

New Green Fee is a move in the right direction
OPINION: PAGE 9



Brie Rojas has wowed crowds with her first-year success
SPORTS: PAGE 10

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



SGA interns and students attended the Student Appreciation Day barbecue, conversing and enjoying entertainment.

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

Stonewall2BBC promotes the Queer the Census, campaign aiming to fully represent the LGBT community.

LIFE! PAGE 6



The Wolfsonian-FIU screened *Orgasm, Inc.*, a film about the pharmaceutical industry's race to develop the first Viagra for women.

LIFE! PAGE 6

Modern Classics: The Maltese Falcon separates itself from time and place, becoming a movie classic for all times.

EDITORIAL PAGE 9

Widespread problems with SGC-BBC elections hasten the need for reform of two-council system.

SPORTS PAGE 10

Reports indicate that Isiah Thomas may be interested in the DePaul coaching vacancy; no offer has been reported.

SPORTS PAGE 10

Softball able to salvage victory in series finale against North Texas to avoid the sweep.

UPCOMING EVENTS




Tuesday Times Roundtable, Tuesday, April 6, 12:30 p.m. This weeks discussion will focus on the College of Law's \$22 million damage award for victims of Liberian torture. Event is free at GC 150.

FIU Softball, Tuesday, April 6, 5 p.m. Cheer on your fellow Golden Panthers as they take on the FGCU Eagles at the Softball Fields.

UPROAR Concert, Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m. SPC-MMC's annual Uproar concert will feature Pitbull and Kid Cudi, at the U.S Century Bank Arena. Be there early!

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

WEATHER

	MONDAY Sunny LOW: 67 HIGH: 82
	TUESDAY Mostly Sunny LOW: 67 HIGH: 80
	WEDNESDAY Partly Cloudy LOW: 67 HIGH: 81

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FRESH FOOD



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Senior Ian Wogan showed off brussels sprouts being grown in the University's garden planted outside the Nature Preserve. He lead a guided tour around the garden and preserve as part of Earth Fest on April 1.

SGC-MMC

Housing senate seat under review after alleged violation

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
 Senior Staff Writer

Elections for Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus were done and over with on March 31. However, results of the Housing senate race have yet to be determined.

Chelsea Franco, a senatorial Housing candidate, filed a complaint against one of her opponents in the race for a Housing seat, Carlos Rodriguez.

"He blatantly disregarded Housing posting policy,"

Franco said. "If you're going to campaign, at least know the rules."

Franco said that she found out about the violations on the last day of campaigning, March 26, and presented the complaint the following Monday, March 29.

When contacted by Student Media, Rodriguez said that he wasn't sure of the complaint's specifics, but knew there was one filed against him.

He said that to his knowledge he didn't violate any rules and everything he did was based on

the elections code.

"If I did, it wasn't intentional," Rodriguez said.

The complaint says that he violated two sections of the Elections Code.

Section 7.01, subsection B states that the policies for campaigning on campus may not violate the Code of Student Conduct. Solicitation on campus, which includes on-campus housing, without approval from the appropriate University offi-

HOUSING, page 2

SGA CONSTITUTION

Claims of exclusion refuted by justice

MAUREEN NINO
 Asst. News Director

Unaware of the changes proposed in the new Student Government Association constitution, members of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus feel excluded.

"BBC is left out of the loop, we get the raw end of the stick," said Tanha Dil, SGC-BBC justice.

After meeting on March 27, the University-wide Council, comprised of leaders from both campuses, agreed and approved changes on SGA's constitution which will be felt University wide.

Changes in SGA's constitution include a single ticket ballot voting system for BBC, possible salary changes and a new distribution of power.

The new revised SGA constitution included a memo which began by paraphrasing Article VI, section 5, subsection B, explaining that both SGC at Modesto Maidique Campus and SGC-BBC supreme courts were involved in the revisions created.

However, Dil said SGC-BBC had no involvement.

"We found out about the changes made after [Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president] announced it during Wednesday's [March 31] meeting," she said.

The memo continues to say: "Months of labor by the MMC Judiciary researching, debating, reviewing student and government constitution" and concludes by saying, "Should there be any questions regarding (the constitution) discuss with the MMC Judiciary their reasons for implementation,"

CONSTITUTION, page 4

Fine arts to connect University, community

MELISSA CACERES
 Staff Writer

FIU is bringing the gift of art to the Sweetwater community through what will now be known as "An Artistic Evening in Sweetwater."

Through the Honors College-Sweetwater partnership, 13 honors students from the leadership course taught by Cecile Houry, professor and coordinator of student enrichment for the Honors College will be hosting a night dedicated to the

fine arts at the Sweetwater Elementary School; with musical performances and art exhibitions showcased by both the children and honors students.

It is set to take place April 7 at the Jorge Mas Canosa Youth Center, with interim dean of the Honors College, Lesley Northup, and Sweetwater's Mayor Manny Maroño set to attend.

"I believe this event is an extremely rare and important opportunity for these kids to see

art in a way their curriculum and budget rarely allows," said Jennifer Gloudeman, freshman biology major of the Honors College and part of the project.

"By bringing Honors College students into the mix, we are essentially trying to show the young students you can excel in the academic world while pursuing your artistic goals and whims as well," she added.

The "Artistic Evening," which is a part of the ongoing partner-

ship between the University and the neighboring city, will feature Honors College student musicians like Ernesto Fernandez, Jack Bagdadi and a group called Prima Volta.

With development beginning since early January, students were able to fund the event through donations from local businesses and the PTA organization of the respective elementary school.

ARTS, page 3

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

According to CNN the US Labor Department, employers have added 162,000 jobs in the month of March. This is the highest increase since the recession began. However, it is below the 190,000 jobs analysts expected and fewer than economists' forecast. The 162,000 include 48,000 temporary workers hired for the census. Private employers have added the most jobs since May 2007, 123,000.

WORLD

The Russian counter-terrorism committee said last week the people who planned the recent terrorist attacks in Moscow and Kizlyar have been identified, according to Ria Novosti, Russian news and information agency. The explosions at Moscow's Lubyanka and Park Kultury subway stations on March 29 left 40 people dead and dozens injured. The counter-terrorism has only published the name of the female suicide bomber so far. She detonated an explosive device at the Park Kultury station.

Apple begins selling iPad to the masses

On Saturday, Apple began selling its much anticipated iPad device in the United States.

According to CNN, long lines were seen at Apple retail stores everywhere as customers dropped anywhere between \$499 to \$699 for the 9-inch, multitouch device.

Aside from launch applications, developers on the company's AppStore have responded with a wide variety of applications that take advantage of the iPad's larger screen. The device is expected to sell out by the end of the day.

– Compiled by Phillippe Buteau

CORRECTIONS

In *The Beacon* Recommends issue published March 29, the correct spelling of Battle's first name is Christin, not Cristin. Also, in the same issue, we list Oheilo Higgs as a winner for the SJMC senate seat, he did not win.

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

FIU STUDENT MEDIA

Media board elects new leaders

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

The University's Student Media Board announced their selections for the positions of editor in chief for *The Beacon*, *FIUSM.com* editor and general manager of WRGP.

Jorge Valens, current news director for Student Media and junior political science major, was named editor in chief of *The Beacon*.

"I'm very excited and honored to be chosen for the position," Valens said.

Valens, known for his weekly Life! column "Fistfuls of Tech," began his career at Student Media as a news writer for *The Beacon* in January 2009. By March 2009,

Valens became assistant news director, a position he held until the end of the 2009 Fall semester.

"I have big plans for *The Beacon*, a lot of things are running through my mind. I am eager to get started," he added.

Valens replaces current Editor in Chief Christopher Necuze, who has held the position since Spring 2009.

"I think we've made a lot of progress in the past year and the Media Board picked a very capable candidate," Necuze said. "I'm confident he will do an excellent job."

The position of *FIUSM.com* editor, which is in charge of managing content for FIU Student Media's Web site, was

given to current opinion editor for *The Beacon*, David Barrios. He replaces current *FIUSM.com* editor, Pablo Penton.

"I ran against some of the most qualified candidates within Student Media. I'm proud to have been given the job," Barrios said.

Barrios, a junior international relations major, started working for Student Media as a news writer for *The Beacon* in August 2007. Since then, he has been involved in several different facets of Student Media as a staff writer, SGA beat writer and opinion editor.

"It's a new era for Student Media," he added.

Sean Gonzalez, a junior liberal arts major, was selected as general manager of the

University's radio station, WRGP Radiate FM.

"I couldn't be happier," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez first applied to work at the radio station during his first day on campus during orientation. He has been with the radio station for three years, starting as a DJ, eventually working his way up to training director. Gonzalez is replacing former WRGP GM, Pablo Penton.

"My main goal right now is to get the word out to students that WRGP is back on air and constantly broadcasting awesome stuff," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, Barrios and Valens begin their new positions effective May 1, 2010.

Housing senate race unsettled

HOUSING, page 1

cial, is considered an offense in the Code of Student Conduct (Section 6, subsection M).

An offense under this section also includes the posting of any sort of promotional material to the exterior and interior of on-campus housing facilities. According to the complaint, Rodriguez violated Housing posting policy.

Rodriguez said on March 22 that he received permission from Ron Thompson, interim director of Residential Life, to post his flyers.

The complaint also says

that Rodriguez violated section 7.13, subsection A, subsection XV and section II, subsection I of the Elections Code's supplemental guidelines.

Section 7.13 deals with what violations may lead to disqualifications, and the subsections specifically state that "sending out text messages or e-mails that falsely disparage another candidate's character" are grounds for disqualification.

The supplemental guidelines passed by the elections code do not allow candidates to endorse any other candidate during campaign week. The complaint accuses Rodriguez of "expressly informing a voter that they should not vote for one of the two candidates."

Rodriguez denies doing this. He said that he possibly could have been misinterpreted.

"I did not say 'do not vote for this person,'" Rodriguez said.

The SGC-MMC supreme court struck these supplemental guidelines from law in a 3-0 decision on April 2. The court ruled the elections board "violated individuals' right to free speech and free assembly granted under the U.S. Constitution."

Luis Robayo, chief justice of the SGC-MMC supreme court, said the matter has not been seen to the judiciary yet and that for now it is still in the hand of the elections board.

David Trujillo, a member of the elections board, said to Student Media that the board will be meeting at 7 p.m. on April 5.

Trujillo said the board will not rush its decision.

"The decision will take however long it'll take," Trujillo said.

Survey reveals students' use of rating site

MARIELLA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

Kaplan Test Prep recently conducted a survey questioning 1,229 pre-law and pre-med students' use of the popular university professor rating site *ratemyprofessors.com*, owned by MTV.

The survey showed that 46 percent of the students selected a course based on the "easiness of the professor."

Kaplan's vice president of research Jeff Olson explained that the company "felt it was an unexamined story" about "a resource that would help students" with their course selection.

Based on the survey results, Olson said that the Web site was "not always used to find the easiest, but actually the most effective teachers" and that the use of the site was "a sign of the times."

The purpose of the Kaplan survey was to find out the impact of professor rating sites on the academic environment.

The survey also found that 77 percent of student users felt peer opinion was the most influential, 70 percent cited the overall quality of the professor, and 66 percent felt that the "easy grading reputation" was the most important.

"The foremost use is finding the best professors to help students have the best possible experience in college," Olson told *The Beacon* in an interview.

Ratemyprofessors.com is used by college students to contribute their opinion on a professor they have taken based on several criteria, including easiness, helpfulness, clarity, interest level prior to attending class, textbook use, whether attendance is mandatory and appearance. A comment box allows raters room for additional feedback.

"An underside [of the Web site] is rating the physical attractiveness, which has been a little unkind [but] only 3 percent of our respondents made a choice based on [physical attractiveness]," Olson said.

Subsequently, other students visit the site to read the reviews posted by their peers. Opinions vary from negative comments to praises for the professor. Some find the site to be helpful while others feel it gives viewers incorrect ideas.

"I don't think it's wrong for students to use Rate My Professors because it gives you different points of view about all the teachers," said political science major Annette Rodriguez.

"I think [Rate My Professors] is mostly just gossip and heresay—nothing firm I base my course selection

RATE, page 3

THE BEACON

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Obama, GOP reach consensus on oil drilling

RAY HENRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Now that President Barack Obama has opened the door to drilling for oil and gas off Georgia, state Republicans are showing some willingness to back the proposal following a bitter debate over health care.

Obama's decision this week potentially opens a large section of the Atlantic coast from to Delaware to central Florida that was previously off-limits to energy firms. While it allows for studies of Georgia's sea floor, any leasing of the rights to oil or gas found beneath it would not come until at least 2012, if at all.

Before the president announced his decision, a Senate environmental committee approved a resolution in February calling on the federal government to open all the East Coast — including Georgia — to oil and gas exploration. It was the first time in six years the measure survived a committee vote. The issue is one of the few supported by both Obama and some Georgia Republicans.

"We have to take that first step," said state Rep. Timothy Bearden, R-Villa Rica, who is sponsoring a similar measure in the House.

"We don't know exactly what we have out there, but if there's any chance of natural gas or petroleum, that could bring in a lot of jobs to the state."

The resolutions are symbolic since the areas under study by the Obama administration are in federally controlled waters. Representatives for House Speaker David Ralston and Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, who presides over the Senate, said they could not immediately comment on the resolution.

Republican Gov. Sonny Perdue has supported offshore drilling since then-President George W. Bush moved to loosen restrictions in 2008.

"With record gas prices straining the budgets of many Georgia families, we cannot afford to take any option off the table," Perdue said at the time, a stance the governor's spokesman said has not changed.

Despite the support among politicians, environmental groups remain dead set against the plan, fearing it will encourage the use of more fossil fuels blamed for global warming, could cause accidental oil spills at sea and promote industrial growth along the environmentally sensitive coastline.

James Holland of Darien, Ga., a former crab fisherman who now serves at the Altamaha Riverkeeper, is a staunch proponent of protecting Georgia's 385,000 acres of salt marsh — about a third of the total on the East Coast. He said oil drilling off Georgia would put salt marshes — essentially nurseries for shrimp, crabs, oysters and other species — at great risk.

"Crude oil spills travel for miles and miles," Holland said. "If we had a spill and that stuff got up in our saltmarshes, it would create devastation on the coast of Georgia."

Even though the resolutions are not binding, Richard Cobb, executive director of the Georgia Petroleum Council, said their passage could help pressure the state's Congressional delegation into supporting drilling.

The council is part of the American Petroleum Institute, a Washington-based energy industry group that lobbies for major drillers such as Exxon Mobil, BP America Inc. and ConocoPhillips.

Lawmakers have become more interested in drilling royalties as they struggle with a budget deficit.

"This year there was more of an interest, and it was primarily budget-related," Cobb said.

The rare note of harmony between Obama and several Georgia Republicans comes after deep strains over the president's health care legislation. Recently, 31 Republican lawmakers introduced a resolution to impeach the state's Democratic attorney general because he refused to file a lawsuit to block Obama's health care reform bill.

Still, significant hurdles remain before drilling could begin.

For example, no one is certain exactly what is below Georgia's seabed.

The U.S. Department of the Interior estimated there could be more than \$4 billion worth of fossil fuels in the south Atlantic waters off Georgia, South Carolina and northern Florida. But those figures are based on 25-year-old research.

At least five firms told the U.S. government they were interested in exploring regional waters, according to a 2009 federal report. The firms were not named.

Leasing rights were sold in regional waters from 1978 to 1983, before the president and Congress put a halt to the practice. Six exploratory wells were drilled, but no discoveries were made.

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Title: "FIU College of Law wins \$22 million damage award for victims of Liberian torture"

Moderator: Troy Elder, Associate Clinical Professor College of Law



Time & Location: Tuesday, April 6th
12:30pm - 1:30pm
GC 150
Lunch and refreshments provided.

presented by **The New York Times**





Honors College use art to connect with Sweetwater

ARTS , page 1

"[The project planning] is exciting because we are really organizing this event from scratch, which gives us some leeway to be creative and do it as we see it," said Houry, whose class is responsible for the event.

"However, it is also scary because again, we are organizing it from scratch, which means everything has to be done from zero and we sometimes have to make

decisions about aspects for which the Honors College and my class do not necessarily have control over."

While there haven't been many students getting involved in the project, according to volunteer coordinator and honors freshman Vanessa Ostby, the honors students plan on continuing the project in the hope of expanding it throughout the coming years.

"Sometimes people pretend that there's a wall

between FIU and Sweetwater," said sophomore Tatiana Martinez Pandiani, the performance coordinator majoring in theater. "But there's a long-term project to incorporate Sweetwater as a 'college town' and the first step in doing that is to open up to the community."

For more information, contact Professor Cecile Houry at choury@fiu.edu or 305-348-4100

Peer opinion major part of rating site usefulness

RATE, page 2

on," said freshman Oriana Alvarez.

The Kaplan survey also found that the average ranking of the reliability of *ratemyprofessors.com* was 5.8 out of 10.

"I think Rate My Professors gives you a taste of the course but you shouldn't rely on it so much," said biology major Christopher Chin.

The majority of the students surveyed by Kaplan used rating sites to select courses.

"We conduct research with students and schools every year so we do plan on continuing looking into these trends," Olson said.

Rate My Professors recently posted a list of

the top 25 university professors rated on their site, three of them from FIU: Dan Bentley and Kenneth Claus from the English department, and Kathleen Watson from the communications department.

"I have a set of goals and objectives that my students need to reach and if they do, they get an A," Bentley said.

"If students feel motivated and excited about what they do, they'll do it well," Claus said.

All three felt that their love for teaching contributed to the effectiveness of the class.

"You have to love what you teach," Watson said.



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RADIATE FM

Student appreciation day marked by barbecue, performance

SABRENA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

It was a day full of entertainment, free food and giveaways as the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus showed students their appreciation.

SGC-BBC hosted a "Barbecue on the Bay" outside of Panther Square on April 1 in honor of Student Appreciation Day.

"We wanted to let the students know that we've heard their concerns and that we are working for them," said Kielia Samuels, SGC-BBC elections coordinator.

The event was also held as a final wrap up of the SGA intern program.

"The SGA internship program is a year-long unpaid leadership program that teaches students the inner-workings of SGA and prepares them for future office positions. It's also a good way to get students involved in campus activities," Samuels said.

This was the first time the interns held a barbecue on the bay and they

were in charge of putting the event together.

"The interns planned the barbecue," Samuels said. "This was their final project and they got to get hands-on experience with the process of planning an event."

The cookout was held from 12 to 3 p.m. and the menu consisted of hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue chicken, corn on the cob, baked beans and cole slaw.

The first 50 students also received a cup of Ben and Jerry's ice cream. The flavors were strawberry cheesecake and chocolate fudge brownie.

"We were expecting a turnout of about 100 students, but we actually exceeded that amount. We had about 250 students show up," said Isabella Lubin, SGA intern coordinator.

In addition to free food there was also live entertainment. Pro Club, a local hip-hop duo, performed songs for the crowd.

"I really enjoyed the barbecue. The atmosphere was nice and the food was good," said Lorianne Hopkins, junior English major.



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

A generous crowd of students line up to receive their food during the Student Appreciation Barbecue held on April 1 on the patio of the Wolfe Center.

Justice: council did not participate in talks

CONSTITUTION, page 1

which Dil says proves the lack of involvement from BBC.

"This shows that it was basically all by MMC. Our judiciary had nothing to do with it," she said. "I do not think that anyone has a say at BBC, it is always MMC's word first. We cannot even run our own SGC; it shows that there should be one council."

According to SGC-MMC Chief Justice Luis Robayo, SGC-BBC had several opportunities to be involved.

"Every step of the way we included BBC, but SGC-BBC chose their own level of involvement and they chose to do nothing," he said.

Robayo also adds that he e-mailed and contacted SGC-BBC Chief Justice Georgia Bedeau and former Speaker of the Senate Nickolay Chikishev several times, but both members, however, rarely responded, were unavailable to meet or did not meet deadline for assignments.

"I urged them to become involved and extended my hand to them," he said.

Bedeau declined repeated attempts by Student Media for comment on the matter.

Additionally, Robayo said that in response to one of his many e-mails, Chikishev responded, "We have a culture of not responding."

However, Robayo says he had a great working relationship with Neistein, who rectified any concerns SGC-BBC may have.

The amended SGA constitution, according to Robayo, was available to both MMC and BBC councils since January 2010.

Yet Robert Tassy, SGC-BBC Journalism and Mass Communication senator says he has yet to see the changes.

"I have never seen the new constitution," he said.

According to Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor and Campus Life and Orientation Office assistant director, the UWC may propose constitutional amendments after each SGC senate secures a majority vote approval as stated in SGA's current constitution, Article VII, Section 4, subsection B.

"The senate saw it, but no one voted on it," Zapata said.

However, the senate is scheduled to meet on April 5 to discuss the revisions, said Christin "Cici" Battle, SGC-BBC vice president and current president-elect.

To inform students about the changes, Battle plans to provide students with large displays with SGA constitution changes around campus.

"We want to bring the new constitution to the students instead of having them look for it," Battle said.

The amended constitution, according to Robayo, was supposed to be voted by the students during the student government elections, but BBC did not meet in time to pass the changes and missed deadline.

"The ballots are made by a third party company and we missed our deadline to include votes for the referendum," Robayo said. "I was very disappointed that it was not voted by the students on Monday."

According to Battle, students may have the possibility to vote on the new constitution during special elections, but no official date has been set yet.

"This is just the first draft; it is not official yet. On Monday, the senate will be able to offer suggestions and changes," Battle said. "These are just changes, nothing is concrete. [SGA's constitution] must be approved by the students."

Queer the Census gains support from campus

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

Stonewall2BBC, the student organization that supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender student community, is promoting a national movement to make the question of sexual orientation appear on the census.

"Queer the Census" is a campaign started by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, with the goal of including an LGBT-inclusive question on the U.S. Census.

According to the campaign's Web site, including members of the LGBT will "paint a rich picture of communities all over the country" in addition to gain public funding for LGBT health services and hate crime prevention, among other things.

To support the movement, one may either sign the petition online or attach a pink sticker from the organization to their completed 2010 Census with one of the following choices checked off: lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or a straight ally.

Although the Census includes a question that asks the relationship status of "Person 1" to "Person 2," it does not include an option that explicitly identifies same-sex couples. The Census only provides "Husband/Wife" or "Unmarried Couple" options, as well as not offering a question to disclose a person's sexual identity.

According to Daniel Anzueto, a senior psychology major and Stonewall2BBC president, this affects 90 percent of counties that have LGBT communities.

"In order for more government support to go to the LGBT community, they need to know that there is a number of us out there," Anzueto said.

Vicky Owles, associate director of Campus Life and Orientation, agrees on the importance of being counted, including those in the LGBT.

"By leaving out the LGBT community, they are leaving out a population that not only identify themselves by race or by gender, but by sexual orientation as well," Owles said.

Anzueto says he found out about Queer the Census during his internship at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force a year and a half ago. He then registered to receive further information and took action.

"I received my own sticker," Anzueto said. "I also printed two more and gave one to my partner and to my roommate as well. We then sent ours out and began looking into [Queer the Census] more."

Stonewall2BBC has a part that is "activist-oriented" while still catering to the students, Owles said.

"With anything in terms of importance to the local, state, or national level, Stonewall has really tried to invest themselves on some level," she said.

According to Anzueto, Stonewall made efforts to spread the word on this campaign.

"We sent a message to all members of [Stonewall2BBC's] Facebook page," Anzueto said. "Also, those that come to our events may leave their e-mail addresses and we have sent them information."

The Census stickers are available in the office of Campus Life and Orientation, located in Room 141 of the Wolfe University Center and will be available at their Day of Silence event being held on April 8 in Panther Square.

Even with all of the promotion, Anzueto admits that student reaction has

Anzuetto: We still have time

CENSUS, page 4

been slow.

“People have not noticed it as much on campus, because we haven’t really pushed it. We just gave the stickers to our members,” he said. “But I know nationally this campaign is really being recognized. There are still people who have yet to turn in their Census, so it still leaves a large window. We still have time to get the stickers out.”

The results of this campaign won’t be known until the U.S. Census reappears in 2020, determining whether or not Queer the Census continues its movement.

“I don’t know if [Queer the Census] will officially be recognized, but it is very much a notice to the government to let them know we need to be counted,” Anzuetto said.

For more information, visit QueertheCensus.org.

BARBECUE ON THE BAY



SEAN ZAMUDIO/THE BEACON



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

LEFT: Christin “Cici” Battle (left), SGC-BBC vice president, shares a pleasant conversation with Richard Munoz (right), a sophomore studying psychology at the Student Appreciation Barbecue held on April 1.

RIGHT: Even as the barbecue drew to a close, crowds of students were still in line to receive their share of hot dogs, hamburgers, and barbecued chicken.



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“The Big Chill in Washington: Prospects for Climate Change and Energy Legislation”

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The New York Times

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2 - 3 PM

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John M. Broder became a political correspondent for the Washington bureau of The New York Times in August 2006. Previously Mr. Broder served as the Los Angeles bureau chief since the summer of 2002; the Washington editor since December 2000; and the White House correspondent since October 1997. He served as the newspaper’s BizDay Washington reporter covering regulatory and legal issues, including tobacco negotiations, anti-trust enforcement, consumer and financial regulation when he joined The Times in 1996. After covering the 2008 presidential campaign, Broder took over coverage of energy and environment in Washington. He is responsible for following domestic legislative issues, advances in energy technology and international climate change negotiations.

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The New York Times

THE BIG 'O'

Film explores quest to patent 'orgasm drug'

RONALD CALERO
Staff Writer

Orgasm, Inc., a documentary about the pharmaceutical industry's quest to help women achieve orgasm, was screened at the Wolfsonian-FIU in collaboration with FIU's Women's Studies Center and the World Erotic Art Museum as part of their "Advertising for Health" series.

Among the attendees were several University faculty members, friends of the museum and the filmmaker herself, Liz Canner, who introduced us to her latest piece of work.

As the documentary rolled on, it was clear that she felt the idea that using drugs to help women enjoy themselves in intimacy is not a good one. Through a series of very interesting, informative and often humorous interviews,

Canner's film explores both sides of what had become a race for pharmaceutical companies to come up with a Food and Drug Administration-approved drug to treat what they call "Female Sexual Dysfunction".

Similar to what would otherwise be known as frigidity, FSD describes a woman's difficulty to get sexually aroused and/or to achieve an orgasm during sex.

On one side, you have representatives of these drug companies claiming that they can cure this "disease" with their product and, on the other, you have several experts on sexuality arguing that this "disease" cannot possibly be treated simply with the use of a drug.

The film explains that, unlike men, there are several more issues that come into play in order for women to get aroused.



COURTESY OF ORGASM, INC.

For men, arousal comes as easily as the flipping of a switch. While women may have a similar switch of some sort, the procedure to turn it on is infinitely more complicated.

And, while the detractors in *Orgasm, Inc.* admit that physiological issues certainly have something to do with it, they say that the idea of a pill taking care of this made-up "disease" is ridiculous.

The movie culminates with

Procter and Gamble's hearing at the FDA advisory committee to put their latest creation, Intrinsic, up for approval.

Intrinsic is a patch that women would apply on their skin, much like a nicotine patch to quit smoking, which releases testosterone instead.

Why testosterone? Because apparently, testosterone should work in a female in the same manner it works on a male.

Ultimately, the FDA committee rejected Procter and Gamble's request, mostly due to the fact that the drug did not achieve any solid results and its side effects were still not fully known.

However, Intrinsic did get approved in Europe, and it is now available online for women worldwide who think there may be something wrong with them.

After the film, attendees and

ORGASM, page 7

Museum aims to enrich Miami



PHOTO COURTESY OF CORBISIMAGES.COM

Thomas Baker's "Pastoral" is part of the Bass Museum's permanent collection.

Art pieces include works by renowned Renaissance artists

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

In 1964, art collectors John and Johanna Bass donated their old masters collection to the city of Miami Beach hoping to enrich the culture of the city.

The agreement was established when the city of Miami Beach accepted the gift of the Bass art collection on the condition it would openly exhibit the collections and

make them available to the public.

The Bass Museum of Art's mission is to collect and exhibit the finest art the world has to offer from the past through the present to further enrich Miami Beach's vibrant culture.

The Bass art collection consists of more than 500 European works from the 15th to the early 20th century, made up of more than 200 paintings and a collection of textiles and sculpture. The collection provides a solid foundation to develop a major institution with one of the most comprehensive collections of European art in the Southeast.

The collection of paintings from the 19th and early 20th century are mostly from Austria, John Bass' birth country, and is

BASS, page 7

MODERN CLASSICS

Timeless film provides framework for advent of American film noir

I write a column called Modern Classics. My rule of thumb is pretty simple: review films from the last 30 years which deserve credit and warrant discussion. But now and again, you get a film that you just cannot get out of your mind.

This is the case for John Huston's *The Maltese Falcon*, the gold standard for the detective film and what is universally regarded as the birth of the film noir movement of the 1940s and 1950s.

The film follows Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart) of Spade & Archer, a small private eye firm in San Francisco. Spade fiddles with his rolling paper, preparing his next cigarette as his next "customer," Miss Wonderley (Mary Astor), concocts a story as she asks for a man named Floyd Thursby to be tailed.

Spade's partner, Miles, takes the job and is shot at point blank range while on assignment.

Spade doesn't bat an eye or shed any tears. They've worked together for years, sure, but he knows the score: Miles' wife, Iva Archer, didn't like him and she has a \$10,000 life insurance policy coming her way. Behind

closed doors the next morning, Iva is in the arms of Spade, asking Sam if he killed Miles in order to stay with her.

The police have a different theory: Sam killed Thursby – who was shot the night Miles died – in revenge. Spade has no choice but to run the killers out.

Spade has no leads until Wonderley contacts him again. Except this time, her name is LeBlanc until she settles on Brigid O'Shaunessey. She drags him into the search for a mysterious black sculpture of a bird, worth of untold value.

He's beaten and drugged as a cast of characters search for the "black bird."

Keeping track of the plot is about as challenging as staying on a mechanical bull, but it's not about the plot, but more about the atmosphere as Spade tries to manage to keep his head as the body count slowly rises.

He beats Joel Cairo (Peter Lorre, of *Fitz Lang's M*) after he holds him at gun point, searching his offices for the bird.

"When you're slapped, you'll take it and like it," Spade tells him.

MODERN, page 8

COLUMNIST



DAVID BARRIOS

Egyptian gallery to open at Bass Museum

BASS, page 6

larger than any other museum's collection of Austrian art.

Notable artists from the collection include Jacob Jordaens, Peter Paul Rubens, Ferdinand Bol, Giovanni Barbagelata, as well as an altarpiece by Italian Renaissance masters, Boticelli and Ghirlandaio. The famous altarpiece from the Permanent Collection is one of a few Boticelli pieces on public view in the U.S.

The collection also contains sculptures, works on paper, decorative objects and textile selections. Most notable from the textiles collection is the 16th century Flemish tapestry "The Tournament" once owned by King Henry VIII.

There's also the 19th century tapestry, "The Hunt," by French designer Louis-Marie Baader. The tapestry fills two walls on the museum's Grand Ramp, the room designed to provide adequate space for hanging and proper viewing of tapestry pieces.

Current exhibits include "Where Do We Go From Here? Selections from La Colección Jumex" and "Mika Tajima."

"Colección Jumex" positions art as a cultural index pairing inter-generational artists and artists from or based in Mexico with international counterparts.

The exhibition has four sections: art about art, art and urban anthropology, text in art and a series of artist profiles. The exhibit ties together a narrative between



COURTESY OF THE BASS MUSEUM

"The Tournament," created by 16th century Brussels, is believed to have originally been in the collection of Henry VIII.

works that explore art in a global sense.

Mika Tajima connects Modernist geometric abstraction to the shape of our environment. Tajima's "The Double" constructs a phantom performance space, referencing sources ranging from Herman Miller's conflicted office furniture system from the late 1960s to the 1970 cult film *Performance*.

Freestanding panels that merge aspects of sculpture, painting and graphic design to form a wall of pattern and reflection divide the exhibition space.

Later this month, the Bass will reveal its newest gallery, The Egyptian Gallery.

The gallery offers viewers a unique opportunity to learn about one of the world's oldest civilizations. The gallery has an Egyptian sarcophagus and mummy.

The project was conceived when the Bass's Executive Director and Chief Curator Silvia Karman Cubiñá identified a polychrome wood inner sarcophagus and mummy from the 25th or 26th dynasty (808-518 B.C.) in the museum's collection.

"With the opening of The Egyptian Gallery, the Bass Museum will appeal to a wide audience of art, culture, archeology and history lovers; children and adults alike. It will serve as the place in Miami to experience a long history of object-making and what these objects say about humankind from 700 B.C. through the present," Cubiñá said.

The museum is in the original Miami Beach Public Library and Art Center. Russell Pancoast, grandson of Miami Beach pioneer John A. Collins, designed the landmark building in 1930. It's Miami's first public building with an exhibition space for the fine arts.

The building preserves the formal gardens of Collins Park, which had been Collins' gift to the city in the 1920s. The building is now the centerpiece of the city's historic district and was placed on the National Register in 1978.

The Bass Museum is located on 2121 Park Ave. in Miami Beach. Admission is \$6 for students with ID. Visit www.bassmuseum.org for more information.

P&G's patch legal in Europe

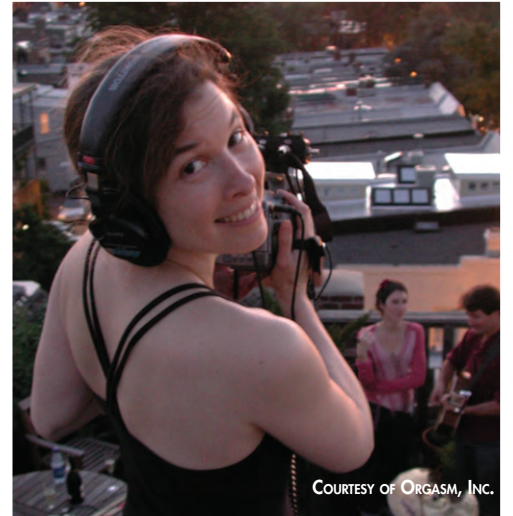
ORGASM, page 6

After the film, attendees and staff moved to a reception that had been prepared for them at the nearby World Erotic Art Museum.

It was then that I had the opportunity to ask Liz Canner a few questions about her documentary. Ms. Canner, a filmmaking graduate from Brown, had a lot to say regarding how this project came to be and her motivations behind it.

Despite the fact that the women represented in the film are all well into their 40s and beyond, Canner was careful to note that those women did not grow up in an environment where FSD existed.

It is the women of our generation, and the generations that will follow, who need to be aware of these issues and who should educate themselves about these drugs, as well as their own bodies and sexuality, so as to avoid falling



COURTESY OF ORGASM, INC.

Liz Canner, Director of Orgasm, Inc.

victim to pharmaceutical companies who would sell them the cure to a fictional disease.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

BBC - WUC 155 at 10:00am

MMC - GC West Ballrooms at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Student Health Fee.

The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2010 term.

Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, APRIL 5

LGBTQA PRIDE WEEK



LGBT Aids film discussion.

WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Everglades Lounge

Milk & Cookie film discussion

WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Panther Hall Lounge

SIGMA IOTA RHO LECTURE SERIES

Lecturer Dr. John Clark will speak about "Peacekeeping and U.S. Security Challenges in Africa."

WHEN: 2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 314

FIU SMOKE-FREE TO-BACCO-FREE EVENT

Lunch, exposition, and panel.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Between GL and Central Fountain

SPRING CONCERT - SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, INC



Contemporary music composers.

WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Maurice Gusman Concert Hall, 1314 Miller Dr.

TANGO CLASSES

WHEN: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$10

WHERE: GC Pit

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

LGBTQA PRIDE WEEK



Same Sex Commitment Ceremony

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Central Fountain

Pride Celebration Reception

WHEN: 5 - 9 p.m.

WHERE: GC Panther Suite

LECTURE - JOHN BRODER



"The Big Chill in Washington: Prospect for Climate Change and Energy Legislation," lecture by New York Times political correspondent.

WHEN: 2 - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: WUC 100

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

"FIU College of Law wins \$22 million damage award for victims of Liberian torture."

WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 150

SPRING LUNCHEON



Enjoy an three-course meal presented by the hospitality students.

WHEN: 11:45 a.m.

HOW MUCH: \$18 (mention \$6 coupon to receive discount)

WHERE: HM Building at BBC, Room 129.

For reservations, call Patricia Barbary at (305) 919-4505

FIU SOFTBALL Vs. FGCU.

WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Softball Fields

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

UP-ROAR CONCERT



Featuring Pitbull and Kid Cudi.

WHEN: Doors open at 7 p.m.

WHERE: U.S. Century Bank Arena

SIGMA IOTA RHO LECTURE SERIES

Lecturer Dr. Rahnier; open lecture topic on genocide.

WHEN: 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 314

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR & EXPO

Enjoy the last few days of the fair - it's only here until Sunday.

WHEN: 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$9

WHERE: 10901 SW 24th St.

LGBTQA PRIDE WEEK Voice of Honors: Don't Ask, Don't Tell Panel

WHEN: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC 140

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Local, organic food.

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Central Fountain between GL and PC.

AESTHETICS & VALUES 2010



Enjoy the exhibit created by the Honors College students.

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Frost Art Museum

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

TAK COFFEE HOUR



Religious studies majors; free coffee, food, and conversation.

WHEN: 3:30 - 5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GL 220

MAYDAY! AT THE VAGABOND



Miami New Times' best hip-hop artist winner performs.

WHEN: 10 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5

WHERE: The Vagabond 30 NE 14th St.

LGBTQA PRIDE WEEK

Day of Silence

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: GC Pit and BBC Wolfe Center

Day of Silence Reception

WHEN: 12 - 2 p.m.

WHERE: GC 243

Drag Ball Dinner and Show

WHEN: 8 - 10 p.m.

WHERE: Everglades Lounge, Fifth floor

JOHN BAKER LECTURE

Discussing Osorio v. Dole case.

WHEN: 12 - 1:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: Rafeaz Diaz-Balart Hall, Room 2008

GENOCIDE LECTURE

"reACT II: Social Activism and the Legacy of the Holocaust"

WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: NHS 110

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

Conference promotes benefits of natural birth, importance of midwives

MARIA MURRIEL
Staff Writer

Celebrating womanhood – its perks and its trials and tribulations – the Women's Studies Student Association hosted a conference to inform the public on the healthy practice of natural birth.

The conference, titled "Birth Rights: What you Should Know About Natural Birth," looked to educate women, and people in general, about birth and pregnancy.

Four panelists, all experts on midwifery and well-woman care, congregated for two hours in Graham Center's conference room to explain the dangerous nature of surgical births and the benefits and history of midwives.

Presenting statistical data, among other study results, Sheila Simms Watson, a midwife at Spirit of Life Midwifery, made a case against doctored births. She stated that in countries like Sweden, the Netherlands and New Zealand, maternal and infant mortality rates are incredibly low, and this is directly related to the fact that in those countries, midwives are the

primary caregivers to pregnant women.

In Miami-Dade County alone, the rate of births by Cesarean section (C-section) is alarmingly high: from 50 to 70 percent. Our maternal mortality rates are about 34 percent higher than other industrialized nations, yet we claim to have the highest quality in healthcare.

According to Watson, sending pregnant women to a hospital for prenatal care and birth is like treating them for a disease, and pregnancy is far from an illness. Therefore, healthy pregnant women should not be sent to an obstetrician-gynecologist for treatment; there is nothing they need treatment for.

An obstetrician is a specialist trained to deal with problems and complications, so until these arise, and only if they do so, pregnant women need not seek medical care. Because birth is a natural process and women are equipped with all the necessary organs and functions to see it through, all they need is



friendly supervision, emotional and psychosocial support, and guidance. These are things midwives provide.

Justine Clegg, former chair of Midwifery at Miami-Dade College, talked a bit about the historical role of midwives and the shift from midwifery to medical care. Up until the industrialization of the United States, doctors and modern medicine were regarded as highly

dangerous and untrustworthy.

Then, at some point, the medical industry began to promote itself as the safer way to treatments and advertised the ability of drugs to take away birthing pains. As explained by Clegg, the pain associated with birth cannot truly be taken away, because after the drugs wear off, there will either be surgical pain in the case of a C-section, or soreness.

An activist in well-woman care since the 1970s, Clegg has fought to bring credibility back to midwives and make America a primarily natural birthing country. Though her combined efforts with other activists have brought them to national accreditation exams for midwives and licensing schools, support is scarce.

In Florida, there are only three midwifery schools and few birth centers. Recently, with the passing of the controversial healthcare bill, midwifery was introduced into Medicaid coverage. However, the number of women willing to engage in midwife care is small.

Although midwives work with pregnancy and birth in the home, at birth centers and even at hospitals, most women are unaware of the process and its benefits.

In an effort to propagate knowledge and inform women about safe choices, the midwife coalition at the conference portrayed their trade in what they believe is its essence.

Clegg spoke of midwifery, the oldest profession in the world, as an act of civil disobedience. She clarified that the responsibility of a midwife is to befriend and protect a woman, shielding her from authorities that may not have her best interest in mind.

Midwifery is a high-touch, low-tech process aimed at keeping a woman, her child and her family happy and healthy during pregnancy and after birth.

Looking at birth from a political point of view, and speaking from the heart of a 70s hippie child, Clegg drew from biblical excerpts and facts about wild animal behavior to demonstrate the importance of midwives in a community.

"A midwife," she said, "is essential to survival."

The Maltese Falcon still relevant today, revolutionizes film industry



MODERN, page 6

Casper Gutman (Sidney Greenstreet in his first film), another character on the search for the bird, is willing to turn in his bodyguard (Eisha Cook, Jr.) to the police as a fall guy for the series of murders that occur.

Gutman tells his bodyguard with regret: "I couldn't be fonder of you if you were my own son. But, well, if you lose a son, it's possible to get another. There's only one Maltese Falcon."

These are hard, cold people in the middle of the Great Depression. The film, based on Dashiell Hammett's 1929 novel, is almost a note-for-note recreation of the source novel.

These are people driven by basic human motives: revenge and greed. Certainly, the film may emphasize atmosphere over the sheer logic of the plot. But that's here now there.

Spade is certainly no saint. But he has a conscience. He's hardened and unsentimental but with a strange sense of moral obligation.

"When a man's partner is killed, he's supposed to do something about it. It doesn't make any difference what you

thought of him. He was your partner and you're supposed to do something about it. And it happens we're in the detective business," Spade explains.

The film is nothing more or less than a turning point in American film history. It solidified the career of Bogart, who had been relegated merely to the tough guy B-list films and miscast before given the lead in this film. Spade is not a likeable character yet the only reason we root for him is simple: Bogart's ability to suggest broken dreams and a bruised romantic under his cynical shell.

Tough and bleak, it shows an America about to emerge from the depression, wholly changed. A new spirit would emerge from it.

I sat down again the other night in a fit of insomnia and rewatched the film. Perhaps the greatest superlative I can give this film is that it is still relevant and has not dated at all. Whereas a film like Casablanca can suffer from being propaganda, *The Maltese Falcon* separates itself from its time and place.

It is timeless.

Modern Classics is a bi-weekly movie column reviewing modern day classic films. Look for it every other Monday.



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BEACON | Editorial

Problems with SGC-BBC elections hasten need for unification of two councils

To say that the election of the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council leaders was a mess would be an understatement. But more so than anything, the events of election week have exposed a worrisome level of incompetence at every level of SGC-BBC, and a blatant ignorance of the rules.

The transgressions which occurred are a perfect example of why the current two-council system is inefficient, problematic and a waste of student resources.

Last week, *The Beacon* reported that SGC-BBC Senate Speaker Nickolay Chikishev attempted to commit voter fraud by requesting some students' Panther IDs along with their Panthermail usernames.

Chikishev claimed in an email that by giving him their information, students would be submitting an absentee ballot. Chikishev did not give instructions on submitting a preferred candidate, nor did he specify which candidate he would vote for with the information.

He did note that as next year's SGC-BBC treasurer, he would work closely with then-Presidential candidate Zahra Arbabi aski and vice presidential candidate Tanha Dil. Both Arbabi aski and Dil have denied any connection with the matter.

SGA does not have any sort of absentee ballot program, and asking students for their information to vote for them is not only a violation of both U.S. law and the SGA constitution, but it's a violation of common sense; even more so from a student leader who should have understood the full implications of his actions.

Luckily, the issue was addressed before voting commenced. Chikishev has since resigned.

But Chikishev's wasn't the only incident of the week or even the most serious.

Late Monday night, vice presidential candidate Dil was disqualified in an unrelated incident, when it was discovered that as a current SGC-BBC justice, she was running in violation of the SGA constitution, which forbids any current justice from holding office.

Dil's disqualification calls into the question the legitimacy of the race for SGC-BBC vice president. While *The Beacon* endorsed the race's ultimate winner, Denise Halpin, we cannot say that hers is a genuine victory.

Because Dil was disqualified after a full day of voting had already occurred, Halpin's opponent, Wendy Tercier, can justifiably claim that those who voted for Dil on Monday would have instead voted for her.

In the name of fairness, the vice presidential results should be invalidated and a run-off between the two candidates should occur.

As an SGC justice, it is Dil's responsibility to know the SGA constitution well enough to interpret it. In this case, she was clearly unaware of clause which forbade her eligibility. According to the constitution, Dil is responsible for determining her own eligibility.

Yet while Dil reserves most of the fault in the matter, her candidacy was indeed certified by the SGC-BBC adviser Rafael Zapata and SGC-BBC Elections Commissioner Kiela Samuels, both of whom also failed to identify her as ineligible and allowed her to run in the first place.

"I need to understand why the clause is even there," said Dil, in an interview with Student Media.

The clause in question is a necessary and important one, as it discourages the politicizing of the nonpartisan position of SGA justice by deterring decisions based on political agendas and/or aspirations.

These incidents are but a few examples of a dysfunctional arm of SGA in dire need of reform; they are also indicative of the issues associated with a lack of central leadership.

The remedy is a strong and unified SGA, a case for which will be made in the second entry to this series.

This editorial is the first in a two-part series, the second of which will be published April 7.

CABRALITICS

GOP favors "fuzzy handcuffs" of intolerance

The Republican Party may not like gays in the military or gay marriage, but there is one thing they do enjoy: hot girl on girl action.

The Republican National Committee is dealing with a scandal at the moment, and like all great scandals, this one involves improper use of funds and half naked lesbians.

RNC Michael Steele had to answer some tough questions after it was revealed that someone in the "family values" party had spent nearly \$2,000 of RNC money at an S & M club featuring topless women performing simulated lesbian sex acts. The RNC has promised to investigate the matter, and fervently denies Chairman Steele personally visited the "bondage themed" club.

Some may take this revelation as an opportunity to mock Republican Party hypocrisy on gay and lesbian issues, considering many prominent Republicans repeated claims that they

and their party stand for all that is Christian and pious. However, upon closer examination, there is absolutely nothing hypocritical about the RNC spending money at a strip club featuring lesbians engaging in bondage and "simulated sex." It fits perfectly into the Republican Party's vision for America.

There are a number of valid explanations for this expenditure, and all of them reinforce Republican views on morality. The GOP platform includes no statement of opposition to bondage. In fact, with its emphasis on placing restraints on the parties involved, bondage is a great metaphor for how the Republican Party feels homosexuals should be treated legally: tied up by laws against their right to marry, and handcuffed by restrictions on their right to adopt or serve in the military.

Moreover, S & M also fits perfectly into their political world view. It is understandable that Republicans would enjoy

watching lesbian S & M, since they believe that those lesbians have been very, very bad girls. If anything, one would be hard pressed to find a form of entertainment more in keeping with Republican Party philosophy.

This scandal is merely a manifestation of Republican Party values, and it perfectly represents a key difference between the Republican Party and the Democratic Party on issues relating to gays and lesbians. While Democrats generally feel that homosexuals should be treated equally, Republicans feel that they are best kept behind closed doors, preferably tied up for their amusement.

The RNC has vowed to punish those responsible for this expenditure, and a low level staffer has already been fired. However, the GOP has shown no signs of changing its position on equal rights for gays. They still have problems with homosexuals doing "dirty" things like defending our country, but engaging in simulated sexual acts on stage is apparently fine.

Someday, perhaps, gays and

lesbians will be able to break the fuzzy handcuffs of intolerance. For now, Republican leaders in both houses of Congress have indicated that they won't back a repeal of "Don't ask don't tell."

Several GOP officials refused to condemn "Tea Party" protesters (members of a voting bloc they enthusiastically court) who yelled anti-gay slurs at a gay Democratic Congressman. One Republican congressman even implied Democrats were "asking for it."

Despite its dabbling with Lesbian S & M, the Republican Party is still not into ending discrimination based on sexual orientation, and is more than willing to court the votes of those who call Democrats the "F-word". Some judgmental Democrats may call that perverse, even immoral.

However, those people need to learn to accept the Republicans for who they are: They'd just rather see lesbians naked and tied up than in a military uniform. Some people are just into that sort of thing. Who are we to judge?

COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL

SGC-MMC

Student Green Energy Fund deserves place at FIU

During the course of a recent meeting, SGC senators were presented with a proposal to establish a Student Green Energy Fund (SGEF), an opportunity to build upon FIU's Green Initiative. SGC Senate recently voted to allow the matter to be decided upon by the student body.

SGEF is a means through which students in the State University System will be able to establish an "energy fund" at their respective universities. The current SGEF in the Florida Legislature will be decided upon in the later 2010 regular session.

The executive summary details that if SGEF were to be established, students would be charged no more than a dollar per credit hour enrolled during each semester. This equates to approximately seven million of dollars annually across the State University System of Florida.

Such a money would be

allocated by a committee with the university president and the SGC president of each university appointing half of the members toward projects, which will help reducing energy costs on campuses across the state.

The summary maintains that energy costs are one of a university's greatest expenditure, second only to administrative costs. Of the 11 universities within the state system, students from six universities have elected to institute this fund.

Of all student fees paid per semester, SGEF would be the least expensive, if instituted. The summary retains that, based on a calculation of one dollar per credit hour and a population of approximately 40,000 students, FIU could generate an excess of \$900,000.

The study notes that as a means through which inclusiveness is encouraged, the student body would vote by

referendum every three years on SGEF; whether to maintain it, remove it, decrease the amount students pay, etc.

Many students might contend that while SGEF is a plausible, promising fund, the fact still remains that its addition would raise the educational cost here at FIU. The summary presented in the student Senate meeting details additional factors to convince skeptical students.

A caveat to SGEF is the prospect of job creation, as the fund would enable the employment of individuals to facilitate "energy efficient and renewable projects funded by the proposal." Most importantly, SGEF would assist many universities in effectively appropriating budgets during economically volatile times.

By saving money on utilities, SGEF would make more funding available to resume, improve and expand upon academic ventures by universities statewide.

As recently outlined by

SGC-MMC Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez, "student interest in Green initiatives continues to grow, and everyday, easier ways of being environmentally friendly are discovered."

The most prominent example involves the increase of recycling bins at the Modesto Madique Campus and the Engineering Center. Recently, FIU was recognized as the top campus in Miami Dade County for its pursuit of a "greener, more efficient campus."

The referendum, soon to be presented to students at FIU for establishing a Student Green Energy Fund, will build upon SGC-MMC's commitment to the green initiatives, re-affirm FIU's place in the local community as a "green campus."

Importantly, it will give the individuals who began the call for environmentally friendly solutions on campus an additional opportunity to contribute to the continuation of this process.

COMMENTARY



DEAN WILLIAMS

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

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.

OPINIONPIECE

540

The total amount of calories Kentucky Fried Chicken's newest sandwich, "The Doubledown," contains.

QUOTATIONATION

"This one-of-a-kind sandwich features two thick and juicy boneless white meat chicken filets, two pieces of bacon, two melted slices of Monterey Jack and pepper jack cheese and Colonel's Sauce. This product is so meaty, there's no room for a bun!"

KFC Official Website on their new "Doubledown" sandwich.

BASEBALL: UL 7, FIU 3; FIU 8, UL 1

CAJUN SPLIT

FIU splits first two games vs. Louisiana

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

Pitching was the focus in the weekend series between the Golden Panthers (17-10, 4-4 SBC) and the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns (14-13, 4-7 SBC) as the teams split the first two games.

LOUISIANA 7, FIU 3

R.J. Fondon was the star for the Golden Panthers, but his performance on the mound was not enough to secure the victory for FIU.

The Golden Panthers faltered late in the game as the Ragin' Cajuns rallied to earn the victory in the middle game of the weekend Sun Belt series.

"He did a real nice job for us, just an outstanding job," head coach Turtle Thomas said of Fondon's outing. "For him I wish the outcome would have been different."

Louisiana struck first as Matt Goulas crushed the first pitch he saw from Fondon over the left field wall for a solo shot.

Fondon would recover, not allowing a single hit until the fourth inning and threw five consecutive innings of scoreless baseball after the first inning.

But the Golden Panther offense was having problems figuring out Louisiana starter T.J. Geith. The Louisiana southpaw stifled the FIU offense until the bottom of the sixth, when the



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

R.J. Fondon [above] pitched 7.1 innings for the Golden Panthers on April 3 in his first weekend start of the season, but earned a no-decision as FIU faded late.

Golden Panthers were able to take the lead on an RBI single by Raiko Alfonso that drove in two baserunners.

The lead was short lived as R.J. Fondon made his second mistake of the game, surrendering a two-out solo home run to Lance Marvel to tie the game 2-2 in the seventh inning.

The Golden Panthers regained the lead in the bottom half of the

inning but ran into more trouble in the eighth inning. Fondon was pulled from the game in the inning, leaving two runners on base for Eric Berkowitz and a costly error by Raiko Alfonso with two outs gave the Cajuns the lead.

Fondon ended the night pitching 7.1 innings, giving five four runs on five hits. The sophomore lefthander also had six

strikeouts and walked none in his first weekend start.

Louisiana would score five runs in the last two innings as they secured the victory to even up the series.

FIU 8, LOUISIANA 1

Louisiana Ragin' Cajun

BASEBALL, page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Report: Thomas eyes Depaul

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

During the regular season, FIU men's basketball coach Isiah Thomas was reportedly a candidate to join the Los Angeles Clippers front office, a report that Thomas deflected.



THOMAS

With the season now complete, the buzz around Thomas' potential departure from FIU has begun to heat up again.

This time, in the form of a Chicago Tribune report stating that Thomas has interest in the coaching job at Depaul University.

According to the Tribune's website on April 2., a source said that Thomas believes that he could steer FIU's current recruits to Depaul and is intrigued by the possibility of recruiting prospects in the Chicago area.

Later in the evening, a separate story on the website quoted Thomas as saying that he would like to make a difference in the troublesome city he grew up in and feels that it would be in Depaul's best interest to keep some of the local deep pool of talent home.

"DePaul got on the map when all of the Chicago kids said they were going to DePaul," Thomas told the Tribune on April 1. "And I don't think they have been on the map since."

Thomas did not directly say that he wants to leave FIU, however, and Depaul has not offered him the position.

Thomas, a native of Chicago, had Depaul among his finalists as a high school standout, but chose to attend Indiana, where he went on to win a national championship in 1981.

The FIU athletic department declined to comment.

SOFTBALL: UNT 10, FIU 2; UNT 5, FIU 1; FIU 10, UNT 9

FIU avoids sweep with walk-off run in the seventh



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Freshman Kayla Burri [above] led the Golden Panthers' offense with a 4-for-4 effort at the plate in FIU's 10-9 win over North Texas on April 3.

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team got their fight back.

After dropping two consecutive contests to North Texas on April 2, the Golden Panthers rallied back in game three to avoid the sweep on April 3.

UNT 10, FIU 2

Kasey Barrett didn't seem herself. The FIU pitcher, who had a 1.38 earned run average coming into the game, gave up 10 hits and six earned runs in 5.1 innings.

Meanwhile, the Golden Panther offense offered very little run support against a power hitting team, North Texas. After being tied 1-1 after one

inning, FIU went scoreless through the next four. Their second run didn't come until the bottom of the sixth. By that time, the Mean Green was up by five runs before adding three more in the final inning.

FIU senior Paige Cassady pitched the final 1.2 innings and gave up three earned runs and two walks.

"I think a lot of the pitching staff's struggles can be some credit given to North Texas, which is a very good offense," FIU head coach Beth McClendon said.

UNT 5, FIU 1

Game two didn't get much better. The Mean Green offense got going early and FIU failed to match it.

In the first inning an FIU error led to UNT's first run of the game. The Mean Green increased their advantage to 2-0 after Mariza Martinez singled to drive in Megan Rupp. Before FIU was even able to score, the deficit got worse. UNT racked up two runners on base off of FIU errors in the top of the fourth before the Mean Green scored their third run on a wild pitch. Not long after, Martinez plastered a two-run shot out of the park to put UNT up 5-0.

"I think they're just really young and they have moments where they lose focus," McClendon said. "But we knew all year long that they would be up and down because they are young. We were expecting

that."

FIU showed a spark in the bottom of the fourth as freshman Brie Rojas led off with a single to centerfield before sophomore Jenny Welch also singled to put runners at the corners for FIU. Gniadek then reached first base on a UNT error, allowing Rojas to reach home for the lone run. The fifth, sixth, and seventh innings were scoreless for both teams.

In the circle, Jennifer Gniadek pitched a complete game posting six strikeouts and one earned run.

UNT 9, FIU 10

In game three, FIU was back to character.

The Golden Panthers

SOFTBALL, page 11

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Golden Panthers add five new players

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

The FIU women's soccer team won the 2009 regular season Sun Belt Conference Championship for the first time since 2000, only to lose in the first round of the SBC tournament afterward.

On March 31, however, the disappointment from last season's conclusion began to be replaced with optimism with the signatures of five prospects to the Golden Panthers 2010 recruiting class.

FIU signed Paige Covington, Nicole DiPerna, Kim Lopez, Crystal McNamara, and Chelsea Leiva to reinforce a team looking to replace the contributions of departed seniors like Marina Pappas and Amy Jackson.

The team made a seven win improvement from 2008 last season, and FIU's reigning SBC coach of the year, Thomas Chestnutt, will look to guide the team further.

"I think it's a pretty good group in terms of what their capable of doing skill and condition wise," Chestnutt said. "They are all very competitive players and they offer us some

versatility. This is really going to help us."

Every player in the group plays midfield or forward, with three of them playing multiple positions.

McNamara is a gifted passer from Indian River State College who brings vision to the field.

Leiva, a prolific goal scorer, kicked 29 goals in her last season at Royal Palm Beach high. The 5-foot-8 forward should help the attack of a Golden Panthers team that finished sixth in the SBC in goals last season.

Lopez, DiPerna and Covington offer position versatility at the forward and midfielder spots.

Lopez was a four-year leading scorer at John Carroll, where she also participated on the track and field team. DiPerna is considered to have good enough speed to play different positions and as a captain at Melbourne High, she led her team to the No. 1 ranking in the ESPN Rise's Fab 50 poll. Covington, the daughter of former NFL player John Covington, should bring depth to the Golden Panthers.

"They are all technically good players and

for the most part are offensive minded. We wanted to add some more of that to our team," Chestnutt said. "We wanted some players that could play different positions. We are adding speed to our team, some toughness as well and overall competitive spirit."

Covington is the only incoming prospect from outside of South Florida. Chestnutt grabbed the 5-foot-3 wing out of Carmel, Indiana.

"We recruit all over the country and we go all over the world as well," Chestnutt said.

Chestnutt said that there was room to add a few more players before next season, and that the goalie and defender positions could be addressed then.

This class, however, will bring more firepower to the Golden Panthers, who could complement All Conference goalie Kaitlyn Savage with more scoring. FIU was 4th in the conference in shutouts last season.

The Golden Panthers are set to return 10 starters to the team next season.

SIGNING UP

Paige Covington

- Aggressive and talented offensive player from Indiana.

Nicole DiPerna

- DiPerna was an All-Central Florida player at Melbourne

Kim Lopez

- Talented offensive player who could play forward or midfield

Crystal McNamara

- McNamara brings good size (5-foot-7) to the field

Chelsea Leiva

- Pure scorer led club team in scoring for six seasons

Barrett, pitching staff showcase struggles against UNT

SOFTBALL, page 10

took a 3-2 advantage after freshman Jessie Alfonso recorded a three-run homer in the bottom of the first. FIU then found themselves down by four runs heading into the bottom of the third inning after UNT combined for seven runs in the second and third

innings, but it didn't matter.

The FIU defense left the Mean Green scoreless over the final four innings before FIU freshman Brie Rojas scored a winning run in the bottom of the seventh for the walk-off win. Sophomore Jackie Tetlow hit a single, which resulted in an UNT error that enabled Rojas to score.

"I was confident that either I was going to get it done or someone else was going to in the next inning," Tetlow said. "I knew that we were going to come back and fight today."

Freshman Kayla Burri led the FIU offense with a 4-for-4 effort while Alfonso notched a team-high four RBI. In the

circle, Barrett struggled again for FIU with five earned runs in 1.2 innings. Gniadek took over and had five strikeouts along with five earned runs.

"I thought [Gniadek] came in and did awesome," Barrett said. "It's great to know that whenever I struggle she can go in there and do her job."

FIU is 22-13 overall and 5-4 in the Sun Belt conference while North Texas now sits at 15-12 and 5-4 in the SBC.

"I think they got their fight back a little bit," McClendon said. "They're starting to get their confidence back and they're starting to realize that they're good."

FIU offense and pitching come together in victory

BASEBALL, page 10

ace Zach Osborne came into FIU pitching like one of the best pitchers in the Sun Belt conference.

Unfortunately for the Cajuns, Scott Rembisz was able to match his counterpart's performance with a stellar outing of his own and helped the Golden Panthers secure the victory in the series opener on April 2.

"[Rembisz] is a very good competitor," head coach Turtle Thomas said. "When he's on his game, he's tough to beat. He beat a very good club."

Osborn and Rembisz matched each other in each of the first three innings as the game moved along at a quick pace.

Rembisz blinked first, giving a run in the top of the fourth after committing an error that put Alex Fusilier on third base, setting up a sacrifice fly by Jordan Poirrier to drive him in.

FIU struck back against Osborne in the bottom half of the inning,

scoring three runs thanks to a series of singles to take the lead.

Both pitchers held their ground until the seventh inning, when Osborne gave up a home run to Jabari Henry. The solo shot was the seventh home run of the season for the freshman leftfielder, a team-high.

The Golden Panthers chased Osborne out of the game in the eighth inning and were able to add more cushion to their lead with a four run inning powered by another string of singles and timely hitting.

"We've been able to focus on Osborne all week," Tim Jobe said after going 3-for-4 with two RBI. "We were fired up and ready to go."

Rembisz pitched seven innings and allowed one unearned run while striking out five Ragin' Cajun hitters with no walks.

"I just tried to go out and throw the same way I try and throw every night," said Rembisz. "It's always good to get the win on Friday night."



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Yoandy Barroso [above] slides in safely in loss to Louisiana on April 3. The Golden Panther offense stranded 16 baserunners in loss to the Ragin' Cajuns.



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