

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

SGC-BBC Elections: At the candidate debates held on March 25, candidates showed up to explain their plans to improve student life at BBC.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



The distribution of The New York Times will officially cease on June 1 at MMC, yet this decision will have limited effects on BBC students.

LIFE! PAGE 6



The Women's International Film and Arts Festival April 2 opens with a red carpet event and the premier of *Junkyard Dog*, Vivica A. Fox's new film.

SPORTS PAGE 8

FIU baseball struggles in the road against UALR, dropping two out of three games but salvaging the last one of the weekend Sun Belt series.

SPORTS PAGE 8

FIU softball wins two out of three games against Stetson University. Brie Rojas hits her sixth homerun of the season helping the team win the series.

Be sure to turn to page 4 for The Beacon Recommends 2010 SGA candidates.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SGA Candidate Debates, March 29, 11 a.m. Learn more about the candidates and their platforms in GC 243.

Obsession - The Movie, March 30, 2 p.m. Sigma Iota Rho presents a screening of the documentary about Islam and the West, in GC 150.

Engineering and Computing Town Hall Meeting, March 31, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Meet your dean and SGA senators in the Panther Pit at the Engineering Center to voice your concerns. Refreshments provided.

EarthFest, April 1, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Live music, food, games and giveaways! Tours of the organic garden and the preserve. The fest will take place in the nature preserve.

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

WEATHER

MONDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 58 HIGH: 80

TUESDAY
Cloudy
LOW: 57 HIGH: 77

WEDNESDAY
AM Clouds/PM Sun
LOW: 60 HIGH: 78

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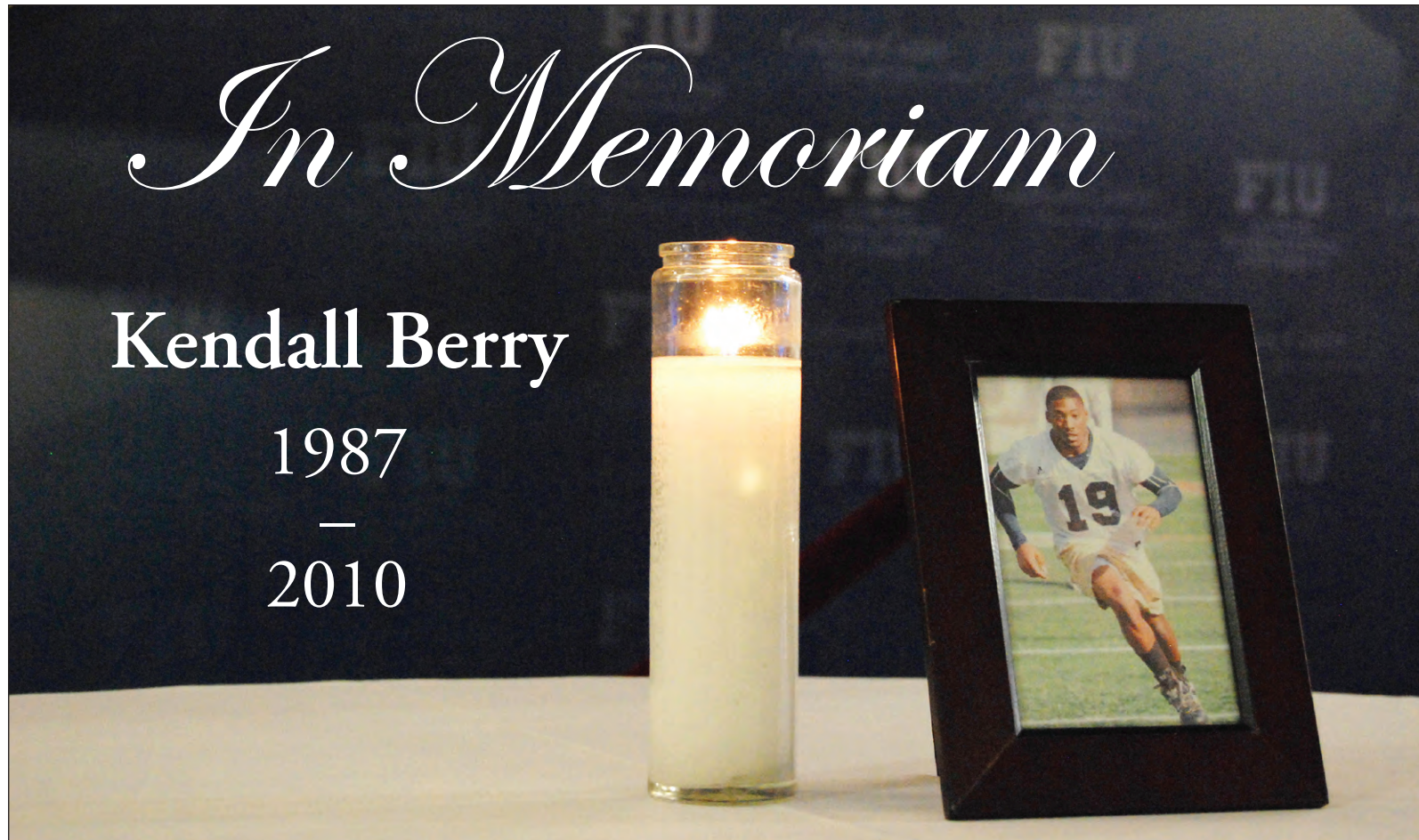
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In Memoriam

Kendall Berry

1987
—
2010

Community reacts to tragedy on campus

JORGE VALENS
News Director

The University community continues to mourn the passing of Golden Panther running back Kendall Berry.

On March 26, the Graham Center Pit lights were lowered as a memorial for Berry; a single candle accompanied by a photo was displayed throughout the day.

Quentin Wyche, a student and former teammate of Berry's, stabbed him on the evening of March 25. Berry died on the way to the hospital.



BERRY

According to *The Miami Herald*, the incident began after Berry's girlfriend and Wyche had a disagreement in which Wyche threw cookies at her face.

The report added that Wyche turned himself into authorities on the evening of March 26.

University President Mark Rosenberg addressed the University community via YouTube to convey a message of unity and reassurance that FIU is safe.

"In our sorrow, we must come together," Rosenberg said. "We must not let this heinous crime overshadow the incredible track record for

safety that we have."

He described Berry as "well-liked" and a "tireless worker."

Golden Panther football coach Mario Cristobal echoed the sentiment.

"Kendall had an infectious personality; he was loved and respected by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him," said Cristobal in a written statement. "It was truly an honor to have known and coached Kendall. It's a shame to lose such a young life to an act of senseless violence."

He added that he would like to thank the University community for their support and that the football team has suspended its activities indefinitely

while the team mourns Berry's loss.

Berry, who graduated Haines City High School, came to FIU as a wide receiver in Cristobal's first recruiting class in 2007. After missing the entire 2008 season due to a knee injury, he was asked to switch over to running back to give the Golden Panthers help in the run department.

Heading into the 2009 season, Berry faced numerous obstacles to seeing playing time, including competition from those fighting for the lead running back spot behind three other players.

He ended the season with a team-

BERRY, page 2

SGC-MMC CANDIDATE PROFILE: NICK AUTIELLO

Future VP aims to integrate community

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

Currently a sophomore majoring in international relations, Nick Autiello has been involved in nearly every facet of the Student Government Association.

Autiello began his work at SGA as an intern.

Later, he was elected as lower division senator for MMC where he moved up to cabinet member and served as director of technology, as well as deputy chief of staff.

His current position as chief of staff serves as the president and vice president's senior aide.

According to the SGA Web site, Autiello is also in charge of directly supervising the cabinet while ensuring cooperation

between the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

According to a written statement from the Ramirez and Autiello campaign to Student Media, Autiello also fulfills many of SGA's lobbying duties by advocating for students in Tallahassee.

Autiello also worked for the FIU Federal Relations Office in Washington, D.C., where he "gained a great working

knowledge of FIU academic departments and administration."

Currently, Autiello is running unopposed for Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus vice president alongside Helena Ramirez, who is running for president of



AUTIELLO

AUTIELLO, page 2

SGC-MMC CANDIDATE PROFILE: HELENA RAMIREZ

Ramirez strives to improve student life

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

Helena Ramirez started her time at FIU in Fall of 2007, when she began her work with the Student Government Association as an intern for the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus president at the time, Marbely Hernandez.

According to a written statement from the Ramirez and Autiello campaign to Student Media, during this time, Ramirez helped to coordinate a basketball tournament for the United Way which raised over \$2,000 in funds.

In the Spring of 2008, Ramirez ran for lower division senator, a position she held until April 2009. During her term as senator, she was voted to speaker pro-tempore

due to a senate member resigning.

According to the statement written to Student Media, Ramirez also received a Senator of the Year award during her time as speaker pro-tempore.

Later in April 2009, Ramirez ran for speaker at-large and was voted by her fellow senators to be senate speaker.

"She's had the most successful senate, probably ever, that we can find records for," said Nick Autiello, the current executive cabinet chief of staff and SGA vice presidential candidate.

According to the SGA Web site, "the senate speaker is trusted with the responsibility of leading the senate... [the] senate speaker



RAMIREZ

RAMIREZ, page 2

Ramirez focuses on ‘green’ initiatives, customer service

RAMIREZ, page 1

ensures that the senate is fulfilling their duty of representing the interest of the student body in all University matters, locally, statewide, nationally and internationally.”

Currently, Ramirez is running unopposed for SGC-MMC on a mixed platform of academics, campus life, student services, housing and environmental efforts.

Her campaign is heavily student oriented, promising to “improve academic advising and tutoring centers, increase student study spaces, improving campus safety and providing more housing recreational areas,” among other things.

“One of the big things to me is the customer service aspect of the University. It’s something that we can definitely work on,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez’ campaign also includes several “green” initiatives like “working to improve the preserve and student garden” as well as “[to] improve recycling with Students for Environmental Action and University administration.”

Ramirez is currently a junior majoring in political science and is a member of the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority at FIU. She has also participated in numerous other activities including Panther Camp, where she took part as a facilitator and administrative director, Student Alumni Association, student ambassador and Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society.

“Leadership isn’t one person. We want to make sure that SGA is almost synonymous with ideal leadership,” Ramirez said.

Autiello’s goals include redesigning Web site

AUTIELLO, page 1

SGC-MMC.

Their platform contains several policies from “expanding student government scholarship programs” to “increasing community involvement in Homecoming and other events.”

“One of the huge goals of our administration is to put FIU further out there in the community,” Autiello said.

Something that Autiello wants to see done when elected is to create different divisions within the executive cabinet which specialize in one area and each have someone in charge of coordinating the efforts of everyone under them in respect to the different areas of Campus Life and SGA external relations, among others.

“There will be five or six areas which will each have a director whose job is to oversee everyone under them so it doesn’t

become this impossible task of three people trying to manage 27 people,” Autiello said.

Another goal Autiello wants to see met is a redesign of the SGC-MMC Web site.

“One of the first people we are going to hire is someone to be in charge of the Web site, and we are going to get a completely new Web site,” he said.

Part of the idea behind redesigning the Web site is to increase transparency in student government affairs, a major staple of the Ramirez/Autiello ticket.

“We want [the Web site] to be the central clearing house for everything that goes on that we are directly responsible for, because at the end of the day we commit \$11 million in resources and it’s our responsibility not only to make sure that they are working efficiently, but that everyone knows what those \$11 million are going toward,” Autiello said.

University mourns loss

BERRY, page 1

high six touchdowns and led a version of the “WildCat,” a popular offensive formation that was widely referred to as the “WildBerry.”

Former Golden Panther quarterback and FIU alumnus Paul McCall was awakened with the news of Berry’s passing Thursday night from the team’s left tackle Andy Leavine.

“Kendall always made people around him smile. Always making people’s days better,” McCall said of Berry. “When this happens to your friend, and a guy whom you have known for four years, obviously it is emotional,” McCall said.

Lisa Edmunds, academics success coach at the Student Athlete Academic Center and adjunct English professor, had been working with Berry since 2007.

She said that Berry “could tackle anything” and described him as “cheerful, cooperative and ready to do his work.”

“I’m at a loss for words,” said senior international relations major Carmen Fernandez, describing Berry as a “nice guy” and a “quiet person.”

Fernandez has known



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Berry since his freshman year at the University.

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda left a College of Architecture and the Arts awards ceremony as soon as he heard what had happened.

“It’s a devastation, he gave it his all, he represented us in the classroom, on the field,

and outside of the University,” Rionda said.

Memorial services for Berry will be held at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on March 29 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Additional reporting by David Barrios, Philippe Buteau, Joel Delgado and Jonathan Ramos.

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Title: **“Changing Education from the Bottom Up: Reforming the Early Education System in America.”**

Moderator: **Charles Bleiker, Ph.D. (Early Childhood Education)**

Time & Location: **Tuesday, March 30, 2010
12:30pm - 1:30pm
GC 150**
Lunch and refreshments provided.

presented by **The New York Times**

FIU Student Government Association **FIU** Global Learning

THE BEACON

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TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

LEFT TO RIGHT: SGC-BBC 2010 candidates Denise Halpin, Tanha Dil, Wendy Tercier, Zahra Arbabi aski, Christin “Cici” Battle, Dametrius Vincent, Oehleo Higgs, Mawou Francois, Victoria Aguila, and Anaisabel Garcia listen intently to questions being asked during the SGC-BBC Election Debates held on March 25 in the WUC Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

Elections candidates use debate to fully express platforms

**SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
PHILIPPE BUTEAU**
Beacon Staff

Candidates in today’s election for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus had one last chance to declare their goals to students before the voting began.

The debate among the candidates for the contested president, vice president and senator of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication seats took place on March 25 in the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater.

PRESIDENCY

Zahra Arbabi aski, finance chair of the Finance Committee, and Christin “Cici” Battle, current SGC-BBC vice president, are vying for the presidency of SGC-BBC. Both agree that transportation and parking are big issues. Battle believes her experience can help in bringing change to it.

“If you don’t have a personal relationship with Bill Foster, [director of Parking and Transportation,] nine times out of ten, he’s not going to listen to what you have to say. Last year, we brought this problem to him. He needs \$4 to operate the bus system, increased tuition to \$78 for parking. Where is that money being used? It’s about knowing that background information and having those relationships.”

Arbabi aski argues SGC-BBC needs a change of face as students are unhappy with how SGA has performed for the last year.

“I must say we have tarnished SGA’s reputation this year and a new face, I believe, would be a better solution to solve SGA’s problem,” said Arbabi aski. “Having a transition from an administration where this year we tarnished

SGA’s reputation will not be an effective solution to this problem.”

If elected, Arbabi aski wants to know what troubles students by hosting monthly social events with a theme, with her example of parking and transportation, in Panther Square, where Arbabi aski will hear the complaints from students on the issue.

Battle, however, believes her experience will be farther reaching and strengthen SGC-BBC.

VICE PRESIDENCY

The three candidates for vice president, Denise Halpin, a hospitality sophomore, Tanha Dil, a justice of SGC-BBC, and Wendy Tercier, an intern with SGA, all shared common ground in fixing the costs of transportation in parking permits and the Golden Panther Express for students, cafeteria operation hours, and creating a better sense of community on campus for students.

Halpin, who is running with no previous experience in SGA, wishes to increase school pride at BBC through events, including establishing a “student showcase event” where students from the SJMC and School of Hospitality and Tourism Management can practice their crafts to set up the event.

“I’m very dedicated to philanthropic events and I know what it takes to have everybody come to events and to really strive to push this whole Panther pride because I feel like we don’t have as much of it over at this campus,” Halpin said.

Dil disagrees with that notion.

“I have been to various events on this campus and I am one to say that we have true Panther pride and attendance,” Dil said.

To improve problems with senate members

being accepted at a whim, Dil aims to toughen up the interview process.

“Before we actually have senators in office, I want to ask them, ‘What is it that you want to bring to your SGA? What is that you want to incorporate into your school? What do you want to do for your students? Before you take a seat, you better be sure that you’re going to put your full into my council,’” Dil said.

Tercier, who transferred to the University from Miami-Dade College, served as an intern for SGA this year and wishes to improve advising quality for transfer students and increasing involvement from members of the senate.

“If you’re running for a position to serve as an SGA officer, you have some responsibilities to the students,” Tercier said. “You have to be available to them and any issue they may have because initially you have a motive to make changes, and if you’re not taking care of your duties, there should be consequences for that.”

SENATE

The seat for senator of the SJMC is contested by Oehleo Higgs, a senior in advertising, Anaisabel Garcia, president of Public Relations Student Society Association, and Robert Tassej, the current SJMC senator.

The three all wish to improve communications between SJMC faculty and its students, as well as addressing problems students have with the advising process within the school.

“If we’re going to go against administration, we’re not going to go anywhere, because at the end of the day, they have the end of the word,” Aguila said.

Other candidates for senate seats, though running unopposed, showed up for the debates.

One of which is Mawou Francois, SGC-BBC clerk of council, who is running for the business senatorial seat.

“I feel the School of Business hasn’t given enough to the previous business senator,” Francois said. “They haven’t given students enough opportunities like internships or networking, which are quintessential to business majors, so I want to have those opportunities for the students in my last year.”

Mawou is interested in bringing events to BBC, such as dinner etiquette seminars or how to start their own business, featuring people from the community who began their own small businesses.

Dametrius Vincent, a graduate student in the SJMC majoring in global strategic communications, is also running unopposed for the graduate senatorial seat. Vincent wants to address issues graduate students have, such as the lack of research tools.

“One of the concerns I’ve found from SJMC graduate students was the fact that this is a public research university and we don’t have some of the research materials that we need, such as Simmons and [Mediamark Research and Intelligence], which are research programs that allow you to do your work.”

Victoria Aguila, senator of the College of Arts and Sciences and chairperson of the Senate Communications Committee, is running for senator-at-large. She aims to simply voice the concerns of students using Facebook and the SGA website, as well as work with staff and administration.

“I’m currently trying to establish more administration contacts for different issues that I personally think are important,” said Aguila. “Undergraduate advising, I think we should definitely improve that.”

New York Times halted at MMC, continues at BBC

LORENA ESTRADA
Staff Writer

Every so often, senior and international business major Carla Rospigliosi picks up *The New York Times* to read as she waits for her 5 p.m. class. But in just a few months, Rospigliosi will have to start making trips to the library to get her weekly doses of the paper.

As of June 1, *The New York Times* will no longer be offered to FIU students University wide. Instead, the Student Government Association is promoting the online issue to students at Modesto Maidique Campus in an attempt to be more green, cut expenses and allocate the money elsewhere.

“We’re working with the *Times* on maybe coming up with a different plan instead of just putting it out and promote the online paper students have full access to, and maybe partner with the *Times* and get another newspaper,” said Anthony Rionda, SGC-MMC president. “We are discussing this with them as we speak.”

According to SGA, the University has rejected funding and the continuation of its annual contract with the *Times* because many people were under the impression that it was mostly utilized by professors at MMC, not the students.

“I don’t just want to stack newspapers for the health of having it,” said Rionda. “What I want to do is come up with a new strategy that will be

creative and better for our students, be environmentally-friendly while still maintaining our responsibility to use students’ money wisely.”

Briton Alonso, a senior and journalism major at FIU, said she understands the sentiment but thinks it’s important to give students the option of reading the paper online or by hand.

“I think it’s a shame. Yes, maybe MMC gets too many of them and yes, the students at MMC don’t seem to care as much, but the paper should definitely be available,” Alonso said. “It needs to at least be available at the library or something. I remember the many times Biscayne Bay ran out of *The New York Times*. Send the extra copies to the Biscayne Bay

Campus!”

Although the *Times* will no longer be offered University wide, students in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication don’t have to worry since BBC will continue to receive the paper.

However, according to Sholom Neistein, Student Government Council at BBC president, they will only be provide half of the amount of newspapers compared to last year. This means that, while journalism students like Alonso ask for more newspapers, they might be receiving less newspapers next year.

“We are hoping the School of Journalism and Mass Communications will fund the other half because it mostly benefits them,” said Neis-

tein. “If not, they will still get the paper but only half of the amount.”

According to Rionda, the annual contract consisted of 400 *New York Times* newspapers delivered a day for 145 days. Those numbers result in approximately \$29,000 a year, a “boat load of money” as described by Rionda.

Now that the University denied renewing the same contract as last year, students are encouraged to read the *Times* online. The *Times* will soon begin charging a fee for those who want to read the paper online, but Neistein said students don’t have to worry about that fee.

Students can access The New York Times for free through the library’s Web site at library.fiu.edu

THE BEACON RECOMMENDS SGA CANDIDATES

2010 VOTING GUIDE

SGC-MMC MODESTO MAIDIQUE CAMPUS

PRESIDENTIAL TICKET CANDIDATES (UNOPPOSED)

Helena Ramirez (P)
Nick Autiello (VP)

This year's SGC-MMC elections mark the second year in a row that elections are uncontested, and the fourth in five years.

The Beacon elections board finds this trend upsetting, considering that it is a trend that is in danger of becoming mainstay. Uncontested elections severely limit the amount of choices students have at the polls.

Students deserve an election where they have a choice. The position of SGC-MMC president and vice president, or any elected position in SGA for that matter, is something that carries importance, considering the vast amount of student funds they control.

With that in mind, just because a ticket is running unopposed does not necessarily mean it is a bad ticket. The Ramirez/Autiello ticket has the potential of bringing some much-needed improvement to SGC-MMC.

Ramirez and Autiello plan on making the governing council's Web presence a priority from day one. In a meeting with The Beacon elections board, Ramirez noted that she is planning on making the SGC-MMC Web site a true resource for students, and not simply a repository of event flyers.

She has yet to fully outline her plans for the Web site, but both Ramirez and Autiello have said that the plan for the new site begins on day one.

A new Web site that is a one-stop shop for students would go a long way in increasing student involvement both in SGA and on campus. By linking student services, such as myFIU, the

bookstore, and even Student Media to the new site, SGA could effectively use the convenient access of student services to advertise SGA and other campus events.

Coupled with a strong social media strategy—one that focuses on informing students rather than playing Facebook games—and Ramirez's plans for regular YouTube addresses to students, a new Web site that follows this rubric will be a great success.

Another positive aspect that Ramirez plans on delivering as SGC-MMC president is a better representation of Biscayne Bay Campus students' interests on the Board of Trustees.

As a sitting member of the BOT, the SGC-MMC president does not represent the interests of only MMC students but of all students. As president, Ramirez plans to meet with SGC-BBC and BBC students twice a month, to ensure that the campus' needs can be addressed.

This is a plus for Ramirez's ticket, and an admirable thing if accomplished. Often times, SGC-MMC presidents sitting on the BOT usually leads to only SGC-MMC interests being represented. The Beacon elections board is pleased with Ramirez's regard for all students, not just the ones on her campus.

This is also especially notable considering that a recurring theme this year has been the discussion of the formation of a single governing campus for both MMC and BBC. Though Ramirez stated that her intentions were not to push for council unification during her term, she did say that she would continue dialogue on the subject.

Ultimately, as was the case last year, The Beacon elections board cannot endorse the Ramirez/Autiello ticket due to the fact that they are running unopposed.

SENATOR AT-LARGE CANDIDATES (3 SEATS)

Carlos Acevedo
Daniela Gonzalez ✓
Cristina Loreto ✓
Janice Rubio

The position of senator at-large is also contested in this election. Three out of the four candidates running boast at least a year's experience within SGC-MMC. Though three seats are held in the senate for at-large representatives, The Beacon elections board feels that it can only in good conscience endorse two candidates: Cristina Loreto and Daniela Gonzalez.

Loreto seems to understand how the senate works. In her candidate questionnaire, she mentions having more Robert's Rules of Order workshops to ensure a more smoothly-running senate.

Loreto's most notable concerns are problems with advising, and most notably, communication between online professors and students. Her approach on advising and improving communication with online professors, though not detailed fully, is good to see.

Gonzalez, currently senate speaker pro-tempe, holds some of the same campaign goals as Loreto including the improvement of academic advising for students. She also advocates pushing for the filming of senate meetings and increased "transparency" between the student body and student government.

Gonzalez also states that she will try to engage non-traditional students by holding events later in the day to attract awareness among night students.

Sadly, just like Loreto, she fails to fully outline how she will achieve these goals.

The Beacon elections board could not

fully endorse the candidacy of Janice Rubio, however. Another experienced member within SGC-MMC, Rubio's platform left much to be desired. Much was discussed about "FIU pride" in her platform and increasing student support of the University. Yet she fails to hit on any serious points that we feel will be beneficial toward students save for a brief hint on improving academic advising and improving "customer service."

Carlos Acevedo failed to turn in his candidate questionnaire responses to The Beacon elections board.

LOWER DIVISION SENATOR CANDIDATES (4 SEATS)

Ranshan Gomez ✓
Macarena Jimenez ✓
Amanda Jimenez ✓
Patrick O'Keefe ✓
Jonathan O'Campo
Jennifer Sada

While the presidential campaign is seemingly in the bag, the race for Lower Division senator is hotly contested with six candidates vying for four seats in the senate.

Yet if one name stands out prominently among candidates, it must be Patrick O'Keefe, a relative new-comer into SGC-MMC.

O'Keefe, currently working in the Office of Admissions has no related SGA experiences yet laid down one of the most elaborate and intelligent platforms to reach this board during this elections season.

His main platform involves the increase of communication between

students and student government to increase overall campus life. He calls for the overall expansion of Open House, Orientation and Panther Camp program to bring in more freshmen.

When asked by The Beacon elections board about past legislation he agreed with, O'Keefe displayed great knowledge about the senate's practices as he noted his support for the restructuring of Panther Rage and the Executive Cabinet Reform Act, among other pieces of legislation.

Amanda Jimenez's platform also shows promise with a focus on enhancing student services, including a push to try to increase undergraduate advising and its quality along with extending the times and hours of services for students on campus.

Amanda Jimenez fails to elaborate fully on her plans to execute her goals, yet they are still within reason and uphold the main goal of student government: raising the students' voice.

Macarena Jimenez's platform shows several flaws. It does not discuss expansion of student services and lacks a fully-formed vision in terms of her goals.

However, her enthusiasm toward increasing "transparency" within SGC-MMC is in tandem with The Beacon editorial board's platform, published on March 22. She openly calls for the taping of all SGA meetings and better maintenance of senate minutes.

Ranshan Gomez's platform meanders and discusses fighting budget cuts, something that a single senator really cannot solve or block.

Yet he intelligently discusses how to raise awareness about SGA within the University and proposes more events and concerts through campus and openly engaging non-traditional students including those who primarily attend class during nights, a point raised by The Beacon's editorial board in their platform earlier this month.

SGC-BBC BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS

PRESIDENTIAL TICKET CANDIDATES

Zahra Arbabi Aski
Christin "Cici" Battle ✓

After reviewing the platforms, debate performance and profiles of both SGC-BBC presidential candidates, The Beacon elections board was faced with a tough decision, given that both candidates touched on several issues that we deem of the utmost priority, such as improved dining availability and an updated bus schedule that truly accommodates student transportation needs.

However, Christin "Cici" Battle, who is currently serving as SGC-BBC vice president, has convinced us that she is the more qualified of the two.

In our March 22 editorial, The Beacon stressed heavily that the SGA Web site and Facebook page lacked the constant rotation of information needed for interested students to keep up with the inner workings of our student government.

In her platform, Battle admitted that these communications channels were poorly used and has made it her mission to improve them with initiatives such as updating the pages weekly and sending out mass e-mails with full minutes from the senate, cabinet and general meetings.

Furthermore, Battle has expressed interest for using the new television in the Wolfe University Center as a medium for advertising SGC-BBC meetings and events sponsored by SGA and other student clubs and organizations in order to boost attendance and participation.

Along the same lines of transparency, Battle has also expressed interest in developing a monthly tabling program in which SGA officials may openly communicate with students in a relaxed atmosphere outside of the proverbial boardroom.

Although a more ambitious schedule, say, weekly tabling, would produce better results, The Beacon elections board feels that this initiative is a step in the right direction of building a sense of community between SGC-BBC and the general student body.

Battle also wants to increase SGA's visibility

outside of the campus and engage students in several mentoring and community service projects, namely working with several schools in the area, which could boost FIU's presence as a service-oriented establishment.

In terms of including non-traditional students—those that primarily take classes at night, on the weekends, or online and those at the Pines Center, both The Beacon and Battle have expressed the fact that they are rarely, if ever, included in campus life.

Battle wants to create programs that interest and include them, but she did not specify what programs she already has in mind. She also noted in order to develop these programs, she would need the input of such students. We are curious to see how Battle will go about engaging these students and gathering the information she needs in order to put these initiatives into practice.

Lower Division Senator Zahra Arbabi Aski, Battle's opponent, has a solid platform which echoes several of Battle's own ideas such as improving communication with the student body via social media, tabling events, and connecting with non-traditional students.

However, Arbabi Aski merely stated that these problems exist and did not fully specify how she as SGC-BBC president would alleviate them.

Furthermore, in comparing their performance at the debate held at BBC on March 25, Battle proved to be the more vocal of the two, which is a crucial trait needed in order to successfully negotiate on both a local and University-wide level.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL TICKET CANDIDATES

Tanha Dil
Denise Halpin ✓
Wendy Tercier

The race for SGC-BBC vice president has the potential to be a tight one with three individuals vying for the position. Even so, The Beacon recognizes Denise Halpin to be the standout candidate.

Despite no previous association with SGA, Halpin has expressed deep concern with popular student issues such as the need for extended cafe-

teria hours and an overhaul of the Golden Panther Express shuttle, along with deeper issues such as the need to boost student involvement and increasing transparency between SGA and the student body.

Halpin's plans include distributing an e-newsletter detailing the various inner workings of SGC-BBC, which will also include detailed expense reports that will inform students on how their tuition money is being spent.

Even though Halpin is somewhat complacent with the state of non-traditional student involvement, she still believes that there is room for improvement and has expressed her desire to raise non-traditional student involvement from "good" to "excellent."

One thing that stood out from Halpin's platform is her idea for a campus-wide showcase that will allow students from the major schools at BBC to put their skills to work and show the rest of the student body what they have learned in their courses.

The amount of student involvement Halpin envisions—recruiting journalism students to market the event and hospitality students to provide the food service—seems like an ambitious effort to get the entire student body involved and will hopefully become more than students lining up to get free food and then disappearing.

Along with this, students will have a chance to apply their skills within the campus before they go out into the working world, providing yet another accomplishment to add to their résumés.

Halpin's opponents Justice Tanha Dil and SGA Intern Wendy Tercier may have the greater experience in working with SGA. However, their platforms fall short. Both Dil and Tercier recognize the need to improve the shuttle service in terms of cost and frequency and they also want to improve the availability of campus resources and keep students better informed on what SGA is doing.

However, when it comes to creating solutions, their platforms listed more excuses for lackluster accomplishment rather than ways to improve it. As for ways to increase student involvement, none that were cited, such as a Freshman Luau and posting bulletins on the SGA Web site, were unique measures that have not already been taken.

In short, Dil and Tercier may have the experience, but they lack imagination.

SGC-MMC

SGC-MMC PRESIDENT/VP
Helena Ramirez (P)
Nick Autiello (VP)

LOWER DIVISION SENATOR (4 seats)
Ranshan Gomez
Macarena Jimenez
Amanda Jimenez
Patrick O'Keefe
Jonathan O'Campo
Jennifer Sada

SENATOR AT-LARGE (3 seats)
Carlos Acevedo
Daniela Gonzalez
Cristina Loreto
Janice Rubio

ARTS & SCIENCES SENATOR (5 seats)
Moses Aluicio
Jesus Borrero
Chris Cabral
Donovan Dawson
Jesse Giraldo
Aldo Gonzalez

ENGINEERING SENATOR (2 seats)
Jeffrey Addison
William Jose Velez
Tara Jafamadar

BUSINESS SENATOR (3 seats)
Kevin Gonzalez
Hector Mujica

EDUCATION SENATOR (3 seats)
Adam do Amaral

HONORS SENATOR (1 seat)
Joanne Myler

HOUSING SENATOR (2 seats)
Chelsea Franco
Christina Marinos
Carlos Rodriguez

SGC-BBC

SGC-BBC PRESIDENT
Zahra Arbabi Aski
Christin "Cici" Battle

SGC-BBC VICE PRESIDENT
Tanha Dil
Denise Halpin
Wendy Tercier

BUSINESS SENATOR (1 seat)
Mawou Francois

GRADUATE SENATOR (1 seat)
Dametreus Vincent
Xi Zhu

LOWER DIVISION SENATOR (1 seat)
Lea Meir

SENATOR AT-LARGE (3 seats)
Victoria Aguila
Emmanuel Osemota
SJMC SENATOR (2 seats)
Anaisabel Garcia
Oehleo Higgs
Robert Tassy

The Beacon's Elections Board
Christopher Necuze
Jorge Valens
Jasmyn Elliot
David Barrios
Paula Garcia

Recommends Policy
To coincide with SGA elections, The Beacon's elections board, a group of five editorial board members, releases a list of candidate recommendations for the presidential ticket, senator-at-large and lower division senator at MMC and president and vice president at BBC.

These recommendations are based on an in-depth interview, performance at the SGA candidate debate and/or questionnaires the board provided each of the eligible candidates running for office. SGA elections will be held March 29 and 30.

WOMEN IN 'REEL' LIFE

Film fest aims to empower, celebrate women worldwide

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

In lieu of Women's History Month, the Women's International Film & Arts Festival, running from March 26 to April 3, provides a look at the complex issues surrounding the subject of being a woman.

Named by the *Miami New Times* as the "Best Film Festival" in 2009, WIFF offers a unique and cultural event to view films, visual and performance arts, and other vehicles of art made by and about women.

Vivica A. Fox headlines 2010's festival with the premiere of her film *Junkyard Dog* on April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Lou Rawls Theatre at Florida Memorial University.

You can get a taste of Hollywood at the red carpet event held before the

premiere and maybe even bump into the ostentatious star.

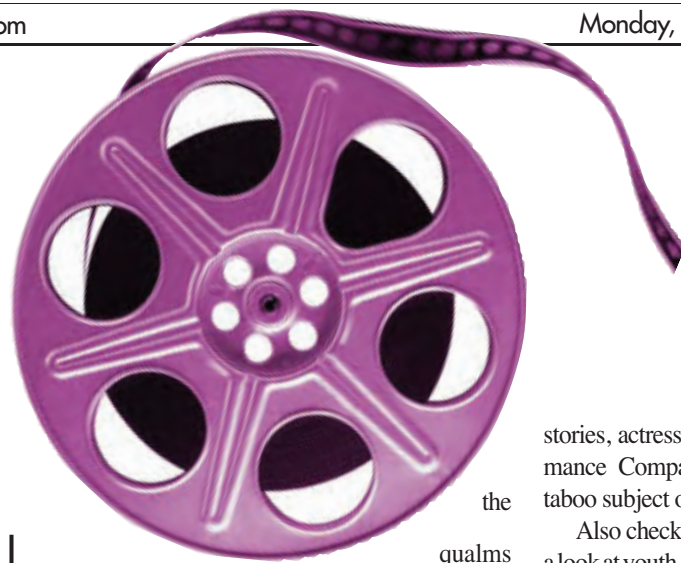
Junkyard Dog is a psychological-thriller that tells the story of Audra Buckman, a 19-year-old college student, who is kidnapped by a cannibalistic serial rapist and struggling to stay alive. Fox plays the tough FBI agent sent to search for the missing girl.

This year's special events include the second annual Film Pool Pajama Party and a Family Fun Fest, a PG event catered to everyone. The Pool Pajama Party is a supersized slumber party held at the Mayfair Hotel and Spa in Coconut Grove. Guests can enjoy a selection of the festival's short films, drinks and hors d'œuvres, and relax poolside in a lounge chaise or cabana. Take full advantage of not having to stress about what to wear

and come in your PJs. The event starts at 6 p.m. This event in particular is a bit pricey, coming in just under \$50, but there is an open bar and free food.

Some of the screening locations are the Miami Science Museum Theater on 3280 South Miami Ave., which hosts European, Asian, African and Indian films; the ICON Theater at the Viceroy Hotel on 485 Brickell Ave, hosting North American features; and the Lou Rawls Theater at Florida Memorial University in Miami Lakes, featuring films from the Caribbean.

Be sure to check out *16 to Life* playing April 2 at 2 p.m. at the Tower Theatre (1508 SW 8th St). The film tells the story of Kate, played by Hallee Hirsh, whom you may remember from Disney Channel's *The Ultimate Christmas Present* and countless TV guest appearances, as she deals with



stories, actresses of the Youth Performance Company shed light on the taboo subject of menstruation. Also check out *Can She Be Saved*, a look at youth activist Yasmin Shiraz's interviews with middle school girls labeled as aggressive and her exploration of the reasons behind their explosive behavior while exposing society's cultural attitude toward girl fights. One of two festivals in the South-

age and sex. If you're looking for something to do other than watch films, check out the "Goddess Menstrual Show," a parody on every woman's favorite time of the month. Using sketch comedy, musical parody and personal

WIFF, page 7



Vivica A. Fox stars in her upcoming film, *Junkyard Dog*, which premeieres on April 2 at the festival.



16 to Life is a coming-of-age film starring Hallee Hirsh.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIFFONLINE.ORG

THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: AGNIESZKA WOJTOWICZ-VOSLOO NYU grad shares her rise to fame

MARIA MURRIEL
Staff Writer

Due to her passion and perseverance, not to mention an incredible amount of talent and good fortune, recent NYU Institute of Film grad Agnieszka Wojtowicz-Vosloo has made it to the silver screen. But her breakout project isn't only equipped with a cast of renowned Hollywood names; it also carries the weight of her efforts, dreams and inner musings.

Because she graduated in 2004, Wojtowicz-Vosloo is still very college-conscious. The charming director took a few minutes to tell *The Beacon* how she, a Polish girl who moved to New York with nothing but hopes, escalated the film industry's ladder all the way to a myriad of awards, professional recognition and a movie featuring some of the best-known actors in Hollywood.

Is this the first movie you're directing?

This is my debut feature film. It's called *AfterLife* and it's coming out on April 9. I have made only one film before; it was actually a short film titled *Paté*. That film I made in school - at NYU film school. It was my first film and it premiered at Sundance [Film Festival] and won a number of awards.

As a director still in school, was it easy for you to be featured in Sundance Film Festival, or were there a lot of obstacles in your way?

Oh, thousands and thousands of obstacles. It's very hard, competition is very



AGNIESZKA WOJTOWICZ VOSLOO

tough. There are many people who dream of being film directors. I think apart from the talent, you need the most perseverance and you gotta really believe in what you do and work extremely hard.

So would you say that having an agent and being involved in the industry from early on is definitely important to succeeding in your career?

I was lucky enough to get my start very early. Obviously, having my first short film be so successful opened a lot of doors. So I think, yes, because things take time. Projects take time, so having an agent is very helpful; it's a great thing to have.

But it's up to you, you know? Agents don't start your career, they manage your career, and it's really you that has to start it. As a young writer-director you need to be able to generate your own material; you have to have projects or ideas, or books that you want to develop, because

that's what producers will look to you for.

YOU HAVE PRETTY BIG NAMES PLAYING THE PARTS OF YOUR CHARACTERS. COULD YOU TALK ABOUT THE PROCESS OF CASTING SUCH SUCCESSFUL ACTORS?

Yeah, I have amazing actors. They were my dream actors. The way it happened was, after the success of *Paté*, I was still in school and I got offered many projects that were set up at studios and ready to go, and producers were looking for directors. I just didn't respond to them; I wasn't passionate enough about them.

So I started to write my own material and that's how *AfterLife* was born. It took me a couple years to write it, and I always knew I had one shot - that's why I wanted the script to be as fantastic as it could be.

I remember meeting Liam [Neeson] for the first time. We spent four hours talking about the script, my vision for the characters and my vision for the movie, the way I'm planning on directing it. We went through every single detail, through colors and pallets, production design.

You seem to be very passionate about your work. Do you think going to school helped you succeed or could you have done just as well if you hadn't?

I think every director is passionate about their projects, and school is very important to me, but it's a combination of things. School is where I made my first

INTERVIEW, page 7

EXPLODING HEAD

Music affects more than just our moods

Over the break, in order to deal with my random anxieties - a recurring plague of worry and nausea that's plagued me since the new year - I popped in my DVD copy of *Ghost World*, Terry Zwigoff's early-2000s cult classic about two lost, somewhat-misanthropic teenage girls who graduate high school and spend their summer figuring out the next step in life sans-college.

I've always had some kind of personal connection with the film that goes beyond just playfully treating everyone with a complete lack of reverence. Obviously, there's a whole group of people in the world that live to treat humanity in the kind of sardonic, condescending tone that Enid and Rebecca exude toward people.

It mainly extends towards Enid's principle confusion with identity, and how her discovery of novelty gems and trends leads her to take on various roles in her own little ghost world, a life that hasn't fully animated itself into a concrete identity. The one costume she attempts to identify herself with is one that is spawned after hearing Buzzcocks' "What Do I Get?" a pretty traditional proto-punk tune. But after listening to it on a cassette tape, a novelty in itself, she is inspired to wear all black, combat boots, dye her hair green, sport a mid-sized leather jacket, and classify the outfit as a "1977 original punk rock look."

Once she's made fun of and is completely misunder-

EXPLODING, page 7

COLUMNIST



RYAN MOREJON

Films discuss gender issues

WIFF, page 6

eastern United States dedicated to women, WIFF is held every year during Women's History Month. The event is designed to celebrate women and to help them realize their dreams, visions and voices. It brings in women from all over the world to explore and share dialogue about issues concerning women through arts.

WIFF totes its mission as becoming the premier film festival in the world for women to network, screen their films and recognize the brilliance and accomplishments of women

throughout the globe. WIFF's goals are to empower women of all ages so they can see themselves in a broader context.

The festival has come a long way since its inception in 2005. In only five years, it has grown from a one-day event screening fewer than five films to a nine-day event screening 60 films and holding special events such as fashion and art shows, workshops and parties throughout South Florida.

Tickets to any of these events can be purchased online at www.wiffonline.org.

UWF Summer Online '10

Student... *Hailey*
 Major... *Marketing*
 Day Job... *Waitress*
 Dream Job... *Marketing Director living in NYC*
 Deep Thoughts... *"The customer is not always right."*
 Summer class considerations... *Marketing Fundamentals*
 Favorite place to do school work... *with my feet up!*
 UWF Summer Online makes me... *glad my days of waiting will end*

Do it ALL!

University of West Florida
uwf.edu/summeronline

Director stresses her love for film

INTERVIEW, page 6

short film, it's where I learned. It was great preparation for what I do now, but at the same time I had to do a lot by myself.

School allowed me to have a support system where I had equipment, where I had professors, where I had advice, and that's really huge, especially for someone who just moved to a new country. I'm from Poland, and I came here especially for school. Obviously for someone like me, school was the only thing I had and I made the best out of it.

There are so many other people trying to get their big break in film. What do you think are the most important things to focus on in order to succeed?

I think No. 1, and I totally believe in this, you have to really love what you do. Many people dream of being film directors because

they think it's very glamorous, but often it isn't. Often, because it is so hard to break through, many people give up. So, first off, you have to really determine if this is really what you want to do and if you love it enough that you're able to sacrifice a lot to get to a point where you establish yourself as a filmmaker.

I would also say, if you have a talent for screenwriting, definitely work on your scripts. Because when you succeed, the first thing people will ask you is, "What do you want to do next? What scripts are you working on? Can you send me something?" and if you have them ready, that's great for you.

Like I said at the beginning, I think perseverance and patience are important. Things don't happen overnight in this business, you have to really work hard.

Loving what you do, believing in what you do, persevering and making sure you make an original film and always creating your own material.

Music genres, styles clearly influence our wardrobes

EXPLODING, page 6

stood for parodying this aesthetic, she puts on a blues record and dyes her hair black again, going back to her retro mask.

This trend of changing your fashions as an effect of listening to a particular brand or genre of music isn't a completely foreign concept. That's actually why this film becomes so relatable: Everybody does this. It's something I've been doing since I listened to my first emo record (Further Seems Forever's *The Moon is Down*), a genre that inspired me to wear band T-shirts, gel up spiky hair and walk on a pair of Adidas Campuses.

I'm currently going through a phase similar to that of Enid's. Right now, I'm deciding whether I should buy a Wipers or a Misfits T-shirt, with the onslaught of punk and hardcore music I've been listening to. Should I keep wearing my black Levi's? How dirty should I get them?

Why is it that we do this to begin with? Are we constantly trying to fit into a particular group and culture and, if so, how temporary is it? I don't really listen to emo records anymore and, if I do, it's a retrospective/nostalgic act – I'm not really immersing myself into the culture.

How long are we going to be transitioning into stages of punk or indie? When will we stop, as humans or youth in particular, worrying about what we wear and just become regular-looking people?

I honestly hope it never ends. I hope that I spend my whole life struggling to find an identity within the boundaries of music. But odds are it won't happen. I'll continue to listen to the same music I'm listening to now and I'll probably be considered a square (if that handle will still hold relevance in 20 years).

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music. Look for it every Monday.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, MARCH 29

YOGARDEN



Come relax with the Yoga Club.

WHEN: 1 - 6 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: FIU Garden

MEETING MY DEAN

All education majors are welcomed to meet interim Dean Marie V. McDemmond.
 WHEN: 12 - 1:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: Ziff Building, Room 147

WOMEN'S TENNIS



The Golden Panthers take on Brown.
 WHEN: 2 - 4 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: FIU Tennis Courts

SGA ELECTIONS

Vote for the 2010-2011 student government leaders.
 WHEN: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 WHERE: Log into Votenet.com to vote, or visit the campus computer labs.

EARTH WEEK 2010



Students for Environmental Action present Earth Week 2010, with free food, games and prizes every day of the week. First event is "Focus the Nation on Climate Change."
 WHEN: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: GC Lawn

SGA CANDIDATE DEBATES

Learn more about the candidates and their platforms.
 WHEN: 11 a.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: GC 243

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

OBSESSION - THE MOVIE



Movie screening presented by Sigma Iota Rho.

WHEN: 2 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: GC 150

SGA ELECTIONS

Vote for the 2010-2011 student government leaders.
 WHEN: 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 WHERE: Log into my.fiu.edu to vote, or visit the campus computer labs.

EARTH WEEK 2010

Nature preserve cleanup.

WHEN: 11 a.m.
 WHERE: Nature Preserve
"Green Your Dorm"
 WHEN: 4 - 6 p.m.
 WHERE: Lakeview North Courtyard
Movie Screening - The Cove
 WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
 WHERE: GC 140

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

"Changing Education from the Bottom Up: Reforming the Early Education System in America."

WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: GC 150

INSIDE ISLAM: WHAT A MILLION MUSLIMS REALLY THINK



Movie premiere and keynote address by John Esposito.
 WHEN: 7:30 - 9 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
 WHERE: MARC Building
 RSVP required: <http://inside-islamiami.eventbrite.com>

FIU SOFTBALL

The Golden Panthers take on Florida Gulf Coast.
 WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: FIU Softball Fields

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

EARTH WEEK 2010



Native vs. Exotics. A presentation about how exotics are affecting native species.

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: At the organic farmers market.

Bike-in Movie

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
 WHERE: DM Amphitheatre

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



Local, organic food.
 WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: Central Fountain, between PC and Green Library

BIRTH RIGHTS: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NATURAL BIRTH

Lecture presented by the Women's Studies Assoc.
 WHEN: 12:30 - 3 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: GC 243

MAURICE FERRÉ LECTURE

Senate candidate will discuss "Puerto Rico and its role in U.S. and Latin American relations."
 WHEN: 4 - 6 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: GC 140

ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING TOWN HALL MEETING

Meet your deans and SGA senators and express your ideas and concerns. Refreshments provided.
 WHEN: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: Engineering Center – Panther Pit

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

WRITERS ON THE BAY

Winners of the FIU Student Literary Awards will read from their diverse works.

WHEN: 8 - 9:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: BBC Bookstore

EARTHFEST



Live music, food, games and giveaways! Tours of the organic garden and the preserve.

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free
 WHERE: Nature Preserve. Shuttle service available from ECS building and GC.

PERRICONE'S PASTA THURSDAYS

\$10 pasta dishes, all day.
 WHEN: All day
 HOW MUCH: \$10 plus tax
 WHERE: 15 SE 10 St.

SPC-BBC MOVIE SERIES



Playing *School Daze* and *Animal House*.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free for students, \$3 general
 WHERE: Mary Ann Wolfe Theater at BBC

MILLION-DOLLAR ORGASM COMES AT HIGH COST



Screening of filmmaker Liz Canner's *Orgasm, Inc.* followed by a discussion.
 WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
 HOW MUCH: Free for members, FIU community; \$10 general.
 WHERE: The Wolfsonian-FIU 1001 Washington Ave.

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

BASEBALL

ROCKY ROAD GAMES

Golden Panthers struggle in first Sun Belt road trip

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (16-8, 3-3 SBC) dropped the first two games in their first Sun Belt series on the road, but managed to win the series finale against the UALR Trojans (16-10, 3-6 SBC).

FIU 14, UALR 7

The Golden Panthers were able to bounce back and avoid the sweep as the offense bounced back to life in a victory over UALR on March 28.

Aaron Arboleya was able to keep the Trojans in check, striking out seven batters while allowing just two unearned runs in six innings on the mound. The win improved the sophomore right hander's record to 2-1.

FIU had a six-run lead heading in the seventh inning, but the Trojans rallied and scored four runs in the bottom of the seventh to close the gap. But reliever Eric Berkowitz came in to close the game, pitching the final innings to earn his third save of the season.

Every Golden Panther in the lineup scored at least once in the game, with Jeremy Patton and Tim Jobe leading the way with four hits and four RBI each.

UALR 19, FIU 5

The rain came in droves and so did the struggles as FIU got routed in the second game of their series against UALR.

A rain delay that lasted a little over three hours sent the rain-soaked game into the late hours on March 27, prolonging a game that the Golden Panthers were hoping to get out of as soon as possible.

Corey Polizzano started for FIU and struggled as he allowed



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Aaron Arboleya [above] picked up his second win of the season and prevented FIU from being swept vs. UALR.

six runs, five of them earned, on four hits in just one inning to pick up the loss, dropping his record to 1-2 on the season.

The bullpen did not fare much better, giving up 13 runs throughout the rest of the game including eight in the fourth inning to give the Trojans a comfortable lead.

For the Golden Panther offense, Mike Martinez and Jabari Henry picked up two hits for the Golden Panthers while Garrett Wittels picked up three RBI with a 1-for-3 performance at the plate.

UALR 5, FIU 4 (12)

Dropping their first Sun Belt Conference road game is not what the Golden Panthers had in mind going in to Little Rock, Ark.

But that is how it unfolded as FIU dropped the first of a three-game series to UALR in a 5-4 contest that went 12 innings.

The Golden Panthers got on the board in the third inning to take an early 2-0 lead.

Down by a run in the sixth inning, FIU had a chance to cause damage by loading the bases with nobody out but managed to manufacture just one run to tie the game.

The Trojans took the lead late in the game, but Tim Jobe would tie it up at 4-4 in the eighth inning with his sixth home run of the season.

The score remained and the game went into extra innings, and in the 12th inning UALR won the game on a walk-off single.

R.J. Fondon was left holding the bag, picking up the loss despite striking out nine hitters and just giving up one run.

SOFTBALL

Rojas records sixth homer to lead FIU to series win

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers are still on the prowl.

After dropping a critical series to Troy just last weekend, the FIU softball team pounced back taking two of three games at Stetson Univer on March 27 and 28 in DeLand, Fla.

FIU 1, SU 0

In game one, Kasey Barrett was back to her usual self.

The senior pitcher gave up two hits in a complete game shutout to lead the FIU over the Hatters, 1-0. After struggling last week, the team was relieved to have her back in full force.

"Everyone put in a lot of hard work and I thought a lot of that showed up," FIU head coach Beth McClendon said. "Kasey was one of those people that put in a lot of hard work over the week. She fixed a few things and worked on her mechanics and it really showed."

Solid pitching left both teams scoreless through the first four innings, but FIU freshman Brie Rojas changed that.

Rojas recorded the lone FIU hit in the top of the fifth inning and scored the winning run after stealing second base and moving to third on a Hatter error before senior Lauren Spiers drove her in on a sacrifice fly.

Barrett's shutout is the 11th of her career as she is now tied for second on FIU's career shutouts list.

FIU 2, SU 5

The dominant pitching that FIU showcased in the first game was nowhere to be found in game two.

After being down 2-1, the Hatters rallied back to take the lead after FIU senior Paige Cassidy gave up four runs in the fourth inning. FIU was unable to respond offensively as they dropped the game, 5-2.

Cassidy allowed five hits and five earned runs in 3.1 innings while sophomore Jennifer Gniadek pitched the final innings giving up no runs on two hits.

FIU 3, SU 1

Spectators were able to witness what Rojas does best.

The slugger knocked out her sixth homerun of the year, a three-run shot, to lead FIU to a 3-1 victory.

Freshman Kayla Burri, who went 3-for-4 on the day, led off the first inning with a double before Ashley McClain singled and stole second base to set up Rojas' homer, which came on a 3-2 pitch.

"Brie, as a freshman, has been really impressive and I'm really happy," McClendon said. "She's worked really well with the rest of the lineup."

Rojas always seems to have the big hit at the right time as five of her six homeruns have come with two runners on base.

The Hatters' lone run came in the bottom of the third after a sacrifice fly that allowed Chelsea Whalley to score after she doubled earlier in the inning.

In the circle, Gniadek pitched a complete game giving up the single run and six hits for FIU.

"Jen was great today and she's continuing to get better and better," McClendon said. "She's been a player that has been improving while others have been up and down."

With the win, FIU is now 21-11 on the year while SU falls to 19-14.



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Sophomore Jennifer Gniadek [above] has a record of 9-3 after a 3-1 victory over Stetson on March 28.