election experts will recommend that Haiti's government-backed candidate be eliminated from a presidential runoff ballot due to strong evidence of fraud in voting that led to riots, according to a draft of the report obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

The report by the Organization of American States team has not been released publicly but officials confirmed its conclusions. It was to be presented to President Rene Preval later Monday, foreign and Haitian sources confirmed.

The report's most important conclusions are that the disputed Nov. 28 vote should neither be thrown out entirely nor recounted, and that enough fraudulent

or improper ballots should be invalidated to drop governing-party candidate Jude Celestin into third place and out of the second-round runoff.

That would favor carnival singer Michel "Sweet Micky" Martelly, a populist candidate who was in third place and out of runoff contention when results were announced last month. Former first lady and law professor Mirlande Manigat would remain in first place. All the top candidates would lose thousands of votes under the team's recommendations.

Haitian electoral officials must make the final decision on what to do, but the OAS recommendations could weigh heavily. The three top candidates all believe they should advance to a second-round vote if not declared the winner outright.

Rioting broke out in several

cities when the preliminary results were announced, with Martelly's supporters blocking streets and demanding their candidate be immediately named president.

The U.S. Embassy expressed doubt over the results at the time, saying they did not match observers' polling estimates that showed Celestin in line to be eliminated. The OAS report matches that expectation.

"After a thorough statistical analysis ... the Expert Mission has determined that it cannot support the preliminary results of the presidential elections released on Dec. 7, 2010," the report said.

"Should this recommendation be implemented, the position of the candidate in third place (Martelly) would change to second and the candidate now in second place (Celestin) would move to third," it

stated.

The AP obtained a copy of the report, and a foreign official with direct knowledge of the report confirmed its conclusions. A second foreign official said that the report had been completed and translated into French and that the conclusion in the draft would stand.

The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because the report had not been made public and was not supposed to be discussed until it was reviewed by Preval.

Some critics of the election say the entire vote should be thrown out because of rampant disorganization, fraud and instances of violence and voter intimidation.

Twelve of the 19 candidates, including Manigat and Martelly, joined together while polls were still open to demand the vote be tossed out. The front-runners

changed tune a day later after U.N. and other officials informed them they were expected to advance to a runoff.

The Washington-based Center for Economic and Policy Research, a left-leaning think tank, said the vote should be invalidated because errors and fraud were too widespread and the party of ousted former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who is still popular in Haiti, was not allowed to participate.

"The OAS has abandoned any professional standards by certifying an election where nearly three-quarters of registered voters did not vote because the country's most popular political party was banned," said economist Mark Weisbrot. "Given the massive irregularities in that first round, it is not even possible to determine who the top two finishers were."