

BALLOTS CAST



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON



TOMAS LOPEZ-MEUS/THE BEACON

LEFT: Helena Ramirez and Nick Autiello president and vice-president elects of SGC-MMC were thrown into the GC Fountain. RIGHT: Cristin "Cici" Battle SGC-BBC president elect celebrates in Panther Square.

SGC-BBC ELECTIONS

Dil dropped from VP contest

MAUREN NINO
Asst. News Director

With only a day remaining in Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus elections, Tanha Dil, vice president candidate, was advised via e-mail about her candidacy removal from the ballot.

"I was notified in an e-mail at 6 p.m. on Monday. I did not get a fair chance to have a full campaign," said Dil, current SGC-BBC justice. "I do not even know how many votes I received; they will not tell me."

Dil's disqualification was due to SGA's Constitution Article VI, Section 3, subsection E, which states, "No justice may hold or be candidate for any SGC office until the passage of at least one full semester after he/she has ceased to serve on the student Judiciary."

"This clause is handicapping the justices and I want to remove it," said Dil. "I need to understand why the clause is even there."

According to Dil, she spoke with various members of the administration, who responded abruptly, "It is what it is," an answer Dil was not content with.

"It is unfortunate but nothing can be done; it is written in the constitution," said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC adviser and assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation. "A justice should know the constitution, but it does not take away from the fact that we should all know."

According to Zapata, the SGC-BBC constitution was revised within the last year, including the addition of the new clause responsible for Dil's removal from the ballot.

"It is not a matter of whether this exemption is fair or not, it is in the constitution which was voted by the students and the members vowed to follow," he said.

However, Dil said she was unaware of the clause due to the lack of communication and involvement within the

Ramirez, Battle elected SGC presidents

JASMYN ELLIOTT
PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Beacon Staff

After campaigning for students' votes and addressing their platform, the dust of the election settled to reveal the future leaders of Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus on March 31.

Helena Ramirez, Cristin "Cici" Battle, Nick Autiello and Denise Halpin are president and vice president elects of SGC-MMC and SGC-BBC, respectively.

After thanking students for participating in this year's elections, Larry Lunsford, associate vice president of Student Affairs, announced the winners of the senatorial and uncontested presidential races at MMC.

Before yielding the floor to Lunsford, Jose Toscano, SGC-MMC adviser, said elections are a way for students to communicate their needs.

"We can make a better University with your voices," Toscano said.

Ramirez, the current speaker of the SGC-MMC senate, received 1,285 votes. She said in

an interview with Student Media after the results were announced that she's ready to get to work.

"We're going to be putting out cabinet applications early next week," Ramirez said.

Autiello, the current chief of staff under current SGC-MMC president Anthony Rionda, said in an e-mail interview with Student Media that he and Ramirez have already started preparing. He also said he will start working with the senate starting next week.

"I will be coordinating with the senate to have a successful transition in the legislative branch and to prepare the senate for leadership elections," Autiello said.

Ramirez said despite there still being "room for improvement," this year's elections went well overall.

"Considering this is the first year we used Votenet and so many races being uncontested, I think it was successful," Ramirez said.

Ramirez said both the experience and the announcement humbled her. Autiello said he's extremely excited about the results.

"I couldn't be any prouder to represent our Golden Panther community and I want to thank everyone who helped me along the way," Auti-

ello said.

The BBC winners were announced in Panther Square.

With 331 votes, Battle won the support of her peers to serve as next year's SGC-BBC president.

"I am so grateful," said Battle. "I would like to thank the students, the administration – and my mama. I'm so excited!"

Denise Halpin, pre-events coordinator for Relay for Life, was given the honor of serving as SGC-BBC vice president with 253 votes.

"It was an incredible process," said Halpin. "I am looking forward to all of the students really coming together for a more unified FIU and I am looking forward to having the students come out and really enjoy the campus. I would like to thank all the students for their support."

Katherine Capeluto, a junior in hospitality and a member of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, was one of many members present to support Halpin, her sister.

"This is an incredible accomplishment," said Capeluto. "This is going to be a great experience

ELECTIONS, page 3

SGA WINNERS

SGC-MMC

President
Helena Ramirez

Cabral, Donovan Dawson,
Daniel Gonzalez

Vice President
Nick Autiello

Engineering Senators
William Jose Velez, Tara Jafamadar,
Business Senator, Kevin Gonzalez,
Hector Mujica

Lower Division Senators
Ranshan Gomez, Macarena
Jimenez, Amanda Jimenez, Patrick
O'Keefe

Education Senator
Adam do Amaral

Senators at-large
Daniela Gonzalez, Cristina Loreto,
Janice Rubio

Honors Senator
Joanne Myler

Arts & Sciences Senators
Moses Aluicio, Jesus Borrero, Chris

Housing Senator
—

SGC-BBC

President
Christin "Cici" Battle

Graduate Senator
Dametrous Vincent

Vice President
Denise Halpin

Lower Division Senator
Lea Meir

**School of Mass
Communications and
Journalism**
Anaisabel Garcia, Robert Tassy,
Oehleo Higgs

Upper Division Senators
Victoria Aguila, Emmanuel
Osemota

Honors College
Andrea Cruz

School of Business
Mawou Francois

DIL, page 3

NEWS FLASH

FIU

FIU ranks 42 out of 50 schools for most attractive student body

Pop culture Web site *PopCrunch.com* has revealed its list for the top 50 “Hottest Student Bodies” in the nation.

FIU made its first appearance on the yearly list, snagging the 42nd spot on the list. Florida State University took the No. 1 spot. University of Florida ranked third, and University of Miami ranked 25th.

LOCAL

SeaWorld trainer autopsy confirms drowning, trauma

An autopsy report released Wednesday confirmed that a SeaWorld trainer killed after a killer whale pulled her underwater died of drowning and traumatic injuries to her body.

According to CNN, Dawn Brancheau, 40, was working with a whale named Tilikum in knee-deep water at SeaWorld in Orlando on Feb. 24 when the animal grabbed her by the ponytail and pulled her underwater in front of shocked onlookers at the park’s Shamu Stadium.

NATIONAL

Obama administration reveals plans for off-shore drilling

President Obama unveiled plans Wednesday to open large swaths of U.S. coastal waters in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico to oil and natural gas drilling.

According to CNN, the administration plan would include lifting a 20-year ban on drilling off the Virginia coastline, while putting the clamps on sites such as southwest Alaska’s Bristol Bay.

WORLD

Suicide bombs detonate in Russia two days after deadly attack

Suicide bombers killed at least 12 people in Russia’s North Caucasus on Wednesday, two days after deadly attacks in Moscow that authorities linked to insurgents from the region.

According to Reuters, the coordinated attacks in the town of Kizlyar, in the Dagestan region close to its border with Chechnya, were the latest outbreaks in a surge of violence in the Caucasus a decade after the Kremlin’s second of two wars against Chechen separatists.

–Compiled by Gabriel Arrarás

UNIVERSITY-WIDE COUNCIL

Council discusses constitution

Salaries, BBC single ticket system proposed

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Senior Staff Writer

The University-wide Council approved changes to the new constitution that will impact not only the incoming administrations but also next year’s elections.

At the March 27 meeting, the UWC approved changes regarding candidate qualifications for Student Government Association presidents and vice presidents, Biscayne Bay Campus having a single ticket for president and vice president and salaries of specific SGC positions.

Prior to the change, student government presidents must have held a position within SGA for at least two semesters or 154 consecutive days. The vice president does not have to hold a position within student government to be qualified.

Christin “Cici” Battle, SGC-BBC vice president, suggested the qualifications for SGA president and vice president be increased to four semesters for president and two semesters for vice presidents.

She said every year people have decided to run for vice president without having held any position.

“You have people who pop up and want to be president or vice president; I don’t think that’s cool,” Battle said.

Battle said this would force

SGA to go after freshmen and sophomores and in turn create a continual cycle of leadership.

Anthony Rionda, SGC-Modesto Maidique Campus president, agreed with Battle on requirements for president, however, he disagreed on vice presidential requirements. He felt that decision would limit outside ideas.

Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC adviser, agreed with Rionda saying that if the amount of time someone had to be in SGA increased, it would decrease the amount of candidates.

“I wouldn’t want to be so elitist that the only [SGA president and vice presidents] come from inside SGA,” Zapata said.

Jose Toscano, SGC-MMC adviser said some sort of qualifications should be placed for vice president, otherwise it would boil down to a popularity contest.

“If some celebrity was a student at FIU and running for vice president of SGA, then

everyone is going to vote for that person,” Toscano said.

Zapata also said there have been “great vice presidents” who have not been in SGA, and awful vice presidents who have.

“Being a member of SGA does not determine whether you’re going to be a good president or vice president,” Zapata said.

As the debate wore on the requirements for vice president became tied to the fate of the individual ticket system at BBC. The representatives from both campuses agreed that a president would not pick a running mate who wasn’t qualified.

Like the requirements, the single ticket system was also a topic where Battle and Zapata butted heads.

Zapata said if a ticket was in place now, no one running for president or vice president would have wanted to be affiliated with the other person.

“I don’t think we at this campus will be able to sustain having a ticket,” Zapata said.

Battle said Zapata isn’t a student, and as a student she feels BBC should have a ticket.

Sholom Neistein, SGC-

BBC president, was on the side of not having a ticket.

“Students approached me and [Zapata] saying they don’t think we should have a ticket,” Neistein said. “It doesn’t matter if it was three or 100 students, students voiced their disapproval.”

Rionda argued in favor of a single ticket by saying he would prefer it if a president and vice president believed in each other enough to run and be judged together.

With qualifications determined and a single ticket established, all that was left was deciding the salaries of these positions. The SGC president receives a salary of up to \$13,000 and every other SGC position received varying percentages of these numbers.

It was decided at the meeting that SGC vice president would receive 75 percent, chief of staff, speaker of the senate and comptroller would receive up to 40 percent of the president’s salary.

The constitution was not on the ballot during general elections. However, Toscano and Zapata will put it up for a special referendum at a later time that has yet to be determined.

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WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Wine, sushi bar great spots to break dry spell

Let me start by saying that I am not an alcoholic.

Now that I've cleared that up, I must say that I really needed a drink this week. In fact, I have been craving one since spring break began because, somehow, I seemed to be the only person of age who didn't even have a drink on St. Patrick's Day.

I know, it's pathetic. So this weekend, I decided I would fix my little problem and go to Libation for the Love of Wine, located in the Weston Town Center, 1724 Main St., Weston.

Libation is one of those swanky wine bars where you put money on a pre-paid card and sample wines from all over the world with a staff that actually knows what they are talking about to guide you.

The price per glass can range from \$4 to \$10, based on the bottle. To get a real bargain, go on a Thursday because the money you put on your card will double.

The prettiest bottle I saw was ironically made by Ed Hardy. That's right: for those who can't get enough of the tacky clothing, here is a bottle of wine to go with your

COLUMNIST



PARADISE AFSHAR

egotistic personalities. I would tell you how it tasted, but I couldn't bring myself to give that man my hard-earned money.

When I went to Libation, I was with my friend Anry; we had about two glasses of wine with this delicious cheese and fruit platter that featured brie, cheddar, blue cheese, gouda, manchego and crackers with grapes for \$11.

This place may be pricey, but if you want to sit down and have a relaxing drink, it's totally worth it.

I have to warn you, and I wish someone told me, for some reason this places attracts a 35 plus crowd. So, be on a look out for creeps.

Of course, I have this little fat kid in me who needs to eat more than crackers and cheese to be happy when I am drinking. Wanting to be healthy, I headed over to RA Sushi Bar Restaurant, 201 SW 145th Terrace, Pembroke Pines. Since this place is a bit expensive if you eat alone, go with a group and make it worth your while.

Also, I make sure eat outside on the sofas. Nothing personal, but I just hate the conventional

bar stools when I know there is a more comfy alternative.

I usually have the tuna salad for \$9 and order a tuna roll for \$4 and a veggie roll for \$5.25 along with edamame pods that cost \$4.

So why am I sending you to this overpriced place? Two words: happy hour!

This magical time of day happens between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The hot sake is only \$1, domestic beer for \$3 and certain mixed drinks for \$5. I love places that I can enjoy a beer without breaking the bank.

My friend, Bia, and I spent at least two hours going through the menu and kept ordering more and more along the way.

Just to be clear, I didn't have more than two drinks at either of these places. I don't recommend getting hammered anywhere in Miami. Drinking for fun is fine, but getting so trashed you can't move? Well, if you're doing that, I have a bottle of Ed Hardy wine you should try...

"Weekends with Paradise" runs every other Friday. Our writers pay for all food and experiences and are not compensated in exchange for positive reviews.



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

Vice president elect Denise Halpin celebrates with her fellow students on March 31 in Panther Square after receiving news of their victory.

SGC-BBC announces new senators

ELECTIONS, page 1

for [Halpin]. She is a go-getter; nothing can stop her."

Zahra Arbabi aski, lower division senator, stayed positive despite her loss to Battle.

"I know that SGA is in good hands," said Arbabi aski. "I think this is going to be one of the strongest senates ever."

The results for MMC did not include the race for Housing senator.

Toscano said the elections commission is looking into a complaint that was filed. He said by Friday they should make a decision.

Not on the ballot were the Environmental Action fee and the new constitution. Students will vote on these two items as special referendum. A specific date has not been set.

This election is the first year the University used Votenet for SGA elections. However, the numbers include both online

votes and paper ballots.

Toscano said the service runs and well and it's accessible, although he acknowledged students at BBC had problems voting.

He said the same problem the University had with Acceleration, the company the University used last year for voting, arose again. The problem is when students have 50 percent of their classes on both campuses, they had trouble signing in to Votenet.

Toscano said the list of students they receive from the registrar's office prioritizes campus, then major. So in the future SGA will tailor their elections policy according to what the registrar has to eventually move away from paper ballots.

There was a higher portion of online voters for the lower-division, at-large and Arts & Sciences senatorial races at MMC, according to Toscano.

Additional reporting by Gabriel Arraras.

Dil petitioning for justice

DIL, page 1

council.

"I would have been informed if there was any action taken this year on the constitution. Things were so messed up; we were losing our justices one by one and no one gave us anything to rewrite since before December 2009. We never saw [SGA's constitution] again this semester," she said. "[The justices] quit and dropped what they were doing, which was frustrating," she added.

Zapata also noted that it was the candidate's responsibility to know their status for candidacy as stated in the Elections Code.

In Section I, subsection E in SGA's Elections Code it states, "It shall be the the responsibility of the candidate to determine that all information regarding his/her eligibility to run for or hold office is correct prior to qualifying

for candidacy."

However, Dil feels it was the responsibility of the elections commissioner and adviser to know.

"If this [clause] was so important, why did our advisers not know?" she said. "Administration is trying to evade re-elections because it will cause more havoc."

Appreciative toward her peers' support and concern about students votes, Dil decided to take action and began a petition encouraging re-elections at BBC. According to Dil, her goal

is to receive 600 signatures from students. Students who are interested in supporting her cause can locate the petition on Dil's Facebook page or at the Campus Life office, located in Room 141 of the Wolfe University Center. She has also recruited several students to circulate this petition around the campus.

"I am fighting for my voice," Dil said. "They are making it out as if nothing happened, but they shut down students' votes and voices."

Senator Chikishev resigns

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

Hopefully the 2010-2011 Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council will not have to see one of its own resign due to unconstitutional activity.

After being accused of soliciting student information with the intent of casting absentee ballots in the 2010-2011 SGC-BBC Student Government Elections, Nikolay Chikishev resigned from his position as Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council lower division senator on March 31.

During the SGC-BBC elections Chikishev, who also served as the speaker of the senate, sent an email to several students within one of his classes encouraging them to forward their University e-mail addresses and Panther ID numbers in order to submit their votes.

Chikishev's actions were not taken lightly by the SGA administration. According to

SGC-BBC Advisor and Campus Life and Orientation Assistant Director Rafael Zapata the council was set to meet on March 31 and April 1 to discuss the possibility of impeachment.

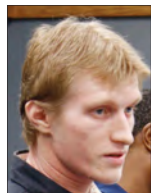
"It was in his best interests to resign," said Zapata about Chikishev.

According to Zapata there is no procedure for absentee ballot voting, which is why Chikishev's actions warranted disciplinary action.

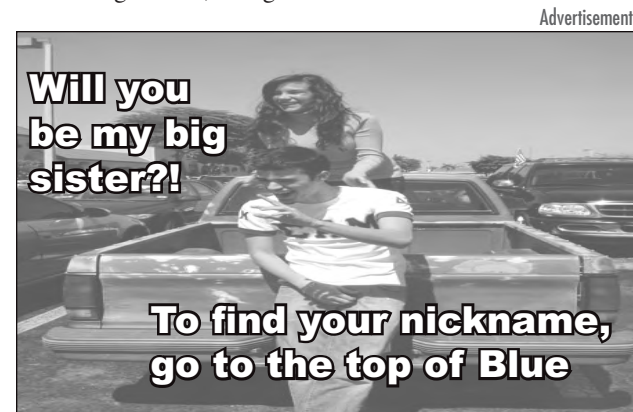
Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator, believes that Chikishev "made the right choice."

Despite the scandal surrounding his resignation, SGC-BBC Honors College Senator Andrea Cruz believes that Chikishev's previous efforts should still be remembered.

"The whole situation is regrettable, however, we do have to take into account the work that Nick (Chikishev) did. He was always a very responsible individual and did what he needed to do. With this situation, he recognizes he made a mistake and I think resignation was the best decision," she said.



CHIKISHEV



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Health care reform still rough around the edges

"The most sweeping social legislation enacted in decades," is how *The New York Times* framed the signing of House Resolution (HR) 3595, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010.

The recent passing of the health care overhaul bill is indeed a historical event, as this bill, coupled with entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicaid, constitute a movement in a socialist direction.

A 219-212 vote on HR 4872, the Health Care and Education Affordability Act of 2010, enabled PPACA, a series of changes to HCEAA, to become law.

An update on *The New York Times'* Web site on March 22 detailed that the legislation would require the purchase of health insurance, add 16 million individuals to Medicaid, require businesses to offer coverage to employees, and states to establish a health insurance supermarket. These elements, the article maintains, would only assist in providing coverage to 58 percent of uninsured Americans by 2019.

Attorney generals from many states, including Florida, oppose the reform, saying that requiring people to buy health insurance is an unprecedented intrusion by federal government into people's lives, according to

The New York Times.

HCEAA and PPACA reshape the relationship between the federal government and the states, leaving states to figure out the financial semantics of insuring its residents.

A study conducted by the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the federal government will spend \$938 billion subsidizing health insurance while legislation will only save \$129 billion over 10 years.

A provision to tax the wealthy is part of the reform, but such a tax erodes capitalistic, meritocratic ideals and is an unreliable long term solution.

While many liberals maintain the reform will reduce the deficit, conservatives assert that it will cost more than it will save. For the latter, such a reform will take eight years for the federal government to again cooperate a \$938 billion in subsidies, not taking into account the chance that it may fail.

The addition of subsidies and 16 million Americans to Medicaid will do nothing to reduce the deficit. Looking at how such a reform was enacted, it would be better to call it a health insurance reform rather than health care reform. A health care reform would tackle the primary offender, which is cost.

COMMENTARY



DEAN WILLIAMS

Costa Rican rainforest trip promotes global citizenry

LARRY LUNSFORD
Special to The Beacon

How would I, someone eligible for senior citizen discount at most places, survive a week-long excursion with 10 college students working in a Costa Rican rain forest?

This question was posed to me about six months ago when I was invited to join a group of students and an administrator on an Alternative Break trip to Costa Rica.

Every year I hear the wonderful stories when students and staff return from AB trips throughout the United States and world. I am impressed with the dedicated young college students who give up a week at the beach or sleeping in late at home to travel to distant places to conduct various service projects.

In 2002, former CBS anchorman, Dan Rather, who spoke at Biscayne Bay Campus in early March, was so impressed with FIU students who went on an AB trip to Ground Zero to help feed workers after the 9/11 tragedy that he did a 15-minute segment on his news show, "48 Hours."

Last fall, I decided I would go on the AB trip to Costa Rica for spring break, but it was under the condition

that I attend as a participant and not as an administrator.

I wanted the full experience first-hand, and not as an observer. I learned that the group going to Costa Rica - site leaders Robert Tassy and Ayman Elyasin, and participants Andres Agudelo, Kevin Ceballos, Anny Cerda, Frank Leon Tori Lichtenberg, Andrea Parker, Natalie Rivas and administrator Cristy Calderon-Coto, have a nickname for themselves, CRABs (Costa Rica Alternative Break).

Calderon-Coto is a native of Costa Rica and her husband, Julio Coto, was already in Costa Rica and joined us upon arrival in San Jose. Prior to the trip, the CRABs met for months, conducted fund raisers to pay for the trip, and attended sessions with members of the other 18 Spring AB site groups.

This was the third AB trip to Costa Rica and the second to this particular site, the Volcano Tenorio National Park.

Hard work is not the only aspect of AB. I learned that it is important that participants sightsee in the area, meet the residents, and eat in the establishments to gain a better appreciation of the country and environment. It

also doesn't hurt to mix fun with the hard work, particularly for a group of young college students.

Our trip included an afternoon at the San Luis Canopy where we went zip lining, followed by relaxing in natural hot springs at the Baldi Hot Springs. We visited the Hospital de las Plumas, where injured animals are housed, and toured the National Theater and National Museum.

The Volcano Tenorio National Park is part of the Guanacaste Province in an area called *Bijagua*. It is densely forested and features the Rio Celeste and its magnificent waterfall whose currents flow in various directions.

The light blue waters originate from the volcano and are caused by the emanation of sulfur and the precipitation of calcium carbonates. It is amazingly beautiful and unbelievable that something so inviting is also quite harmful.

The first day we arrived, we undertook a four-hour hike through the rainforest. It was a challenging ordeal that prepared us for the work days ahead.

Along the way, our guide took us down a newly-carved, muddy path along a steep mountainside which led

to the waterfall. We held onto roots, trees and rocks to keep from falling, although some fell anyway. It served as a means to teach us that this path needed to be improved for visitors to safely traverse.

We learned the next day that our AB project would be to build steps on this slippery path.

Building the steps was a daunting task. Gravel and rocks had to be carried first into the rain forest by wheel barrel until they could no longer get through the rugged terrain. The rocks and gravel were then transferred to sacks, which were slung over shoulders and/or hand-carried to the next destination.

Heavy river rocks were also gathered and taken to the trail. We were accompanied by forest rangers and local *Bijaguans* who assisted in the week's work.

They directed the work as the rocks were ground into place and sticks pound into the ground to bar the rocks from moving. The work was tedious, difficult and long. Only a small area was covered after hours of diligent and dedicated work. Yet, once it was completed, it was a work of art!

Each FIU participant pulled out

cameras and documented the mark that they would leave permanently in a place far from Miami.

The seven international AB sites served as a prelude to FIU's Quality Enhancement Plan in furthering its "Global Learning for Global Citizenship" theme.

Costa Rica and other trip locations definitely enable FIU students to act as engaged global citizens and meet the expectation of developing global awareness, a global perspective, and an attitude of global engagement.

Each member of the FIU delegation left Costa Rica exhausted, but with a keen sense of accomplishment and a deeper appreciation of the environment, which they hopefully will transfer to others through continued good deeds throughout their lives in their respective communities.

I have worked with college and university students for 36 years, and I have never been more proud of a group of students after witnessing their hard work and sacrifices for a week. I humbly admit that I am proud to be a lifetime CRAB!

Larry Lunsford is the associate vice president of Student Affairs at FIU and the University ombudsman.

LANDSLIDE



It is now the responsibility of GOP Senate members to press for a true health care reform that will preserve the ideals of capitalism. There should be controls on the cost of health care and prescription drugs, mandate for health insurance providers to offer price points to all Americans relative to their income, physical fitness and pre-existing conditions, and most importantly, the selling of Medicaid to assist the federal government in controlling the deficit.

For those who hail this sweeping social legislation as a success, recall that the state

legislature recently tabled a bill requiring all students within the State University System to purchase insurance. HCEAA and PPACA do nothing to control health care costs and the cost of health insurance is still unregulated.

If the state of Florida and/or Senate Republicans are not successful in repealing this legislation, it is indisputable that students and parents will be burdened with increased premiums, \$3,000-\$5,000 insurance policies, or worse yet, regulations to government run insurance for enrollment in FIU the next academic year.

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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

Sex rehab facilities. Attracting such illustrious patients as Tiger Woods and David Duchovney, this week's newest patient is Jesse James; the husband of Sandra Bullock who has been accused of cheating on his wife with at least three different women.

The Catholic Church. Again. Rumors of sexual molestation of minors by priests surfaced again. Last week, Pope Benedict XVI attacked Irish bishops who hid allegations of abuse. In Germany, meanwhile, record amounts of Catholics are leaving the church.

QUOTATION

"None of us alive have seen the flooding that we are experiencing now or going to experience. This is unprecedented in our state's history."

Governor Don Carcieri on devastation in Rhode Island

UPROARIOUS

This year's SPC concert to feature Pitbull, Kid Cudi

MARIA MURRIEL
Staff Writer

As finals week nears and it seems like spring break was just a bit too short, the folks at the Student Programming Council work hard to execute the big event they've been working for all year.

Uproar at the Modesto Maidique Campus is a week-long celebration of the end of the school year, as well as a breather for students swimming in term papers and presentations.

Ana Casas, public relations major and SPC vice president of external relations, explained, "It's pretty much an event to get as many students as possible to enjoy something out of their routine close to finals."

The affair is free for students, as the funding for SPC programs is covered by tuition costs. As a whole, it's comprised of a concert, a comedy show and a "large Pit event" in the Graham Center Pit early in the week.

The Pit functions serve to promote the comedy special and, more specifically, the concert, which is the highlight of Uproar week. To finish off the merriment, SPC organizes a movie night, preferred by on-campus residents.

Starting April 6, FIU Panthers will have the opportunity to participate.

Pit events include a CD-making booth in which students can record their own album and take it home with them, a photo memorabilia booth with a special Uproar magazine backdrop, and a candy bar, all free of charge.

Later that night, comedian Jo Koy, popularized by his appearances on comedy tours and cable network Comedy Central, will take the stage at

the GC Ballrooms.

On April 9, two showings of the recent film *Sherlock Holmes* will air in GC 140 for students' viewing pleasure.

In the past, SPC has brought to the University acts the caliber of Ludacris, Grammy-nominated Latin band *Locos por Juana*, *Fabulous*, *One Republic* and *Jack's Mannequin*.

Following in the tradition of booking big names, SPC managed to reel in rappers Pitbull and Kid Cudi. On April 7, at 8 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena, students will enjoy a free concert featuring these crowd favorites.

Two of the best known popular music stars of the day, these musicians represent the opinions of thousands of FIU students who answered surveys provided by SPC.

The council collects data at events year-round: students' gender, ethnicity, age, preference in genre and frequency

of attendance to FIU events, among other factors.

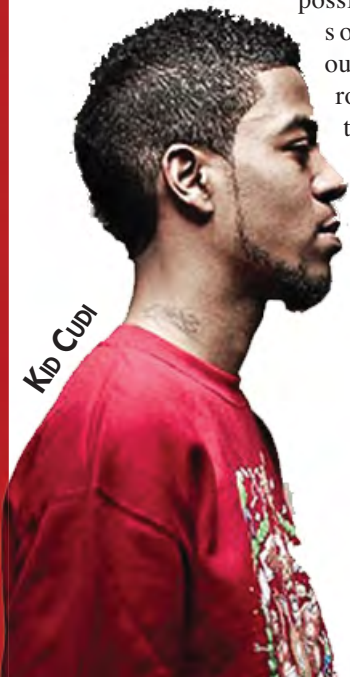
"I guess [they] worked, because we sold out within 4 days. We try to get artists that are similar, yet different, so we can attract as many people as possible," Casas said, regarding the effectiveness of the SPC surveys.

Keeping the student body's preferences and best interests in mind, SPC was not only concerned with the kind of acts present at Uproar, but also the number of students aware of the nature of the show.

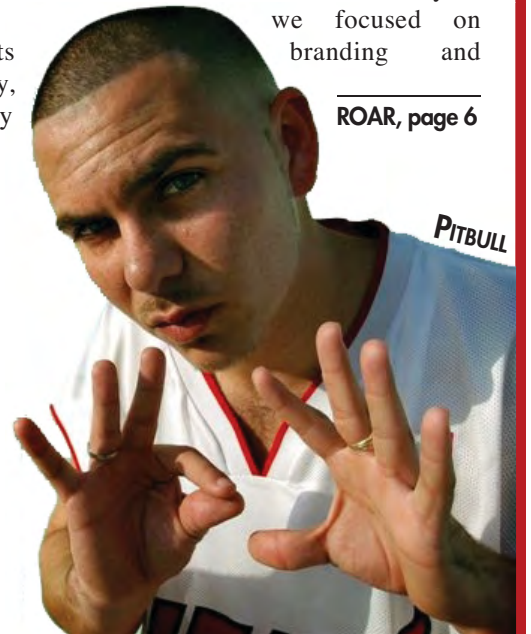
The members of SPC made it a point to stress that this hootenanny is free for FIU students because in the past years students did not attend Uproar events thinking these came at a cost.

"This year we focused on branding and

ROAR, page 6



Kid Cudi



PITBULL

UPROAR 2010 LINEUP

APRIL 6

Who: Jo Koy
When: 6 p.m.
Where: GC 2240

APRIL 7

Who: Pitbull & Kid Cudi
When: 8 p.m.
Where: U.S. Century Bank Arena

FISTFULS OF TECH!

Google needs to tighten open source platform on Android OS

Google has developed a robust and open mobile platform with Android OS, but the way things are going, they don't want you to know about it.

The search giant's approach to marketing and distributing their operating system is puzzling and will no doubt lead to a fragmented user experience, something that customers, nerds and main-streamers alike will not like.

Currently, there are enough Android devices out there to shake a stick at.

Seriously, I have attempted to shake a stick at them and failed

miserably ... the numbers were overwhelming— cell phones, smart phones and even tablets like the upcoming Dell Mini 5, and eBook readers like SpringDesign Alex.

However, where Google is going astray is in its implementation of Android in the smart phone domain.

The idea of a platform that is open is enticing even to me, a rabid iPhone loyalist that uses a laundry list of Google services.

I'd be lying if I didn't say that my cursor has hovered over the buy now button for the AT&T compatible version of

the Google Nexus One, its flagship device.

It syncs with all Google services flawlessly and gives me a more open platform for my phone, including multi-tasking — something the iPhone can't do.

But, Google is failing where Apple has succeeded: creating a single user experience.

The iPhone lives in a bubble, its hardware is built to compliment its software and vice-versa. With Android however, this is not the case.

Android's open-source nature lends the OS to be manipulated and, in some cases, improved by companies that use it such as Motorola with the crap-

tastic MOTOBLUR, and HTC's version of Android with Sense UI.

The downside of all this is that Google does not maintain these devices directly. So, for example, when Android 2.1 was released, users were at the mercy of the manufacturers, not Google, for their updates.

This fragmentation has already begun. You have devices out there ranging in power, screen size and memory and all of this needs to be taken into account when writing and designing an OS. You can't update them all, because they can't all support the update.

Google's answer to Android uniformity is the Nexus One.

But, as with the other devices, Google's strategy for getting this device in your hands is a bit odd.

When the Nexus One was released in January, there was no major marketing blitz, and the only way you could buy it was online through Google.

That meant that you couldn't swing by T-Mobile, who offers the N1 on the cheap with service, to check it out and you didn't even hear about it until you saw it pop-up on the Google homepage — all the way at the bottom.

Flurry Analytics released a 74-day sales comparison of

COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

Android's survival depends on creating a single experience for users

FISTFULS, page 5

Google's Nexus One, the Motorola Droid and the first-generation iPhone.

The Motorola Droid, backed by its massive ad campaign with Verizon Wireless, sold a whopping 1.05 million devices and the iPhone sold 1 million. The N1 sold an embarrassing 130,000 units.

To make these numbers even more appalling, keep in mind when the iPhone was first released, customers had to part with \$600 to buy one, that's \$170 more

than the unlocked N1.

Not surprisingly, Google really doesn't care about the low sales figures of its flagship device, citing the crazy number of Android devices out there.

"The Nexus One is one of a fast-growing number of Android handsets which have been brought to market through the open Android ecosystem," Google said in a written statement responding to those figures.

If Google wants to snatch away the Apple faithful, they need to close up the

open source just a bit.

Google needs to establish a set of minimum hardware requirements for an Android device, much like Microsoft has with its terribly named mobile OS, Windows Phone 7 Series.

This would go a long way to not only make it easier to roll out updates, but also in giving the user a quality experience by making sure their hardware is not underpowered.

They also need to make sure that companies like Motorola and HTC are pushing

updates to users in a timely fashion both for devices that have the pure Android experience, like the Droid, and those with altered versions, like HTC devices with Sense.

Creating a single experience for users is vital for Android to survive. If Google wants to go to war with the iPhone, they need to mobilize their troops and make sure they are all wearing the same uniform.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.

Free concerts, move night, helps students de-stress before finals

ROAR, page 5

making sure all the students knew that our events were free," Casas added. "Our funds come from tuition, so it's almost a waste not to go to our events."

Every FIU student funds SPC and its events when they pay their tuition. Therefore, it would be unfair to these students if they were unaware that they had already paid their entrance fee, deprived of an opportunity to participate due to allotted spots going to people outside the University.

For this year's Uproar, the council employed a more stringent strategy for dispensing concert tickets.

"All our funds have to be invested in students. So, for our concerts this year, for example, you only got one ticket per ID to make sure that everybody that was there was an FIU student,"

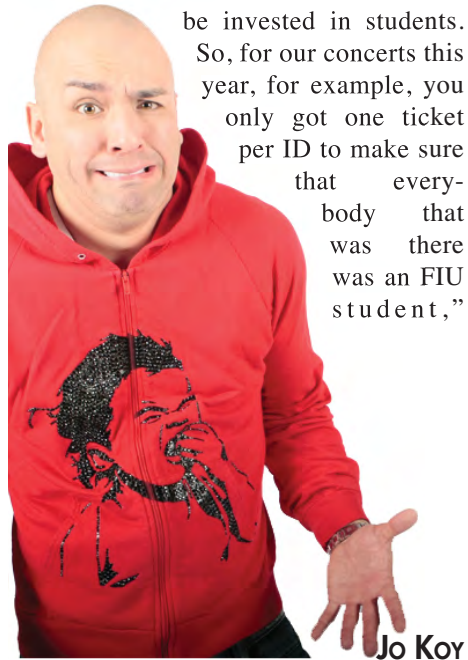
Casas said.

The council succeeded in getting the word out more profusely this year. This feat was achieved through the use of Facebook and other media.

SPC is made up of students from all sorts of academic and cultural backgrounds, specializing in communications, business or the arts.

Throughout the school year, SPC members and officers work on smaller productions that prepare them for what is portrayed as the "Big Kahuna" of student events: Uproar. The fest was formerly called UP Roar, before the campus was renamed.

"Our funds are going directly back to [the students]," Casas said.



Jo Koy

Sudoku answers from 3/3 1

7	8	2	3	4	5	1	6	9
1	4	6	9	8	7	2	3	5
5	9	3	2	1	6	8	4	7
8	3	4	7	5	9	6	2	1
9	5	1	4	6	2	3	7	8
2	6	7	1	3	8	9	5	4
3	1	9	6	7	4	5	8	2
4	2	5	8	9	3	7	1	6
6	7	8	5	2	1	4	9	3

Puzzle by websudoku.com

PIANO MAN



LINDA LEE/THE BEACON

Freshman Xavier Thomas danced on stage during Dueling Pianos hosted by SPC-MMC on March 25 in the GC Ballrooms. Creating a dueling piano bar, the event featured two live pianists and a coffee bar.

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG



SPC-MMC presents Friday night movies.

WHEN: 5 and 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

OCCUPATION 101



FIU Students for Justice in Palestine present this award-winning documentary to culminate Palestine Awareness Week. Food provided.

WHEN: 1 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140
For more info, contact Aman Muqet, amoha019@fiu.edu

EARTH WEEK 2010

Melting Ice Cap Slip-n-slide.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Housing Quad

STRIKE OUT ARTHRITIS



Conference baseball game. Arthritis Awareness Award to be announced.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free with Panther ID
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

FIU SOFTBALL

Vs. North Texas.
WHEN: 5 - 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Softball Fields

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

GREAT STRIDES



Join FIU and community members in "Taking Steps to Cure Cystic Fibrosis."

WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: College of Medicine
Join the team at http://cff.org/great_strides/find_a_walk_site/index.cfm

BBC CLEANUP

Help clean up the bay and the campus.

WHEN: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Restoration Site at BBC
For more info contact Jennifer Grimm: jgrimm@fiu.edu

FIU SOFTBALL

Vs. North Texas.
WHEN: 12 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Softball Field

GAME TOURNAMENT



Super Smash Bros Brawl, Naruto Clash of Ninja III. Bring your own equipment (controllers, joysticks).

WHEN: Singles and doubles registration: 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 SB singles; \$20 SB doubles; \$5 Naruto singles \$5 door fee
WHERE: GC Porter Davis Game Room

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

TROPICAL SUNDAYS

Haitian entertainer Jean-Michel Daudier plays Caribbean music by the pool.

WHEN: 1 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The Biltmore 1200 Anastasia Ave., Coral Gables

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FAIR

Be there! Enjoy your favorite fair food, but be careful with those rides.

WHEN: 12 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$9
WHERE: 10901 SW 24th St.

SONY ERICSSON OPEN - MEN'S FINAL

WHEN: 12:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5-\$425
WHERE: Crandon Park Tennis Center, 7300 Crandon Blvd.

FIU BASEBALL



Vs. Louisiana.
WHEN: 1 - 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

A PROPHET



Oscar-nominated French drama that's been dubbed the "anti-Scarface."
WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$6
WHERE: Miami Beach Cinematheque 512 Española Way

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

Quick Picks

MOVIES



How To Train Your Dragon

74/100 97/100

"It's a great-looking film—and an impressive use of 3D—but ultimately, the story makes it memorable."

Keith Phipps - The Onion (A.V. Club)



GAMES



Just Cause 2 - Multi

80/100 8.8/10

"Crazy stunts, a huge gameworld, and a playful attitude make Just Cause 2 a lot of fun despite its annoyances."

Kevin VanOrd - Gamespot



MUSIC



I Will Be by Dum Dum Girls

77/100 8.2/10

"The result is a more accessible version of Dum Dum Girls, bolstered by terrific harmonies (three of the four girls contribute vocals) and a crisper rhythm section."

Zach Kelly - Pitchfork

LEGEND Rotten Tomatoes.com Metacritic.com

Pitchfork Magazine ign.com

SOFTBALL

FIU set to resume conference play

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team has a test this weekend.

FIU will attempt to hold their second place position in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

Their weekend opponent, North Texas, will not be far behind in the standings when they play April 2-3 at FIU.

"We know that we can't take any team lightly at this point," sophomore pitcher Jennifer Gniadek said. "North Texas is our main focus right now."

The Mean Green (13-11, 3-3 SBC) is coming off two consecutive losses to Florida Atlantic while FIU (21-11, 4-2 SBC) took two of three games from Stetson last weekend.

"Last week was more of focusing on getting back to fundamentals," freshman Kayla Burri said. "This week we're working more on coming back and working together as a team."

Although senior Paige Cassady (3-1) struggled

in the pitching circle last week, Gniadek (9-3) and senior Kasey Barrett (9-6) picked up the slack for FIU as they have all season long.

Barrett, however, has been consistent throughout the year, while Gniadek has been a work in progress.

"I think she's worked all year long on having more than one pitch," FIU head coach Beth McClendon said in reference to Gniadek. "She's been able to use a lot of different options in games as opposed to relying on one thing as she's done in the past. She put a lot of time into that during the Fall and I think it's finally starting to show up now."

Gniadek has an ERA of 2.66 through 76.1 innings and ranks second on the team with 64 strikeouts. Barrett has a team-leading 1.38 ERA and 109 strikeouts through 96.2 innings.

"Last year I was mostly a one-pitch pitcher," Gniadek said. "This year I've worked a lot with Coach on using different pitches (curve and rise) so that people can't

guess what I'm going to throw."

Meanwhile, FIU's offense continues to roll as they rank second in the SBC, as of March 25, for team batting with a .296 average.

Leading the young but explosive lineup is freshman Brie Rojas with six homeruns and a .433 percent batting average.

Sophomore Ashley McClain has also shown her power at the plate. She has a team-high 36 RBI.

Like the Golden Panthers, the Mean Green also boasts some big hitters. FIU, however, has scored 55 more runs than North Texas this season.

"They don't sac much and they don't bunt much. They rely on power and getting base hits," Burri said. "We've been doing little range drills to prepare for a power hitting team."

Lisa Johnson leads the Mean Green batters with a .358 average and seven homeruns.

As for UNT's pitching staff, Ashley Lail (7-3) is

the go-to hurler. The senior has a given up 23 earned runs this season.

In remembrance of FIU football player Kendall Berry, who was killed at the school's Modesto Maidique Campus on March 25, each FIU softball player will sport the No. 19 on their batting helmets.

"We hope that his loss wasn't in vain and that all of these kids can learn something from that," McClendon said. "We want to go out everyday and do something in his honor and make sure we appreciate every opportunity we get to take the field."

FIU VS. UNT

- Time: 5 p.m. (Fri) 7 p.m. (Fri) 12 p.m. (Sat)
- When: April 2-3
- Where: FIU Softball Field

SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	OVERALL	CONF	PCT
Troy	19-15	7-3	.558
FIU	21-11	4-2	.656
Louisiana	13-11	3-0	.541
North Texas	21-11	3-3	.656
Florida Atlantic	18-17	3-3	.514
South Alabama	14-13	2-2	.518
Louisiana-Monroe	13-13	2-4	.500
Middle Tennessee	11-12	2-4	.478
Western Kentucky	18-12	2-7	.600

*All records up to date as of March 31.



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

Senior Kasey Barrett has an earned run average of 1.38 through a team-high 96.2 innings this season.

Fondon gets nod; Arrojo a question mark for Friday

BASEBALL, page 8

Baseball Stadium.

FONDON IN

R.J. Fondon will start in the second game of the series in place of No. 2 starter Corey Polizzano.

Polizzano struggled in his last start on March 27 against UALR, where he surren-

dered six runs, five of them earned, before being pulled in the second inning. On the season, Polizzano is 2-2 with a 7.76 ERA.

Fondon has made eight appearances on the mound for FIU and is 1-1 with a 4.18 ERA, the lowest among regular pitchers.

"It's not anything that Corey Polizzano has done," Thomas said. "They're equal as far as pitchers are concerned, but I think [Fondon] can go deeper in the game which might relieve us from using much of the

bullpen."

JUNIOR QUESTIONABLE

Starting shortstop and team captain Junior Arrojo suffered a bruised index finger over

the weekend against UALR and now the team is deciding whether he will be able to be a part of the starting lineup Friday night.

Arrojo played in an intra-squad scrimmage on March 31, but Thomas says that Arrojo will be a "game-time decision."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

The last time UL came to FIU Stadium in 2009, the Golden Panthers took two out of three in the series, with Corey Polizzano getting the lone loss. Polizzano will not start this weekend.

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.



JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

TENNIS: FIU 4, BROWN 3

FINAL FAREWELL

FIU seniors shine in last home game

SPENCER MANLEY
Staff Writer

Facing a tough foe in their last home match of the season, the Golden Panthers' outgoing senior class stepped up to lead FIU to a 4-3 win over No. 66 ranked Brown on March 31.

Mariana Muci Torres, a sophomore, was the clincher for the match.

She defeated her opponent in three sets (2-6, 7-5, 6-4) after being down 4-1 in the final set.

"I had to win it," said Torres following her clincher. "I had to pull it off for the team."

Torres' clutch victory came following Liset Brito's 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7 in tiebreak) much needed win in singles competition.

"I'm exhausted," said Melissa Applebaum, who celebrated her 30th career victory in her second year as FIU head coach. "This match was huge for the girls."

The seniors on the team, Maria Dolores Pazo, Priscilla Castillo, and Maria Jose Vallasciani were honored by their teammates and coach.

The Golden Panthers had just lost a disappointing match to No. 25 DePaul on March 26, just a day after the murder of FIU running back Kendall Berry.

"The circumstances going into that match were very abnormal," Applebaum spoke of the tragedy. "I would have preferred to play that match the following day in order to give



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Seniors Maria Dolores Pazo [left], Priscilla Castillo [middle] and Maria Jose Vallasciani [right] compete in their final home game.

my girls time to emotionally get through what happened, but it is what it is."

Senior Priscilla Castillo, who was swept in the DePaul match, 6-0, 6-0, made quick work of Brown's Catherine Stewart, beating her 6-2, 6-4.

"[Brown] is a good team and their ranking does not reflect their ability," Castillo said of her competitor. "They have beaten teams that we have lost to, so this is a good win."

Castillo was the first to finish in singles competition on a sunny, 77-degree Miami day.

"It's at least 10 degrees hotter on the courts, but it works out for us because [Brown] is up

north and they aren't used to this weather," Castillo said.

Following Maria Spenceley's loss [6-3, 7-6, 7-5] the Golden Panthers were only one singles match away from losing. Castillo watched on as the fate of the match was left to Brito and Muci, both of whom were down 4-1 in their final set.

"I was really frustrated at the time and my opponent [Cassandra Herzberg] was playing better," said Brito. "I didn't even know the score at the time. I was just trying to fight against myself because I was really tired."

A very crucial call was made in the third set on a play that was originally ruled out of

bounds, but was overturned in Brito's favor.

"I saw it in, so I challenged it," Brito said.

Following the match, the tennis squad celebrated their final home victory of the season, as well as the seniors on the squad with a cake that read "Congrats Seniors."

The Golden Panthers will now have a week and a half off before traveling to Orlando to play UCF on April 10 at 12 p.m.

The match against the Knights will be their final one of the season, after which they will defend their Sun Belt title from last year in the Sun Belt Conference Championships later in the month.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Golden Panthers put their offense to the test vs. UL



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

FIU Head Coach Turtle Thomas relays a sign to one of his players earlier this season. The Golden Panthers will look to rebound against UL after losing a series to UALR last week.

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

FIU (15-9, 3-3 SBC), the conference's leading offensive unit, takes on the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (12-12, 3-6 SBC), the conference's most potent pitching staff, as both teams look to improve their standing in the conference with the Sun Belt schedule in full swing.

"Every one of 30 conference games is equal to the next," head coach Turtle Thomas said. "They beat us pretty soundly last season and in the Sun Belt Tournament."

The Louisiana-Lafayette pitching staff has proven to be the most efficient unit in the conference with a team ERA of 3.54, the lowest in the Sun Belt, while opposing teams have only been able to hit a meager .247 against them.

Zach Osborne is the Cajuns' ace, compiling a 3-1 record with a 2.05 ERA in six starts coming into this weekend and will provide the Golden Panthers with one of the biggest tests of the season.

The senior is also a workhorse, currently second in the conference in innings pitched with 44, averaging 7.33 innings per outing while stringing out 47 batters in that span.

"He's a quality Sun Belt Friday night starter," Thomas said of Osborne.

FIU enters the weekend with a conference-high batting average of .346, bolstered by three hitters who are among the top of the conference: Garrett Wittels, Mike Martinez and Pablo Bermudez.

But Thomas has stressed that both the offense and the pitching need to show up every game if the team is to remain competitive.

"We've got to hit on days when we pitch and pitch on days when we hit," Thomas said. "We've got to put those things together on a more consistent basis."

The series begins April 2 at 7 p.m. at FIU

BASEBALL, page 7

FIU VS. LOUISIANA

- Time: 7 p.m. (Fri) 6 p.m. (Sat) 1 p.m. (Sun)
- When: April 2-4
- Where: FIU Baseball Stadium