



The new marching band prepares for football season

LIFE!: PAGE 6



'No more repairs, just rebuild the U.S. Century Bank Arena'

SPORTS: PAGE 12

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

SGC-BBC: During their final meeting, the council looked back on what they have accomplished and offered their advice.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Weekends with Paradise: Our columnist spends her last weekend going back to two of her old favorite hang-outs.

LIFE! PAGE 6

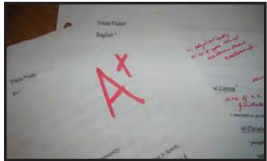


The Wind Ensemble put on their last concert of the school year to a captive audience, and ended on an incredibly high note.

LIFE! PAGE 8

Fistfuls of Tech!: Jorge loves Apple, but he hates geniuses. Find out why in the semester's last edition of *Fistfuls*.

OPINION PAGE 9



Cabralitics: Chris takes a look at the controversial Senate Bill 6, which asks for teachers to be paid in accordance to the test scores their students earn.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Baseball: Golden Panthers fell for the fourth time in five games by dropping an 8-3 decision to Bethune Cookman on Wednesday. Daniel Desimone gave up six earned runs in the loss.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ugly Truth, April 16, 5 and 8 p.m.
SPC-MMC presents Friday night movies. Free for students in GC 140.

Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade, April 17, 12 p.m.
Celebrate with the LGBTQA community on Ocean Drive. This is a free event between 5th and 15th streets.

Keyboard Recital, April 18, 7 p.m.
Enjoy a performance by FIU School of Music students. The event is free at the WPAC Concert Hall.

-For more events, look for our calendar in the Life! section on Mondays and Fridays.

WEATHER

FRIDAY
AM Showers
LOW: 69 HIGH: 79

SATURDAY
Scattered Showers
LOW: 68 HIGH: 78

SUNDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 68 HIGH: 76

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TRUE COLORS

Gay pride parade takes over Ocean Drive

JAMES RADZEWICZ
Asst. Life! Editor

South Florida has gained recognition as an area of vast diversity. This weekend, the city of Miami Beach acknowledges that reputation as the annual Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade returns for its second year.

On April 17, the city of Miami Beach will close down 10 blocks of Ocean Drive to make way for the parade.

This year, Pride has selected two grand marshals: Sharon Gless, the award-winning actress known for her role as Cagney in "Cagney & Lace," though perhaps more familiar to a younger audience for her role as Madeline in the Miami-based television show "Burn Notice" and Lieutenant Dan Choi, veteran of the Iraq War, now an activist after being discharged from the military under the controversial "Don't Ask, Don't

Tell" policy.

Floats from both sponsors and volunteer participants will flamboyantly flaunt their hard work and preparation, alongside colorful costumes and a variety of music and dancing. Many more participants will also traverse the parade in a selection of classic cars, including South Beach star Elaine Lancaster in a Lindberg – the same car Madonna drove in 1990's *Dick Tracy*.

Adding more color to the event, the parade will feature the rainbow flag, a 100-foot flag that was taken from the original flag that was designed at the behest of the late Harvey Milk, and

PARADE, page 7

MIAMI BEACH GAY PRIDE PARADE

EVENT INFO

- Time: 12 p.m.
- When: April 17
- Where: Ocean Drive, between 5th and 15th streets

Tuition to increase next year

Rosenberg: State appointed funds 'not significantly high'

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

After five weeks of deciding where to allocate state funds, the Florida Legislature has finally passed its budgets for the 2010-2011 academic year.

University President Mark Rosenberg announced the verdict to the FIU community in his April 12 budget forum, which took place in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto Maidique Campus. To the crowd of University faculty and administration, the president presented the amount of money that FIU will be receiving from the state capital; a number that he admitted is not significantly high.

"If ever there was a time to keep your eyes on education,

with these days, Rosenberg stated that Florida will not be picking up to its original 2004-05 numbers until 2017.

"The FIU budget plan will be receiving reductions from the Florida senate (0.3 percent), and the House (6.8 percent). Compared to the state funding per full time equivalent in 2000-01

BUDGET, page 2

this is it," Rosenberg said.

According to the presentation, state revenue was \$32 billion in the 2004-05 year and has dropped \$10 billion within four years. With only around \$22 billion to work



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

President Mark Rosenberg addresses the University Budget town hall on April 12.

SGC-MMC ELECTIONS

Requested recall asked from petition

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Senior Staff Writer

Throughout his time at the University, Jose Toscano, Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus adviser, has never seen a petition to recall the SGC presidential election. This includes him time as an undergraduate student from 1992 to 1997.

In an interview with Student Media, Javier Lopez, sophomore communications major, said he is one of the people responsible for such a petition.

It came about during general elections, the week of March 29, when the petitioners realized the presidential race was uncontested. It was the second uncontested presidential election in a row, and the fourth in the last five years for MMC.

PETITION, page 3

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Teachers now to receive raises based on student performance

On Wednesday April 14, the Miami-Dade School Board took a formal position against the teacher tenure bill, which would dramatically change the way teachers are paid in Florida.

According to *The Miami Herald*, the resolution passed on a 7-0 vote and was brought forward by veteran board member Marta Pérez.

The proposed legislation would tie teacher raises to student performance on tests, not years of experience or professional certifications. It would also require local school districts to create a new set of exams for students at all grade levels.

NATIONAL

Tweets to be archived in the Library of Congress

Twitter and the Library of Congress announced Wednesday that every public tweet posted since Twitter started in 2006 will be archived digitally by the federal library.

According to CNN, Twitter says it receives about 55 million tweets every day – amounting to billions of them since its inception.

WORLD

Earthquake in China claims over 500 lives

589 people are dead and at least 10,000 others injured after a rapid series of strong earthquakes hit a mountainous and impoverished area of China's Qinghai province early Wednesday.

The Xinhua news agency reported that many victims, including school children, were buried under debris. Rescuers were struggling to clear debris with their hands and save those trapped below.

The 6.9-magnitude earthquake, as measured by the U.S. Geological Survey struck at 7:49 a.m. local time when many citizens were still at home and schools were beginning the day.

- Compiled by Gabriel Arrarás

CORRECTIONS

In *The Beacon* editorial dated April 7, 2010, *The Beacon* editorial board said that SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein was not a voting member of the FIU Foundation's Board of Directors. He is.

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

Google raises security concerns

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

A recent *Yale Daily News* article has raised concerns over Google Apps' security measures which are used by the University to manage its e-mail service.

The *Yale Daily News* published an article explaining why Yale University's Information Technology Service chose to delay their "move from the Horde Webmail service to Google Apps for Education."

Google Apps for Education is Google's "hosted solution" for a school's online needs. It provides the students with Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Talk, Google Sites, Google Docs and Google Video.

This delay has contributed to Google's cloud computing. Cloud computing, or cloud servicing, is used by companies that do not own storage, networks or services. These are hosted instead on an infrastructure that holds the companies' files on the provider's data server. When data

is located on a cloud storage array, it can be accessed from anywhere by anyone with an Internet connection.

Cloud computing typically depends on 100 or more servers to keep and run the data without interruption by maintenance. The same data is stored on more than one server, creating redundancy. One of the more common forms of cloud computing is free e-mail service.

"Yale is simply pointing out that if

GOOGLE, page 3

Dependence on tuition anticipated

BUDGET, page 1

which was \$11.6 billion, FIU will be receiving only \$6.5 billion; a 44 percent decline," Rosenberg said.

Despite the cuts, the University has been preparing itself for the changes in funding and structured a reduction plan in order to deal with it.

"Now more than ever, every student counts," Rosenberg said. "And the reason that I have a sense of urgency about that is not just because I want to provide more and better access to the students and their hard working families here in this community, but

Now more than ever, every student counts.

Mark Rosenberg, President
Florida International University

because we are going to be increasingly dependent on tuition and not state support to get done what it is that we need to get done."

As far as tuition, undergraduate residential base tuition will be seeing an 8 percent increase and a 7 percent increase in differential tuition, the amount the University charges in addition to the one set by

the state. Graduate tuition shall go up by 10 percent, while those studying at the College of Law and College of Medicine will have an increase of 15 percent.

Even though the tuition raise will be bringing in more money, Rosenberg made it clear that "we're still going to have a huge budget gap this year that we can't close by relying

on the traditional sources of state support." The need for more private donations from alumni and University supporters was emphasized.

In the direction that the University is going fiscally, it is projected that around 100 positions will be eliminated within the span of four years.

Yet with the reductions come gains. FIU has been granted full funding for the College of Medicine; which will be about \$3.7 billion. Also, the University will be given a one-time \$14 million stimulus package from the state.

At the end of his announcements, Rosenberg opened the floor to discussion for faculty members who raised questions and comments that he, University Provost Douglas Wartzok, Chief Finance Officer Kenneth Jessell and other administrators answered.

Many pertained to how the faculty is expected to do more with less and how raises for campus employees has not increased in years.

"As a supervisor I find it extremely difficult to motivate my employees when it has been three years without a cost of living increase for our administration for our professional employees," said Sean Bossinger, a supervisor at the University Technology Services, through an e-mail that was read out loud. "How are we, supervisors, suppose to encourage the workforce needed to create the vibrant University staff that will make or break the effort to make this University worlds ahead?"

In response, ideas were mentioned on alternative rewards for faculty and employees; many included hosting small events, bringing donuts and just saying "thank you for your hard work." Rosenberg acknowledged that even those would not be enough to compensate but that the University will be doing everything that it can to keep the positive environment.



Image courtesy of FIU's Art + Art History Department

TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS

Where curiously creative minds meet.
April 28, 2010 / 6-9pm

Crome Yellow, Spring 2010 BFA Student Exhibition Walk-thru
The Bachelor of Fine Arts class of Spring 2010 at FIU's School of Art & Art History, present a series of works produced during their tenure at FIU.

Sound Image Sound

Sound Image Sound returns to The Frost Art Museum with a new performance. The ensemble will explore new sounds with video projection on The Frost Art Museum's exterior facade. Guest Artists include Kristine Burns, Orlando Jacinto Garcia, Eric Goldemberg, Jacek Kolasinski, Paula Matthusen, John Stuart and Daniel Viñoly, with additional performances by FLEA laptop ensemble and clarinetist Julian Santacoloma from the NODUS ensemble.

The Art of Schmoozing - How to Work a Room

FIU Students are invited to join us from 5-6pm for this presentation by the FIU Career Services Office about the do's and don'ts of networking followed by a speed networking event presented by Target.

Target has teamed up with The Frost Art Museum to sponsor its popular programming series Target Wednesday After Hours. Designed to complement The Frost Art Museum's exhibitions, these events give visitors the chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, live music, talks, films, dance, and performance art.

All events are free and open to the public.

For a full list of events please visit <http://thefrost.fiu.edu>



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10975 SW 17th Street | Miami, Florida | 33199

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Free and open to the public. Donations are appreciated.

THE BEACON

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College of Medicine hosts first ever health event

ALEXANDER MILLER
Staff Writer

College of Medicine students and faculty collaborated in hosting the first annual “Spring Into Health” event as a part of this year’s National Public Health Week. Both the College of Medicine inaugural class of students as well as faculty spearheaded the planning of the event, which took place on April 10 in the Ziff Education Building courtyard.

The event was sponsored by the College of Medicine and featured a presentation on healthy lifestyle resources by the College of Medicine Library.

The event provided the public with many organizations containing information on display tables from the College of Law Clinical Program, which aids children with disabilities, as well

as many other outside organizations such as National Marrow Donor Program (Community Blood Centers of South Florida), the Miami-Dade Area Health Education Center (featuring dental tips, breast cancer information, diabetes information and hypertension information), MOM mobile (offering prenatal care), The Children’s Trust and Rock Star Healing (featuring information about holistic treatments). The event also contained a setup for free mammograms to be given.

“The event grew as people brought ideas,” said Molly Garland, a current student in the College of Medicine’s inaugural class. “Hopefully in the future students will be doing the screenings.”

According to the National Public Health Week Web site, www.nphw.org, the goal of NPHW

is to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving the public’s health.

“It’s a great networking event to learn about what organizations are doing,” Garland said. “It’s been a learning experience. Students have made connections at this event for their future career plans.”

The American Public Health Association serves as the organizer of NPHW and develops a national campaign to educate the public, policy-makers and practitioners about issues related to that year’s theme. APHA creates comprehensive planning, organizing and outreach materials that can be used during and after the week to raise awareness.

The event also featured information about a project known as the Overtown Cookbook, where

students of Booker T. Washington High School requested recipes from other students and local restaurants that would be healthier for people in African American communities. A pilot study found that the community of Overtown, like many other African American neighborhoods in America, suffers from cardiovascular disease, hypertension and diabetes as a result of their diets.

FIU College of Medicine’s Dr. David Brown, chief of family medicine in the Department of Humanities, Health and Society, works directly with Overtown Cookbook and students of Booker T. Washington High School. The project members analyzed all of the recipes, modified them to make them healthier and substituted ingredients for healthier ones, in order to come up with a rubric based on popularity and

nutritional value to be compared with the old recipes.

“It’s been an experience because I’m working with students and making them want to go to college,” said student Makeba Burke, who is a public health intern at the Robert Stemple School of Public Health and Social Work. Burke participated in the cookbook project as part of her internship and assisted in trying to get funding for the cookbook project.

“It’s been exciting to see it come together and to see our community partners out to support,” said Dr. Laura Boudon, College of Medicine Panther Community coordinator. Boudon aided in the facilitation of planning the event in collaboration with students like Garland and concluded that in the future the event will aim to follow up and think of things to have that will further grab people’s interest.

Signatures not sufficient after advisor verification

PETITION, page 1

“We saw that it was one choice, and we want to make sure that not only everyone has an equal chance to run but that students aren’t pushed into one administration,” Lopez said.

After this Lopez said he and his group read the Student Government Association constitution and learned they could petition the election.

The names and Panther IDs of those who signed have to be verified by the Registrar’s Office. The amount of usable signatures could be lower after the verification is finished.

Which is exactly what happened.

The petition was delivered to Toscano and Luis Robayo, chief justice of the SGC-MMC judiciary, on April 1.

Article VIII, Section E of the current student government constitution gives any student the right to petition for a University-wide recall.

It states this can be done if a petition is submitted with signatures from at least 20 percent of students that voted in the most

Ultimately it’s in the best interest of the students to have a choice.

Javier Lopez, sophomore majoring in communications
Student

recent general election.

More than 1,200 students voted in the general elections, according to Toscano. Thus a petition would need about 240 signatures for a recall to happen.

Lopez said that he and his colleagues had over 400 signatures as of April 9.

The signatures must be from students who voted in the most recent general elections and not from any student.

Toscano along with Andrea Kovachy, associate director of Campus Life, did the validation on April 13 and they found the petitioners did not have enough signatures for a recall.

The process is similarly done through the Registrar’s Office but because of

privacy issues, Toscano and Kovachy did the validation.

Lopez is a member of Sigma Alpha Mu, a Greek fraternity on campus, and although he admits that there are other Greek organizations involved with the petition, he did not name any others because he wasn’t sure which ones specifically were involved.

He did mention there being one more Sigma Alpha Mu member among those responsible for the petition.

“I don’t want to say ‘so and so is involved,’ and it turns out they weren’t,” Lopez said. “There are definitely more involved.”

Yuniel Molina, former SGC-MMC presidential candidate who was disqual-

ified because his vice-presidential candidate withdrew, is also a member of Sigma Alpha Mu.

Lopez said, however, the petition does not have anything to do with Molina’s disqualification. He added its agenda isn’t to get someone into or out of office, but rather to give students a choice.

“Ultimately it’s in the best interest of the students to have a choice,” Lopez said.

Molina told Student Media that he chose to distance himself from the petition.

Lopez said he wasn’t sure how many were in the group, but of the people in charge the number wasn’t higher than six.

The group came from a number of smaller groups who were opposed to the uncontested presidential election.

“We realized that it wasn’t just us, that other people felt the same way, so we got together and filled out the petition,” Lopez said.

SGC-MMC president and vice-president elects, Helena Ramirez and Nick Autiello, respectively, chose not to comment on the matter.

Kirgan urges students to avoid answering unsafe mail

GOOGLE, page 2

[students] feel uncomfortable with their information being shipped around the world, then they have a problem,” said FIU’s director of Information Technology and Business Relations, Steven Luis.

In the article, Michael Fischer, a computer science professor at Yale, expressed his concern with hackers due to Google’s large system. Associate Director of Enter-

prise Systems at FIU Mike Kirgan mirrored this unease, explaining that “spammers try to trick users into giving them their e-mail password in order to use their accounts to send spam” but that Google takes “security seriously and [has] acted quickly on any discovered issue.” He did not expound further.

There have been several recent incidents involving Google and security issues. According to the official Google Web site, the corporation was hacked by sophis-

ticated attacks originating from China. This virtual assault resulted in the “theft of intellectual property from Google.”

“One of the largest security issues that affect all e-mail systems is phishing attempts,” Kirgan said, urging students to never “respond to any e-mail that requests [one’s] username and password.”

FIU switched to Google Apps in January 2008, seeking “to provide students with a faster, more powerful and more robust campus e-mail solution.” The change from FIU Webmail or Mirapoint to Google Apps was received with “overwhelmingly positive feedback,” Kirgan explained.

“Google offers Google Apps as a free service to universities, so FIU has not had to buy e-mail licenses, e-mail hardware or storage for student e-mail accounts ever since FIU went live with Google’s service,” Kirgan said.

“The FIU community felt the Google offering was a very good service and joined the thousands of other universities and colleges that have made the same decision to move part or all of their users over to Google Apps,” Kirgan said.

“The benefit of Google Apps is [universities] don’t have to buy the services,” Luis said, adding that “Google is more of an advertising company than a computing infrastructure.”

“The more Google knows about you through e-mail, the better they can advertise.”

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SGC-BBC

Council reviews year, looks ahead

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus spent its final meeting on April 14 expressing their gratitude towards one another and telling what they hope to achieve with the new 2010-2011 administration.

Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor and assistant director of campus life and orientation, made sure to let the council know that their work has not gone unnoticed.

"I know that, at times, people take things for granted," Zapata said. "But, we see your work at the University and I would like to thank you for that."

Brittany Brewster, SGC-BBC director of lectures, was nostalgic.

"It's so nice to see people grow into leadership," she said. "You all have done a phenomenal job; don't ever for a second think that you haven't."

Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator, credited the current "small but strong senate" for getting many things accomplished, including creating a new senate handbook, hosting several forums and lectures, being a part of

the first-ever joint senate meeting with the council at the Modesto Maidique Campus, and revising the SGC-BBC statutes on April 12 from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"We all did this from the bottom of our hearts," Arbabi aski said. "I don't think this recognition should come on a trophy, but we just want to say thank you."

SGC-BBC Chief Justice Georgia Bedeau also acknowledged Arbabi aski's sentiment.

"It was a struggle [for the senate] to meet quorum sometimes, but you still got things done," Bedeau said.

Craig Cunningham, director of campus life and orientation, acknowledged SGC-BBC's accomplishments, but recognized this past administration as a "learning year" and hopes that the council will use the lessons learned for the better.

"It is important to have your internal policies and procedures clear and understood by everybody," Cunningham said. "Next year, fill all of your positions as quickly as possible and get everybody ready. BBC needs self-governance. Students have a voice here, not 30 miles away [at MMC]."

AWARDS SEASON



TOMMY LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

Didier Georges (center) a senior international business major, is presented a special award for his long term commitment to the Student Organizations Council on April 13 at the SOC Banquet.

Elections Commissioner Kiela Samuels also had some advice for the new council.

"Put all of your childish thoughts away; don't be selfish," Samuels said. "Remember that you represent the student body. Put them first."

Sholom Neistein, the outgoing SGC-BBC president, left the council confident that Christin "Cici" Battle will do a "great job"

as SGC-BBC president for 2010-2011 and with a few words of encouragement.

"The ones who persevere are the ones who survive," Neistein said. "Don't let anyone tell you that you are not leaders. Everyone brings their separate part to the council. Be a part of the family that SGA has become."

Battle expressed her gratitude for the council being "patient and

understanding" when it came to working with Neistein and herself.

"We're really passionate about student government," Battle said. "Thank you for not taking things personally."

Battle was also quick to express her desire to begin her administration on solid ground.

"Be ready to work," said Battle, "because we're going to take it to another level."

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Trip to the past makes way for future endeavors

This feels weird. I began this column thinking that, one day, it will be over. Yes, it sounds corny, but I didn't think the end would come so soon.

Since this month marks the end of my college career, I cannot help but look back.

This weekend, I went out to revisit some of the places that helped build me, hoping that I could recover some long-lost pleasant memories along the way.

For better or for worse, my mission wasn't accomplished.

I began by going to Cheeburger Cheeburger, where I used to spend every Friday night during high school. This is the place that began my obsession with cheese fries.

Before I was a vegetarian, my best friend Beth and I would challenge each other to eat the "one-pounder" cheeseburger. We both did it, twice!

I went back this weekend to find that it has been closed and there is a new burger joint in its spot called Stop Burger, located at 1793 Bell Tower Lane, Weston.

This place is a cheap knockoff of Five Guys Burgers and Fries. Honestly, it is no

Cheeburger Cheeburger either. I had the cheese fries and a veggie burger, the same order I made after I gave up meat.

The cheese was cold on my fries; this was the first time I ever regretted ordering them.

On the upside, the veggie burgers at Stop Burger were just as bad as the ones at Cheeburger. They lack so much flavor and were so greasy that they made me want to throw up, just like old times.

I then decided to go to one of my favorite spots that I have gone to since I began this column, Blue Marlin Fish House, 2500 N.E. 163rd St, North Miami Beach.

I loved this place to the point I would go out of my way to eat the grilled cheese sandwiches there. I didn't do this because they were great (Trust me I could make better at home), but I loved the atmosphere and I thought DJ, the owner, was a sweetheart.

I drove by expecting to see old faces-but, of course, the place is under new ownership.

Just my luck.

I asked where DJ was and I was intro-

COLUMNIST



PARADISE AFSHAR

Council president Neistein looks back on year's accomplishments

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

With a full term served and several goals met, Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council President Sholom Neistein reminisced on his time spent with students, his council and the University.

"I never expected for it to be this way; this position was full of surprises. No one is ever really prepared for what is at stake, but it has helped lay a strong foundation for my future experiences," he said. "It has been a great honor and privilege and I am very grateful for this opportunity the students have given me."

Neistein, who began his term as SGC-BBC president on May 1, campaigned during the Fall semester of 2009 to offer students complete transparency, more events and alleviate concerns students expressed. Goals, Neistein feels, both he and his council have fulfilled.

"I have been blessed this year with a phenomenal council that has allowed me to empower and teach them," he said.

Shortly after being elected during the Fall semester, Neistein established free black ink printing for students in the Student Government Association printing lab located in room 200 of the Wolfe University Center.

"This really saved students money. It helps them out with one less burden," Neistein said.

Throughout his term, Neistein also provided students with a snack bar in the library, Starbucks coffee in the BBC bookstore, and created more parking spaces available to students.

"We were able to offer students 15 to 20 more available spaces," he said.

According to Neistein, this administration has also provided more student-focused events, including the highly-attended Dan Rather lecture, which SGA invested \$30,000 for.

"This year, we have had more events than ever," he said. "It was a phenomenal lecture and it was full of students."

He also focused on providing students a manageable SGC-BBC website, which, according to Neistein, had some minor setbacks during the beginning of the semester, but "is currently up and running after extensive work."

Additionally, Neistein's goal was to provide transparency on all matters to students and increase SGA exposure.

"We really marketed to students and provided more SGA exposure this year," he said.

NEISTEIN, page 5

Neistein interested in working with council

NEISTEIN, page 4

After a difficult time with elections, Neistein also reflected on the issue and saw it as a learning experience.

“Each administration has its own setbacks. You cannot judge a whole council because of a few bad apples. More importantly, it should not deter from all the good things that have been done by the council,” he said.

Members of the council also expressed their gratitude to Neistein.

“I really want to thank Sholom for all of those late-night talks where I had to sit down and talk to him about what was

an interview with The Beacon. “Stay on course and stick to your ideals and morals. Make sure you maintain your integrity and remain transparent with students.”

Thankful for his time and patience, Battle shared her gratitude during the SGA meeting.

“There were some days where he basically lived in the office. There would be some days where we would be there working late together and he would help me with everything -- working with administration, putting events together and helping me through all the drama. I would like to thank him for that,” she said.

I care about the students...

The student voice is the most essential aspect of the University.

Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC President
Student Government Association

really going on with the council,” Georgia Bedeau, SGC-BBC chief justice, said during their final meeting on April 14.

Neistein, who will vacate his position as of April 28, will be replaced by the current SGC-BBC vice president, Christin “Cici” Battle, whom he offered his words of advice to.

“You need a lot of energy and be able to be in five different places at once. The president gets both the undeserved credit and blame, but you have to remember you can never do it all by yourself and you have to trust the people you work with are doing their job,” he advised Battle during

However, according to Neistein, during the upcoming semester, he will continue to be involved with SGA, but has yet to choose a position.

“I know the politics, SGA Constitution, understand the budgets and I care about the students. It would be selfish if I left with the knowledge that I have. I know I would be able to really help many individuals,” he said.

“The student voice is the most essential aspect of any University and if students really want change they just need to voice their opinions and be supportive of what is right.”

Old haunts bring new understanding to change

WEEKENDS, page 4

duced to this guy, who may be the new owner, but he literally looked like he rolled out of bed and went to work thinking, “Ugh, I am not even supposed to be here today.”

I ordered my grilled cheese sandwich, which of course was cold.

What is my luck with cold cheese this weekend?

There were no warm conversations like I am used to having there.

Guess I am never going back to Blue Marlin again.

My whole weekend went just like that. The location of my first internship four years ago has closed and the location of my first job is no longer there.

As sad as this should make me, I am kind of okay with it.

Those phases in my life are now over. But, I have the memories that allow me to be that annoying person who says things like, “Back in the day, this place was so much better.”

I want to say that, just like my childhood memories, this column, or even college, has to come to an end.

But that’s not true.

Change is a good thing. It means that something you were not ready for happened

Go out, make mistakes, try new things.

Just laugh along the way, because all those little missteps will make great memories to look back upon.

and you have to let go and find your way through it.

I am always going to have mishaps over the weekend, and I think you should not take life too seriously to the point that you’d avoid new places.

Go out, make mistakes, try new things. Just laugh along the way, because all those little missteps will make for great memories to look back upon.

Our writers pay for all food and experiences and are not compensated in exchange for positive reviews.

ARTS N’ CRAFTS



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

Francis Lopez, a junior in psychology, create customized coffee mugs during Stress Release Day, part of Campus Life’s Release Week 2010 on April 14 in Panther Square.

CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FOR BIRTH CONTROL

New Age Medical Research Corporation is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational oral medication for birth control.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost for up to 12 months:

- > Periodic gynecological exams
- > Investigational oral birth control medication

Females who are 18-40 years of age, sexually active, and have regular menstrual cycles may be eligible for participation. Compensation up to \$750 is available for time and travel.

For more information about this research study please call (305) 596-9901

Participation is completely voluntary.



Janet Gersten, M.D.
New Age Medical Research Corporation
8900 SW 117th Avenue
Suite 207-B
(305) 596-9901

MARCHING IN

Band looks for new director, hopes to attract 110 students

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

They're back and they're here to stay.

The FIU marching band took a hit last year when their funds were cut and the band was forced to stop sharing their Panther pride with students on the field.

But, with the help of University President Mark B. Rosenberg and the Student Government Association, the band was given a second chance.

Rosenberg and several groups from the University came together to come up with a solution for the band.

The band costs approximately \$300,000 a year and SGA stepped up and will be funding about half that amount. The band will also be partly funded by private donors.

"We are proud to be part of the solution to bring back the band," said Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda to Student Media earlier this month. "This is not an athletic band, but truly an FIU band that will partic-

ipate in all aspects of University and community life."

Catherine Rand, director of bands at the School of Music, is serving as interim director for the band and hopes it will bring a much-needed spirit back to the games.

"I think it's going to bring back a lot of spirit in the Athletics Department. It's pretty unusual not to have a halftime show," Rand said.

Marching bands are meant to get fans pumped up for big games and the band has high hopes for the new academic year.

"I'm looking forward to getting back on the field and we're looking at getting at least 110 students marching," said Ernesto Fernandez, a senior music performance and music education major who served as the former drum major for the band and is a current member of the search committee for the band.

Finding the perfect director is the search committee's main priority for now and they hope to have someone on board by the end of May, ready to get started in



PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWS.FIU.EDU

Summer B.

Applicants from all over the country have been applying for the position and Fernandez said he's very excited about people's

interest in the band.

"We're looking for someone who is innovative and someone who has a style of today's type of music and someone who is going

to propel our ensemble," Rand said of the future director.

She hopes the new band director will create a tradition at

BAND, page 7

THE BEACON REVIEWS: THE FIU WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Ensemble ends semester with extraordinary, powerful performance

MARIA MURRIEL
Staff Writer

The last week of classes in the Spring marks the time for extended study sessions, coffee overloads and frantic scheduling. At the FIU School of Music, to call this a "hectic" week was an understatement.

During a series of end-of-the semester concerts by various student musician groups, Catherine Rand, director of bands, led the FIU Wind Ensemble in a compelling three-piece, hour-long performance on April 13.

The concert could most accurately be described as an ominous demonstration of the ensemble's abilities, a showcase of just how strong their sound is and how well they can project, level and manipulate it.

Concert-goers milling around the entryway of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center poured into their seats at around 8 p.m., most of them unaware of the bombastic introduction that awaited them.

The band, an ensemble of more than 40 musicians, took the stage to tune their instruments and produced a sound that was a fitting signal for a heavenly tidal wave.

Rand joined them shortly; the audi-

ence tensed in expectation.

The opening piece was a five-minute *tour de force* entitled "Asphalt Cocktail." The dramatic scorcher was written by composer John Mackey about his time living in New York City, and it was crafted to resemble "the scariest NYC taxi ride you can imagine."

This, the composer captured perfectly.

A blast of aural energy blew through the walls of the auditorium from the first measure, and it's sufficient to say the listeners were slapped into attention by the determination of the blaring horns.

The perfect combination of xylophone and horn, of strong percussion and frantic clarinet, created a decidedly aggressive atmosphere and fierce presence.

Rand, as conductor, interpreted every rhythmic variation with emotion and ultimate precision.

Busy, rushed and at times anxious, "Asphalt Cocktail" was reminiscent of a comic book action scene – something straight out of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, and it was the most adequate introduction to the powerful evening that followed.

Led by Michael Guzman, assistant conductor, the ensemble embarked on their intimate interpretation of "Ballad



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Senior Joseph Saenz, music performance major, plays the piccolo at the Wind Ensemble concert held in the WPAC on April 13.

for Band," a Morton Gould composition that has been lauded as one of his most popular for decades.

Definitely in high contrast with the

first number, "Ballad" touched on softer sensibilities and more lyrical expres-

CONCERT, page 8

Parade to feature 100-foot rainbow flag

PARADE, page 1

was one-and-a-quarter miles long. Locals may remember this flag when it was stretched from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico during a 2004 pride parade.

More than 1,000 people are expected to participate in this parade, which will be presenting the Legacy Couples – LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and allied individuals) couples who have been in committed relationships for more than 20 years.

Pride asserts this parade is open and free to the public, with entertainment for the whole family.

The parade organizer, Miami Beach Gay Pride, is an initiative of the Miami Beach Gay Business Development Council. Miami Beach Mayor Matti Bower played a large role in the establishing of this group.

“It is hard to believe a city as diverse and as inclusive of the LGBT community as our city has not had an official Miami Beach Gay Pride in the past,” Bower was quoted on the group’s Web site in anticipation of the first annual parade. “I am very proud to be a part of such a historical event in our community.”

This year’s parade will pass through Ocean Drive’s Art Deco section, from 5th Street to 15th Street. The parade will complete its route at the Miami Beach Pride Festival and Expo.

The festival and expo is being held between 10th and 14th streets. This area alone is an example of the increasing popularity this event is seeing in one year. Last year’s expo featured 80 different businesses and community booths. This year’s has nearly twice that amount, as more and more LGBTQIA-



Participants of last year’s parade carry the 100-ft gay pride flag along the parade route.

friendly businesses come forward to share their support for this event.

The parade, the shopping and the booths all seek to make this event fun for everybody. Still, what would a Gay Pride Day be without music? Fortunately, the organizers have come prepared for that.

With a local stage on the streets, and a main stage set up at 14th Street, Pride will be featuring various DJs and presentations, from the start of the parade at 12 p.m. leading up to 2 p.m. when the festival brings out its special live performances and guest appearances.

A varied selection of DJs will keep the music moving, as well as DJ Zehno playing throughout the day on the main stage.

Along with offerings ranging from local

performers including the Miami Gay Men’s Chorus, poets, drag shows and celebrity impersonators, the stages will also see local diva Maryel Epps. Other performances include international artists such as Marger, Robin S, and Crystal Waters.

For those who are in the Miami Beach area but not able to make it to the festival itself, fear not. The celebrations are not restricted solely to Saturday. As early as a week before, many local sponsors are providing discounts and special offers in honor of the event, with partial proceeds benefiting Miami Beach Gay Pride. A complete list of participating businesses and events, as well as contacts and information can be found at www.miami-beachgaypride.com.

Marching band to come back this Fall

BAND, page 6

FIU so that it will no longer be known as the Division I university without a marching band – a rare thing for such a large school, she said.

“It’s truly creating the spirit of FIU,” Rand said.

She stressed that the band wasn’t a product of the music school, but part of the University’s identity because the music school was only a small part of it.

As for the band itself, anyone with music experience is free to audition. The current band is made up of students from all majors, exemplifying FIU’s spirit of diversity, Rand said.

“This band is the band of the University. It is the face of the University. Doesn’t matter your major, as long as you have played an instrument before you can play in the marching band,” Rand added.

Potential band members attend band camp a week before the semester starts. The camp separates auxiliary, wind and percussion players and designates each student a spot on the field.

Rand’s position as interim director means she gets to serve as recruiter for the band.

Just this week, she visited local high school bands to talk to them about joining.

She has also begun recruiting FIU students to make the new director’s transition in Summer B easier.

The marching band will be back in the stadiums this Fall.

ADVERTISING CLASS TAKING ON LAW AS CLIENTS
A local college student is taking on the law firm! The student is taking their semester lawyers get more business. “We just don’t want to help around here. A look forward to see and work, then legal speak and change this basically to watch it’s either inter- of id edits loom were comm about about libel.

CHA CHING!
Danny Rivers and his friends realized something. The waiter came over that the Italian restaurant that they had and started talking in Italian! Um... what to do.” for the group, ing Italian 101 y explained, “so fortunate in that d him say ad at us or what I no none “I knew he was... I just s... mbered... “sa... nny,” that... e ice, o tell the waiter t nds wanted on pizzas on the la what they re everyone’s surprise. was a good day,” professore Vacanti w id of me. Or m would’ve been f re Vacanti refu answers

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ITALIAN 101 HELPS STUDENT ORDER PIZZA AT RESTAURANT
What began as a typical dining-out experience quickly turned into a scary situation yesterday when sophomore

Looking for something more authentic than local favorite Pizza Barn, the group had decided to venture out and try a new place. “I swear it was the scariest moment of my life,” Karl Winsey, a friend of Danny’s, recalled. “It was like we time-warped into Italy or

hacky-sack. “They were freaking tailgating?” Ben exclaimed furiously. “Charcoal grill, coozies, Chinese horseshoes... the whole shebang! They’re supposed to be helping us here... not grilling hotdogs and high-fiving.” The faculty did not deny the claim. In fact, Art History professor Michael Fineman spoke with great liberty. “Did we eat too many Doritos?”

MONEY
OT
D BEAT-
IE CRAP
F BOOK
OT
affairs today as mascot at an incident “book” Money ted by re. An lved and ying book says Sheriff press many r over ack of or released ed on evidence.oving it was e, while Boo as thinking of nding in a closet f the rest of its life hoping to be gotten and never found.

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Apple store's philosophy may be alienating customers

I love buying Apple's stuff; it's a shame I have to go to the Apple store to buy it.

The "Apple store experience" is the execution of Apple's vision of how retail operations should be conducted.

Clean, simple and efficient are, I'm sure, buzz words in Apple's retail strategy.

However, just because it's clean, simple and efficient doesn't mean that it's great. Let's analyze the experience on two levels: design and customer experience.

DESIGN

Aesthetically, an Apple store looks like what I think the inside of

a giant iPod looks like.

Aside from their flagship stores, such as the glass cube on Fifth Avenue in New York City, which astounds customers with its architectural design, most of the lesser Apple stores are all the same.

Upon entering an Apple store you are automatically hit with a smell, the "Apple smell."

I would describe it as a 60 to 40 percent split of hospital disinfectant and warm plastic.

But, as soon as you get used to it, you are overwhelmed by the blinding, surgical white that adorns the walls, complementing the matte gray floors and the minimalist wooden tables; all done, I am sure, to highlight the little aluminum

boxes they are trying to sell.

As much as I love to play with all the new stuff, I kind of hate walking in there. It unsettles me a bit, and flashbacks of *The Matrix* loading program come to mind. It's too white.

The place is so methodically organized that I can navigate it with my eyes closed.

I wouldn't recommend that though, because even on a Thursday night it has about 1,000 people in it.

EMPLOYEES AND SUPPORT

In an effort to make the buying experience less corporate, they've made it more corporate, surrounding you with snobby employees to remind you of it.

For the most part these guys are

pretty elitist, staring down at you through their dark rimmed glasses with no lenses, their faux hawks casting a shadow over you.

Recently, I walked into the Apple store and explained to the greeter that I had a problem with my iPhone and would like to swap it for another one, to which she directed me to the Genius bar.

I was directed to a person standing in the middle of the store, a gatekeeper to the geniuses, protecting the average consumer from the overwhelming knowledge possessed by those at the rear of the store.

I explained my problem and that I urgently needed my phone to work properly because of my job.

However, without an appointment, all I received was a still broken iPhone with a large side of

attitude.

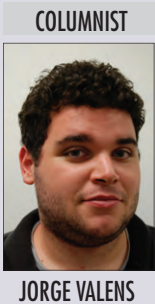
Look, the Apple store experience hinges on their customer service. The day I went, the majority of geniuses were sitting around chatting about the new release of Adobe CS5 and what iPhone case they had.

I paid \$300 bucks for my iPhone and \$110 bucks per month to use it (don't judge me). So when I walk into the store, fix my damn iPhone; it takes five minutes, seriously.

In conclusion...

The Apple store delivers when it comes to putting Apple products in people's hands quickly and efficiently.

However, I think that the philosophy of the store and most of its employees seek to alienate its customers a little bit, even loyalists like me.



COLUMNIST

JORGE VALENS

Ensemble ends performance with 'never-ending note'

CONCERT, page 6

sions. A simpler piece, it rested nicely on the musical pallets in the room. It exposed a calm lullaby of flutes and served as a buffer between the two overwhelming compositions of the night.

The one that followed would prove exhausting, yet invigorating.

"Symphony No. 4" by David Maslanka, one of Rand's preferred composers, was an elaborate event of almost a half hour in length that took the audience, and the musicians, through a well varied array of moods and sentiments.

It started out as a mild opus, at times resembling biblical hymn pieces. It was delightfully diverse in tone and rhythm throughout. Some movements sounded like ballet compositions and some were forceful bursts of harmony.

The WPAC's notable pipe organ was an unforgettable instrument in this piece: Its immense wall installation accompanied the melody with touching church-like tones and its unmistakable reverb added spirit to class.

Played by Emmanuel Schwartzman, the impressive monument of an organ provided an extraordinary quality to the performance.

The French horn group led the ensemble on unassuming melodies that escalated into various symphonic climaxes, filling the auditorium with spectacular waves of sound: horns blaring, clarinets piping, drums booming and chests bursting.

For the epic finale, there was a unison blow by the entire symphony, a seemingly never-ending note that continued to grow until it was ended by one last loud beat of the pace drum, at which the whole ensemble stopped simultaneously.

The effect was overwhelming. The crowd, enraptured by the precision and professionalism of the musicians, cheered until they erupted in a standing ovation.

Rand's dexterity as a conductor and appreciation for her students is to be admired. At the end of the show, she directed the applause to some of the leaders of each section, among them



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Conductor Catherine Rand (right) leads the Wind Ensemble concert.

Adam Sugarman, clarinet; and Eric Gonzalez, trumpet.

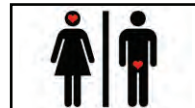
These musicians, also scholarship recipients for their talents, are among a

group of outstanding performers, all part of the School of Music, and all of whom put on an astonishing show.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

THE UGLY TRUTH



SPC-MMC presents Friday night movies.
WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

FIU BASEBALL

Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on the New Orleans Privateers.
WHEN: 7 - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

MERGING MAN AND MACHINE



Lecture by Hugh Herr about prosthetics.
WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for students; \$10 general
WHERE: The Wolfsonian 1001 Washington Ave.

ACTIVE MINDS GAME NIGHT

WHEN: 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Cafeteria Annex (back of Fresh Food)

ORCHESTRA CONCERT



Presented by FIU Music; last concert of the semester!
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students; \$15 faculty/staff; \$25 general admission
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

IMMIGRATION Q&A SESSION

An immigration attorney will be answering questions regarding U.S. citizenship. Session will be in Spanish.
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: lendahand.fiu@gmail.com

MIAMI BEACH GAY PRIDE PARADE



Celebrate with the LGBTQA community!
WHEN: 12:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Along Ocean Drive

FIU BASEBALL

Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on New Orleans.
WHEN: 5 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

NEW MUSIC MIAMI CONCERT



Presented by FIU Music, with guest composer Alfredo Rugeles.
WHEN: 2:45 p.m., pre-concert meet the artist session
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Wolfsonian 1001 Washington Ave.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Voice from the Fringe: An Afternoon of Contemporary Cabaret



Presented by FIU Music.
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students; \$10 faculty/staff; \$15 general
WHERE: Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre, BBC

STUDENT KEYBOARD RECITAL



Presented by FIU Music students.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

FIU BASEBALL

Cheer on the Golden Panthers as they take on New Orleans.
WHEN: 1 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball

BRAZILIAN DAY MIAMI



Come celebrate Brazilian culture at the biggest Brazilian fest in Miami. Traditional food, music, and more!
WHEN: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Bayfront Park 301 N. Biscayne Blvd.

Write to calendar@fiusm.com to have your event featured.

Quick Picks

MOVIES



Kick-Ass
73/100 76/100
"Equal parts audacious dark comedy, wish-fulfillment fantasy and over-the-top, tongue-in-cheek action-adventure."
Joe Leydon - Variety



GAMES

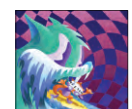


Splinter Cell: Conviction - Multi

87/100 9.3/10
"It was a huge risk deviating from the trial-and-error style that made the series famous, but it paid off. Splinter Cell Conviction is awesome."
Hilary Goldstein - ign.com



MUSIC



Congratulations by MGMT
68/100 6.8/10
"Every track here has successful passages, but frustratingly, they too often turn out to be detours or trap doors. In general, the less cluttered and more focused their tracks are, the better they turn out."
Scott Plagenhoef - Pitchfork

CABRALITICS

GOP to Florida teachers: Stop, it's hammer time

They call Florida Senate Bill 6 “The Hammer,” ‘cause it’s about to hit teachers really hard. In the face.

That’s meant to be a metaphor, although it wouldn’t be surprising if the bill actually calls for teachers to actually be bludgeoned with hammers (only the bad ones, of course).

Florida Republican Senator John Thrasher first dubbed the bill “The Hammer” because he felt the bill would effectively “smash” the teachers unions.

The bill, which will become law if signed by Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, would dramatically revamp how teachers are paid.

Apparently Thrasher and the rest of the Republicans in the Florida Legislature decided that the real problem with the Florida school system is that too many teachers had it easy, and that students weren’t taking enough standardized tests.

Among the many brilliant changes in the bill is that, beginning in 2014, teacher pay increases would be largely based on student test scores.

In addition, teachers would no longer be rewarded for having advanced degrees or for years of experience teaching; their contracts would expire at the end of every year and their pay would fluctuate depending on their students’ scores.

Teachers could be fired if the test scores their students produce are considered subpar.

Of course, the bill doesn’t clearly outline what specific scores will be considered subpar. Apparently they’ll just figure that out later. What the bill is specific about is that experience, expertise and extenuating circumstances will be out the window when it comes to teacher pay and job security.

Whether teachers get raises or keep their jobs will be determined primarily by how students perform on tests.

Tests, it bears noting, that haven’t even been created yet.

Teachers are outraged over the proposed legislation, since many of them still cling to this antiquated notion that their pay should be based, at least partly, on experience and level of expertise.

The bill’s opponents argue that those who teach ESOL or those who teach in inner city schools will be at an unfair disadvantage.

After all, if a student comes from a broken home or a poor neighborhood, they are less likely to do well on tests like the FCAT. Teachers working in poorer schools will have to work way harder just to get paid the same as an average teacher at the average school; they’ll have to work much harder just to keep their jobs.

Even then, good teachers in poor neighborhoods may not be able to yield high enough test scores among their students, since their students are statistically more likely to do poorly when it comes to testing.

According to a recent study by the University of Florida: “Groups [of students] socio-economic level corresponded with their group’s ranking on FCAT scores.”

The report continues, “The most affluent lifestyle group registered the highest FCAT scores, the second richest group ranked second in test scores, and so on. On the math tests, the gap between the highest and lowest scoring lifestyle groups was more than two grade levels.”

Teachers would point to studies like this one as proof that their pay should not be dependent on their test scores, since statistically teachers in inner city schools are at a major competitive disadvantage in such a system.

The new rules, they say, would completely dis-incentivize teaching in poorer schools, since statistics seem to indicate that it would

COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL



likely take substantially more work to achieve the same results in those schools as opposed to schools in wealthier areas.

Many teachers will do all they can to avoid teaching at schools where they essentially will have to work harder, for less money, and with less job security than at other schools.

Proponents of the bill point out that studies like the one done at UF are based on the FCAT, and the new pay standards will be based on other standardized tests, which will somehow be far more accurate than the FCAT.

Even though these tests have yet to be created, they are confident that these tests will be substantially better ... somehow.

Yes, much of the arguments for this bill boil down to just that: somehow.

Sure, the FCAT has been an abysmal failure

in many respects, but these new tests will be way better ... somehow.

Sure, teachers will have little economic incentive to teach in poor areas, but good teachers will still want to teach at those schools anyway... somehow.

And sure, teachers may want to flee our state in greater numbers, but they’ll swallow these unwanted changes and stay in our state ... somehow.

The Republicans in the Florida Legislature haven’t really figured any of this out, but they think somehow, some way, it will all work out. Or it will deal a crippling blow to the teaching profession and the education system in one of the country’s most populous states. Whatever.

Either way, if Crist signs this bill into law, it’s hammer time.

THE SOAPBOX

BBC senator rebukes restructuring proposition

MAWOU FRANCOIS
Special to The Beacon

Last week, *The Beacon’s* editorial board published a two-part series expressing its frustration with SGC-BBC’s elections while vehemently calling for the consolidation of both governing councils into one unified SGA to better serve all FIU students.

As a member of SGC-BBC, I am concerned about why *The Beacon* calls for action to resolve the issues within SGA with a substandard solution such as restructuring the two councils.

The wrongdoing of certain members in SGC-BBC cannot

be justified by any means, but their actions do not hold enough weight for the dismantling of the two-part council system.

These individuals acted upon their own self interest and do not reflect the true character of SGC-BBC.

Instead, their actions should be used as examples, for anyone who intends to hold a position in a SGA council will be held accountable for their actions.

The lack of communication between both councils needs improvement, instead of conversations for reconstruction or reform.

This issue is clearly stated in

both editorials with one depicting how the SGC-MMC chief justice only contacted key members of SGC-BBC regarding changes to the constitution and failed to get a response from those members.

The lack of effort from the SGC-MMC chief justice to not include all BBC council members, or to think that each one is just as important as the other, gives evidence that there needs to be more respect and communication from both councils in order to better serve all students.

The editorial proposed that if any reconstruction efforts were to take place it should be modeled after the University’s presidency,

meaning that there would be one University-wide SGA president to govern all campuses, and a vice-president each for MMC and BBC.

The student president would have a “Modesto Maidique Complex,” meaning that there would be a priority to serve the interests of only one campus.

The two-part council system is a checks and balances system that prevents this from occurring. Students currently have the privilege of having direct contact with their presidents on either campus about their concerns and key issues.

The judiciary and legisla-

tive branches would also be condensed, but the editorial did not give much detail as to how.

The current situation of the two-part council system is not being utilized efficiently by both campuses, which keeps giving life to a dead argument of restructuring SGA members from both councils.

We must understand that these positions are meant to serve FIU students regardless of which campus they reside.

Mawou Francois is the current SGC-BBC Business senator

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.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

WINNER/LOSER

DC comics is debuting its first openly gay character. Batwoman is getting her own comic written and drawn by J.H. Williams which will be appearing monthly. Batwoman originally appeared in 1949 as a heterosexual. Her role is being recast for the new era.

Torry Hansen. Hansen sent her adopted son back to his native Russia, arranging for 7-year-old Artyom Savelyev to fly to Moscow by himself. He arrived in Russia on April 8 with a note from Hansen saying, “I no longer wish to parent this child.”

QUOTATIONATION

“While our business model is in a research phase, we spend more money than we make...”

Twitter
on a statement on their Web site posted Wednesday



Your FIU Police Officers remain committed to protecting you but the administration provides them with little resources.

Without better radios and the administration's realization that your safety should be a top priority, there is only so much your police officers can do.

You are not as safe as you should be on campus. The administration's top priority should be your safety...just like it is ours.

We don't want any more tragedies.

IN MEMORY OF
KENDALL BERRY
December 31, 1987 - March 25, 2010





CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Senior Lauren Spiers plastered a walk off home run for the Golden Panthers on April 14. The solo shot marked her third home run of the 2010 season.

Barrett records No. 500 career strikeout in win

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and tied the game before a ground out finally ended the inning.

"It's just a mental thing," Barrett said. "I have to mentally stay strong and know that my defense is going to play behind me."

Barrett's effort marked her 13th victory of the season as the senior also recorded the 500th strikeout of her career in the second inning. Barrett commented that she was happy to get the win but was even happier about Spiers' home run.

"I'm really proud of Lauren for stepping up in that situation, being a senior and winning the game," Barrett said. "I knew she could do it, I just didn't know with the wind today if it would be a home run but

I'm super pumped that even with the wind like that she was able to hit it out."

Spiers' 1-for-2 performance, along with two RBI, was needed desperately on the night when freshman Kayla Burri, who leads the team with a .393 batting average, was out with a knee injury. A timetable for Burri's return is still unknown.

"I felt like I needed to step up since Burri is out," Spiers said. "[The pitcher] threw it to me inside and that's my pitch so I swung and it just happened to go over."

FIU improved to 26-15 overall and 6-6 in the Sun Belt Conference while FAU falls to 21-20 and 8-5 in the SBC. The Golden Panthers will resume conference play on April 17 and 18 in a three-game series at Middle Tennessee.

Current facility could deter recruits; Troy is good example

ARENA, page 12

like sticking a shark in a fish bowl.

And no matter how much money you throw at it, it will always be a fish bowl.

OUTDATED

The U.S. Century Bank was built for Division II teams and if this school is serious about turning the program into a basketball powerhouse, they need to start thinking even more ambitiously.

It has been a little more than a year since Isiah Thomas signed on the dotted line to become the highest profile coach to ever call FIU home, signing a five-year deal to coach a Golden Panther team which has no real history to turn to outside of the rare bright spot.

While it was a tumultuous first season for Thomas, he has to proven to be a very capable recruiter, landing some of the nation's top high school prospects for the 2010 class while getting some serious looks from others for

2011.

With the right facilities in place, the Golden Panthers can become a force to reckon with for a long time. But if the administration continues to dump resources on The Bank, this potential success will only be a blip on the radar screen and will fade away quickly.

A new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose facility would keep the flame going. Permanently.

Recruits take into account the kind of facilities they will be working in every day and if Athletics doesn't show the kind of investment that is necessary to sustain a successful basketball program, why should any recruit invest their talent into the program in the long haul?

TIME TO SAVE

Central Florida opened the brand-new \$107 million UCF Arena in 2008 without a dime from student fees or state funds.

While the price tag for UCF may be excessive for FIU, Sun Belt Conference rival Troy recently broke ground on what will become one of the nicer arenas in the conference: a 5,200 seat facility that will cost roughly \$31 million.

FIU needs to begin investing in such a facility, first by making a commitment to build it. Whether that means tearing down the current arena and building on top of it or building it somewhere else on campus and using the The

Bank as a facility for non-revenue sports and intramural events, it does not really matter.

There are many ways in which FIU can attract the money for a new facility without having to use any student fees at all. Isiah Thomas can host fundraisers to help lure in boosters and get alumni investing into Athletics. A portion of ticket sale proceeds can be put into a fund that would go toward covering the costs of construction. If possible, the current funds that will be used to upgrade the arena could be saved for the future.

A new facility that would act as a convocation center would also be available to host community events, concerts, big time gatherings and more to help bring in revenue for FIU as a whole.

It would be a place that students, alumni and the community in general can be proud of.

The question that remains is whether or not Athletics will take that leap, which they seemingly have no intentions of doing.

ARENA EXPANSION

- The University has a plan in place to expand the Arena in 2011, with the original budget set at \$4.5 million from the Capitol Improvement Trust Fund

Offense strands eight; Barroso hits first home run



PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

Yoandy Barroso [above] hit the first home run of his collegiate career, a solo shot in a loss to Bethune-Cookman at home.

BASEBALL, page 12

only lead of the game.

The slight one-run advantage disappeared rapidly as the Cougars were able to score five runs off of FIU starter Daniel DeSimone in the top of the third after surrendering a series of hits with two outs recorded to take a 6-2 lead.

DeSimone settled down afterward, pitching three consecutive innings of scoreless baseball. But the damage had already been done.

BCU starter Roman Lancara was able to handcuff the FIU offense for the rest of his outing, only allowing one unearned run in the fifth inning after the second inning. Jeremy Patton scored from first after a Mike Martinez reached on an error by BCU infielder Emmanuel Castro when he tried to throw Martinez out at first to end the inning.

It would be the last shred of offense the Golden Panthers would muster the rest of the night.

Lancara pitched six innings to earn the victory, his third win of the season for the Cougars.

The Golden Panthers had just as much trouble with Justin Dahl, who came in to relieve Lancara in the seventh. Dahl came in and retired eight consecutive FIU hitters in three innings of relief to hand FIU its fourth loss in its past five games.

DeSimone got the loss, dropping his record to 2-2 on the year. In seven innings,

We just didn't come out wanting to play baseball tonight. We have to start playing better baseball... smarter baseball.

Turtle Thomas, FIU head coach
Baseball

the sophomore right-hander gave up seven runs, six of them earned while giving up 11 hits in addition to striking out four BCU hitters.

Jeremy Patton was the only Golden Panther to get more than one hit after going 2-for-4 on a night where the offense was only able to pick up eight hits on the night.

Unfortunately, the Golden Panthers struggled at the top of the order with Pablo Bermudez and Jabari Henry combined for just two hits in nine at-bats.

"There's no doubt that your leadoff hitters have to get on base so you have a chance to score some runs," Thomas said. "We're just not playing good fundamental baseball right now. We didn't come out with any energy or enthusiasm."



MONEY WELL SPENT?

Plan to upgrade arena is shortsighted

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The U.S. Century Bank Arena is not going to impress any first-time visitors on game night.

It could be the buckets that pass as sideline seats, some that have been broken for years.

Or it could be the wooden planks that make up the student sections behind both baskets.

Or maybe it is the feeling that you are back in high school at the gym that needed massive renovation.

Or just a bulldozer.

But then Isiah Thomas will walk on to the hardwood in a suit and tie behind his team and it all starts coming back. This

is FIU. This is NCAA Division-I college basketball.

Or at least that is what it should look like.

When the arena opened in 1986, FIU had just changed their mascot from the Sunblazers to the Golden Panthers, the school was still in Division II and Isiah was in the early stages of his NBA career.

So it's no surprise that when it was being built, the developers lacked the vision to anticipate that this program would be coached by a future Hall-of-Famer.

Currently, the Athletics Department is in the opening stages of a step-by-step renovation process to improve the

outdated facilities.

"We have a long list of items that need to be improved," said Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg. "We want to create a signature entrance, set up the groundwork for suites, renovate the locker rooms ... we're looking to make it an intimate and improved setting for everyone."

In the short-term it might seem like a good idea to at least turn 'The Bank' into a decent basketball facility, but at the end of the day it is just throwing pearls at a swine of a facility.

Having Isiah Thomas coach in a relic that resembles a high-school gymnasium more than a college basketball facility is

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

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BASEBALL: BETHUNE-COOKMAN 8, FIU 3

Golden Panthers' struggles on the mound continue in loss

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

Coming back home was not enough to help solve all of the struggles that have fallen on the Golden Panther baseball team as of late.

FIU (19-14) ran into problems against the visiting Bethune-Cookman Cougars (20-14), struggling to create opportunities on offense while one big inning for the Cougars proved to be the difference in the Golden Panther loss on April 14.

"They have a good club, a very well-coached club," said FIU head coach Turtle Thomas. "We just didn't come out wanting to play baseball tonight. We have to start playing better baseball ... smarter baseball."

The Cougars struck first in the second inning with a run in the top half of the inning after shortstop Alejandro Sanchez sliced an RBI single into centerfield to drive in the first run in the game.

Yoandy Barroso was able to provide a quick answer for FIU, crushing his first collegiate home run over the left-centerfield wall to tie the game in the bottom half of the second.

Later in the inning, Sean Reilly stroked an RBI single to give the Golden Panthers their first and



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Pitcher Daniel Desimone saw his earned run average (ERA) inflate to 5.28 after giving up six earned runs in seven innings on the rubber.

BASEBALL, page 11

SOFTBALL: FIU 3, FAU 2

Team wins on Spiers' home run

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

Lauren Spiers was right on time.

After Florida Atlantic University tied the game, 2-2, in the top of the seventh inning, the FIU softball team had one more chance to win it before heading into extra innings.

Spiers came to the plate, leading off the bottom of the inning, and ended the game with a walk-off home run to give the Golden Panthers a 3-2 victory on April 14 at the FIU Softball Complex.

"I was really just trying to get on base since we needed just one run," the senior first baseman and catcher said. "I was just trying to get it in play, basically."

The two other runs for the Golden Panthers were scored in the fourth inning. A couple of walks taken by freshmen Beth Peller and Brie Rojas, and a single by sophomore Ashley McClain loaded the bases before Spiers drove in the first run on a sacrifice fly. After Peller scored, Rojas advanced to second base but McClain was called out on the throw from first to third base. Sophomore Jennifer Gniadek came up next and singled, allowing Rojas to score from second base with the help of an error by FAU second baseman

Joshlyn Martinez.

FIU starting pitcher Kasey Barrett pitched a complete game in which she gave up one earned run, five hits and a single walk to go along with nine strikeouts.

Trouble came about for her and the Golden Panthers when junior catcher Kerri Croney led off the top of the seventh with a triple for the Owls.

"I felt good until the seventh inning and then [FAU] put a little bit more in play and I should have stepped up in a few more situations there, but besides that I was fine," Barrett said.

Soon after Croney's triple, senior Jessica Myers tapped a single and advanced to second base on an error by Rojas, which drove in first run for FAU. At the time, Barrett said she was focused on showing her confidence and getting the game back under control, hoping her team would follow.

"I told everyone to be ready and I had to show the rest of the team that I believe in myself," she said. "We kept talking to each other a lot because at times like that you have to communicate and know where to go when the ball is hit."

After the Owls' first run, Martinez singled to score Myers

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