

# THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 22, Issue 7F

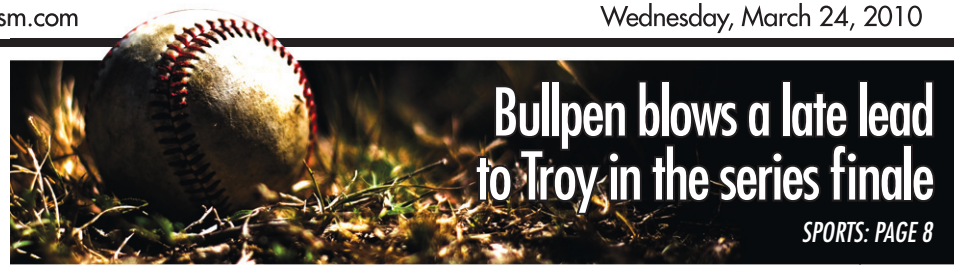
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Wednesday, March 24, 2010

**Guys AND DOLLS**  
TIME TO GET LUCKY!

Students flaunt their skills  
in The Roxy's production

LIFE! PAGE 5



Bullpen blows a late lead  
to Troy in the series finale

SPORTS PAGE 8

## SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



SGC-BBC Vice President Christine "Cici" Battle hopes to act as a "selfless leader."

OPINION PAGE 4

SGC-MMC passes the Student body Constitution Act of 2010; a piece of legislation that is in the benefit of the student body.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4

The new constitution on the ballot this year gets rid of existing loopholes, clarifies procedures and aims to be a lasting document.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Panel Panel: The Green Homet maintains a strong following fueled by industry giants like Kevin Smith.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Cast members and director of Hot Tub Time Machine sit down with *The Beacon* to discuss the art of comedy.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Softball has hit a snag, losing twice to Troy in the midst of a cold streak.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Target Wednesday After Hours, March 24, 6 - 9 p.m. The Frost Art Museum will launch its virtual gallery with *Wanderlust and Aesthetics and Values 2010*.

FIU Baseball, March 24, 3 p.m. Cheer on your fellow Golden Panthers as they take on the Jacksonville Dolphins at the FIU Baseball Stadium.

Dueling Pianos, March 25, 6 p.m. Join SPC-MMC as they turn the GC Ballrooms into a dueling piano bar. Attendance is free with Panther ID.

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

## WEATHER



WEDNESDAY  
Mostly Sunny  
LOW: 62 HIGH: 80



THURSDAY  
Mostly Cloudy  
LOW: 67 HIGH: 82



FRIDAY  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 62 HIGH: 80

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## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

University leaders discussed with members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools the school's Quality Enhancement Plan.

## QEP revisions add new courses

GABRIEL ARRARÁS  
Asst. News Director

As part of their March 11 visit to the Modesto Maidique Campus, members of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools met in the MARC building with several members of the FIU community, as well as several students enlisted to represent FIU's Quality Enhancement Plan.

The QEP is FIU's centerpiece for the reaccreditation process and includes a heavy focus on student learning outcomes, which were discussed at length during the 'student session' of the SACS visit.

"The learning outcomes focus is really all about what the students

walk away from here in terms of what they know or what they can do with their life as it relates to global learning and global citizenship," said Dr. Ed Rugg, a SACS member from Kennesaw State University.

"The part about the process that was most surprising to me was that there was this eternal revision of the student learning outcomes, because as we would get input from the other faculty members, everybody had a different definition of interdependence," said Marcia Magnus, associate professor of dietetics and nutrition at FIU.

Out of this infinite revision process six courses were developed: Gaining Global Perspectives, Artistic Expression in a Global Society,

Global Supply Chains, International Issues in Public Health & Nutrition, From the Bay to the World and How We Know What We Know, which is currently being piloted.

"I had the privilege of being in the QEP design committee. I saw the syllabi, I saw the struggles. Ultimately we chose six courses that I think are transformative for an institution," said John Stack, director of the School of International and Public Affairs.

For some students in attendance, the QEP courses represent an important step in unity for the FIU community.

"The University is such a large

SACS, page 2

## Professor takes on politics as city official

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE  
Editor in Chief

The second floor of the Health and Life Sciences-I building on the Modesto Maidique Campus houses some of the University's most sophisticated biological laboratories.

The walls in those corridors are lined with technical posters, and the doors boast biohazard and radioactivity warning signs.



But on the office door of biology professor Philip K. Stoddard, there is a sign you might not expect: mayor.

Last month, Stoddard was elected mayor of the City of South Miami with almost 59 percent of the vote in an improbable defeat of 12-year incumbent Mayor Horace Felio.

With a new set of responsibilities, and literally a whole city to worry about, Stoddard has had to adapt from an academic setting to a political one.

"In academia it's our job to explore the boundaries of ideas, it's what we do better than anybody else," Stoddard said, sitting in the living room of his South Miami residence. "But it's a hard thing to do in city government, or any government."

Stoddard first came to the University in 1992, "on the heels of Hurricane Andrew." FIU initially struck him as a "third-world university."

"When I started here, we had something like 20 faculty in biology," Stoddard

STODDARD, page 2

## SGC-MMC SENATE

## Elections changes pass, GSA awaits verdict

PHILIPPE BUTEAU  
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus approved amendments to the Elections Code and pushed their final decision on the structure of the Graduate Student Association and other governing councils to their next meeting, after over two months of debate.

The council bill proposed to amend sections to the Elections code that relate to supplemental guidelines that the Elections board can create, and

the qualification and registration of candidates. Of the four major amendments proposed in the bill the only one not passed was the one that dealt with candidates being able to campaign for one another which could not be limited or restricted by any rule according to the bill.

Loren Fraute, graduate senator, wanted that part removed because he felt it was too broad. He said that it would "make the strong stronger" referring to Greek organizations.

"Seventy-five percent of us are Greeks and if we had that advantage,

I think it would create more harm than good," Fraute said.

Muhammad Saleem, a graduate senator, authored the resolution to maintain GSA as a governing council. Honors College senator, Vignesh Doraiswamy and Fraute suggested the resolution be postponed until SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda was able to provide the "other side."

In an interview with Student Media, Saleem said that he will stick with their current proposal and he "doesn't see a big change to this resolution" happening by next week's meeting.

Jose Toscano, SGC-MMC adviser, said during the senate meeting the financial piece of GSA's restructuring is set and all that's left for GSA to figure out is the advocacy.

If the resolution passes the senate and students vote in favor of it, Saleem still plans to fight.

Saleem is counting on graduate students to vote against the proposed changes when they are voted on by students during the general elections on May 29-30.

"I will try to get the graduate senators to reverse it," Saleem said.

# Stoddard to continue responsibilities as professor

## STODDARD, page 1

said. “We had only two copy cards for the entire department. If you wanted to make copies, you had to find one of the two cards.”

Despite its size, what sold the University to Stoddard was its faculty.

“We had the some of the nicest faculty that I had met anywhere in the country,” Stoddard said. “The biology department is a family. We were in some respects a poor family, but a family nonetheless.”

Stoddard has lived in South Miami since 2002, when he and his wife, architecture professor Gray Read, bought a house in the area.

“Most of the time the house is very open; neighbors, kids and their pets can wander in

and out. It’s a wonderful community,” Stoddard said. “Bringing out the potential in the community is what it’s all about.” For all its virtues, the 2.3 square-mile city had a rough 2009, with no shortage of tragedies, controversial firings and political gridlock.

Last year the city was rocked by the death of Commissioner Jay Beckman who died in a gun accident; followed by the abrupt dismissal of two high-ranking city officials and bitter, fruitless infighting between then-Mayor Felieu and his City Hall opponents during the later months.

“I wasn’t happy with how the previous mayor was running the city,” Stoddard said about his inspiration to run. “I didn’t want to see the city continue to go – in no direction, really.

There was no effective leadership ... So I filed to run.”

One particular point of contention for Stoddard was Felieu’s support of an FPL plan that aims to bring high-voltage power lines to South Florida communities, in a proposed expansion of the company’s Turkey Point nuclear power plant near Homestead.

The debate has recently only gotten more heated. At a March 16 meeting, an FPL spokesperson told city commissioners that their efforts had merely delayed the plant’s expansion; Stoddard responded with a vow to fight the expansion “to the mat,” according to one *Miami Herald* report.

“What it will do is choke off all the really innovative development,” Stoddard told *The Beacon*. “Nuclear is an old technology, it’s like 50 years old.”

Stoddard remains committed to his students and classes, plans to teach his usual number of sections during the two-year term and continue his research, based on intraspecies communication. A lot of city business is handled in the evenings and on weekends.

“I think he’s crazy,” said fellow biology professor Lidia Kos, smiling. She has worked

with Stoddard for 11 years and also happens to live in South Miami. “He has two jobs, each with full-time responsibilities.”

Stoddard and Kos first met when she joined the faculty in 1998.

“Phil took good care of me,” Kos said. “He’s a great colleague and friend. Now we just talk mostly about life in general – and science.”

Even with the support of academic peers and students, his 11-year-old daughter Vannak can’t seem to get too excited about local politics or the fact that her father is mayor. Stoddard and Read adopted Vannak from Cambodia when she was 2.

“It’s one thing to be a professor and mayor, but I’m also a dad,” Stoddard said. “And not everything seems to be getting as much time as it needs lately.”

This year the couple is also hosting a 16-year-old exchange student from Russia, making Stoddard all the more in demand.

“I think one thing academics always long for is the opportunity to make a real positive difference in the world,” Stoddard said. “Someone in basic science like myself, where my science is not curing diseases, feels that more acutely: that there is still the desire to give something back.”

# Courses reflect global learning initiative goals

## SACS, page 1

community and it is important to the students that the QEP is developing something [so] every student [coming] through our doors will have a common experience,” said Student Government Council at MMC President, Anthony Rionda.

For Neda Gimeshi, an international business and marketing major, the excitement behind the QEP comes from the global perspectives being implemented.

“I think what FIU has done is come up with a plan to back up the ‘international’ in Florida International University,” Gimeshi said.

“Not only does the QEP incorporate international affairs, it incorporates the skill to listen and comprehend what others are saying, as well as

the ability to understand other perspectives,” she added.

According to Hilary Landorf, director of the office of Global Learning Initiatives, the students were the stars of the SACS visit.

“SACS was extremely impressed with the enthusiasm, dedication and articulateness of the students. The goal of the QEP is to improve student learning, and students realize the importance of global learning for global citizenship for their future as citizens of the world,” Landorf said.

While the SACS visitors found the University to be in compliance with all of their principles, Maria Lovett of the College of Education believed the visitors were more impressed with FIU’s students, than the University itself.

“I think one of the most

exciting things is to see students so excited about curriculum changes,” Lovett said.

Doug Whitlock, president of Kentucky University and part of the SACS team visiting FIU, spoke openly about the excitement behind FIU’s QEP.

“This is such an exciting project here, if it doesn’t light your fire, then your wick is wet,” he said.

SACS members expect the QEP to be a living curriculum, constantly evolving as time goes by, and the Global Learning Initiatives office is abiding by that.

“SACS called our QEP topic a brilliant move for FIU, and by incorporating the suggestions made by the SACS onsite team, we are confident that our QEP will become a national model for global learning in higher education, Landorf said.

## THE BEACON



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For an application packet, please contact Robert Jaross ([xjarossr@fiu.edu](mailto:xjarossr@fiu.edu)) or Alfred Soto ([sotoa@fiu.edu](mailto:sotoa@fiu.edu)). Applications can also be picked up in GC 210 or WUC 124.

All applications are due by 5 p.m. on March 25.

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS: PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

# Vice President Battle eager to take over council presidency

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Asst. News Director

Self-proclaimed “selfless leader” Christin “Cici” Battle, current vice president of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus, is ready to make BBC “crunk” if elected president.

“I feel that this campus has so much potential to be the crunkiest campus in Florida,” she said. “Our campus is on a bay and we should celebrate our location.”

Battle, a senior in psychology, postponed her graduation hoping to provide students with a strong voice and discuss their concerns with administration.

“I can offer students a strong voice. I am not afraid and I will not back down. I am not timid or shy. What needs to be said will be said. I am here for the students,” Battle said.

As president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the University and mentor at Strong Woman Strong Girls, an organization where college educated women help empower young girls, Battle is no stranger to leadership.

“I am very accessible and my door is always open. If you need me I am here. I like to develop bonds,” she said.

As president, Battle hopes to provide students focused leadership, a united University and a campus filled with tradition and pride.

With over a year of experience in SGC-BBC, Battle helped mold interns as intern coordinator during the 2009 Spring semester and finalize statutes, propose University-wide senate meetings, and create senate and vice president transition guide books during her recent term as vice president.

“My goal is to create a culture of leader-

ship,” Battle said. “Sometimes you have to work in-house to fix internal problems.”

Recognizing issues in the current administration, including attendance and communication, Battle developed the guides to help council members understand their roles and responsibilities.

“In order to have a good organization, there has to be a good transition and dissemination of information and knowledge,” Battle said. “Sometimes people need to know what to do and how to do it and this will provide something concrete for them to follow.”

Battle also plans to unite the campuses and create events that will incorporate students from both BBC and the Pembroke Pines Center.

“With more SGA visibility at the Pines Center, I think they will feel more connected, more at home. I want to involve them,” she said. “It all relates to feeling involved and having that personal connection with FIU.”

Battle believes she can easily relate to students because she too has been victim of several issues on campus, including housing, transportation and advising.

“I have been around the block enough to relate to the issues that students have. So not only will I be their voice, but I can also attach my own personal experience,” she said.

Battle’s first priority will be to address issues in housing while also focusing on first impressions on campus for incoming freshmen and sophomores, which is a major concern for Battle, who feels it can impact student involvement.

“Since we are so small, our customer service and interpersonal skills need to be the best,” Battle said. “Students should not feel like they are deterred from being involved. If students do not feel welcome, they will not stay here.”



BATTLE

## LEND A HAND



COURTESY OF ALTERNATIVE BREAKS

Michelle Almonte (right), a senior English major with Stephanie Valere (left) a sophomore art history major color with the local school children on March 17 in La Punta, Dominican Republic as part of the Alternative Spring Break for Environmental Causes ASB group (BBC).

# Candidate aims to improve dialogue, take action

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Asst. News Director

Hoping to be the leading candidate, Zahra Arbabi aski, Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus senator, promises to provide students action, communication and excitement if elected president of SGC-BBC.

According to Arbabi aski, the key to fulfilling this role is organization and balance.

As a student ambassador, student assistant at Campus Life and Orientation, member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, founder and president of BBC Muslim Student Association, and volunteer coordinator for Special Olympics, Arbabi aski can fluently speak the language of organization.

“I don’t joke around. When it comes to my work a lot of people may view me as very serious but I feel it is necessary. If I am not serious about my job, I feel that the

people working with me will not be serious, but I do find balance,” she said.

Arbabi aski’s main priority as president will be to focus on issues students have discussed with her including customer service, food service, parking and updated books in the library.

“I feel that we do not have enough low cost and ready-to-go items to offer students on the run,”

Arbabi aski said. “I also want to update some of the books in the library and give the most importance to the schools we host here like the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. I want to represent them well and provide good service.”

Arbabi aski began at SGC-BBC as an intern and went on to become executive assistant for then President Ana Maria Silva.

“I gained a lot of experience and learned how things work at the

president’s office,” she said.

Currently, Arbabi aski is finance chair of the Finance Committee and a lower division senator, which she says has allowed her to focus her attention directly on student issues.

“I wanted to be in the senate because the senators have a voice,” Arbabi aski said. “They have the power to make things simpler for students. SGA has so much power and we do not take advantage of our power to help students.”

As lower division senator, Arbabi aski helped alleviate several student concerns through a lower-division forum and providing pamphlets designed to teach students about the services offered throughout the University.

“It was a list of information letting lower-division students know what the University has and where to get it,” she said. “I tried to implement this because I saw this would really benefit the students.”

During her time in SGC-BBC, Arbabi aski has found areas of opportunities she hopes to solve if

elected president.

“I feel that no matter how hard we try, we are not representing our students. I don’t feel we have taken enough action to find out what our students really want,” she said. “This is why next year before deliberations, I want to survey what students want funded most, find most important and will benefit them.”

Arbabi aski also wants to address internal SGA issues that will help create progress within the University and the council.

“I believe that a full council does not guarantee a successful council. I’d rather start off the year with some open positions than have a full council who does not know what they are doing,” she said when asked about the senators removed throughout the current semester.

The lack of structure and loss of senators, according to Arbabi aski, is due to poor communication and interviews.

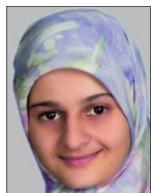
“My main concern is the way we let senators walk into positions.

Members need to have the experience or the passion to learn. I want to make sure the right people are in the right positions,” she said.

To have an efficient council, Arbabi aski plans to enhance the internship program and fully inform applicants of their role by providing them the SGA constitution and BBC by-laws before interviews. This process will allow the council to determine who is knowledgeable about their role and position. She also wants to pair interns with current council members creating a base for accountability and training.

Furthermore, Arbabi aski also wants to be able to hold council members accountable through weekly binder reports and represent the Pembroke Pines Center equally through events.

“The president needs to know what is going on and we need to know how to communicate properly within ourselves,” Arbabi aski said. “Once we conquer that, we can communicate better with our students.”



ARBABI ASKI

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Newly proposed SGA constitution to bring progress, possible setbacks

This editorial is the second in a two part series, the first of which was published on March 22.

In the editorial published March 22, *The Beacon* editorial board noted that the newly proposed Student Government constitution is a progressive move for the governing body, with important changes that SGA candidates should support.

The newly created document as proposed by the SGC-MMC judiciary branch, and soon to appear on ballots during SGA general elections next week, creates the grounds from which a binding and long lasting constitution can finally be created.

In the past, newly written constitutions have been drawn up and voted on during general elections. This process is inefficient at best and has resulted in a document that is constantly in flux and lacks stability. The new document corrects this, with proposed changes being amendment based.

This basically allows the document to stand the test of time, as constitutions are, by nature, rarely changed.

The rights of students within student government is thoroughly discussed within the document. In the constitution ratified last year, students' rights were sparsely noted, especially in regards to what role they may play within student government and reasons to petition their representatives.

The new constitution also grants greater autonomy to the judiciary, with all justices being appointed to two-year terms. This helps justices to be impervious or influenced by the need to be elected. As is the case with Supreme Court justices, this helps ensure their impartiality.

The steps in which hearings can be heard within the judiciary are also outlined including the submission of a writ of certiorari, a statement of grievance against any SGA official.

Senatorial power for impeachment has also been enhanced. This new constitution would call three-fifths of the senate to move for impeachment proceedings. In the previous document, this right was restricted to a vote of a mere one-third of a student governing council's senate leadership.

While the proposed constitution does indeed make strides in terms of the document's integrity, it does not take into account future changes to the SGA council system.

For years, different administrations have raised the question of whether or not SGA should even be governed by a two-council system, as is currently the case, or rather a single unified council representing all students and campuses. It is a stubborn issue that undoubtedly is discussed.

*The Beacon* itself has argued that council unification is a worthwhile goal to pursue, but it could prove to be this document's Achilles heel in the sense that any movement to unify the councils would almost certainly require a rewrite of any constitution, which has specific language on how power is distributed among the two councils.

The new document also does not require roll-call votes in the senate, and most votes are currently held by acclamation, or simply counting yes or no votes.

To call for a vote by acclamation in the senate, all that is required is a motion to do so being seconded. This keeps senators' votes practically anonymous.

While *The Beacon* understands that acclamation may at times expedite the legislative process and is a component of *Robert's Rules of Order*, it makes it nearly impossible for students to keep their elected officials accountable short of attending every meeting.

Despite these oversights, *The Beacon* finds the changes proposed a vital move for the future of SGA at FIU.

## SGC-MMC

# New act brings major changes for council

In a 22-0-0 vote, the SGC-MMC senate recently passed the Student Body Constitution Act of 2010, a series of amendments to the SGA constitution.

If approved by the University-wide Council, SBCA would not only reaffirm current legislation, but make plausible changes and provide for further transparency and encourage student body participation.

In accordance with SGC-MMC's proposal to restructure the Graduate Student Association, Article 2, Sections (2) (A) and (B) propose an increase in the number of graduate senators from 8 to 10, making each graduate senator responsible for approximately one-eighth of the graduate student population.

This amendment affords graduate students fair representation, a unified voice, and most importantly, retention of the graduate community at FIU.

Article 3, Section (5) (A) (7) gives the senate the power to "audit student organizations and entities directly funded by

SGA through A&S fees." Since recent investigations of GSA and Panther Rage proved to be beneficial in restructuring organizations, the SGC-MMC senate should utilize this power annually to ensure that student organizations funded by SGC are in compliance with regulations.

Article 4, Section (4) (E) outlines the duties and procedures of the elections commission, with Section (4) (E) (3) in particular asserting that the elections board must "be approved by the end of the Summer A semester..."

This measure will afford the elections commission ample time to prepare for annual student elections, and in particular, to work out inconsistencies within the system (i.e., voting process, qualifying candidates, reviewing elections code, etc).

The proposed change in Article 11, Section (1) (A) increases SGA presidents' salaries \$3,000 to \$13,000 annually. Since the salaries of all members of SGA are percentages of the presidents' salary, everyone can therefore anticipate a general

increase.

For example, SGA speakers and senators will retain salaries of \$4,160 and \$3,250 annually, respectively. For SGC-MMC senators in particular, this increase is long overdue and well deserved, as a vast majority of senators have worked tirelessly on behalf of the student body.

Future elected student officials should remember, however, that this increase in salary requires an increase in responsibility, workload and expectations.

While SBCA proposes positive change to the constitution, two areas present a basis for contention. Article 11, Section (1) (E) maintains that the salaries of appointed officials such as the elections commissioner, for example, are left to the discretion of the executive council at each campus.

While the elections commissioner may not receive compensation in excess of the Senate speaker's salary, the primary concern is that the elections commissioners are not elected. Any student official being compensated for and acting in the best interest of the student

body should be elected by the student body.

Additionally, Article 7, Section (4) (B) maintains that any student wishing to become SGC president must have previously held an SGC position for two semesters. An SGC president must have experience with how SGC functions prior to becoming SGC president.

However, members of the student body are welcomed to possess a unique set of skills not obtained through SGC that would properly equip him/her for SGC presidency.

Article 1, Section (3) (B), however, gives members of the student body "...the right to call for a University-wide or campus specific initiative, referendum, and/or recall..." via petition.

If the student body so wished to contest these aforementioned articles, Article 1 Section (3) (B) provides a platform upon which the student body's voice is heard and considered.

The SBCA is no doubt a formidable piece of legislation allowing the study body to be involved in the legislative process, as it calls for important amendments to the constitution.

## COMMENTARY



DEAN WILLIAMS

## THE SOAPBOX

# Graduate Student Association: To be or not to be

SVETLANA V. TYUTINA  
Special to The Beacon

Recently, the FIU graduate student community was disturbed by the contradictory decision of the Student Government Association on restructuring Graduate Student Association.

For a University that strives to be one of the best research institutions in the country, this step can have drastic consequences. Several meetings were set up for understanding why such a change is needed; this included a town hall meeting that gathered about 80 graduate students. There are different aspects to this process that need to be looked at before a final decision is taken.

For most graduate students, the decision on dissolving and restructuring GSA came as a surprise. Even though the University-wide Council voted on the financial restructuring of GSA more than one month and a half ago, the FIU graduate student

community was never asked its opinion on whether restructuring is needed. The question about the clandestine character of the resolution on GSA was raised during the town hall meeting. Unfortunately, it did not lead to any response.

Even more interesting, SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda admitted that neither he nor any other member of the University-wide Council ever attended any of the GSA events.

While waiting on SGA, a petition was organized against the reformation of the association. It was signed by over 140 students and professors. This petition, however, was taken lightly by SGA officials.

During the town hall meeting, representatives of the graduate school brought attention to the proposed reconstructed entity as it would carry the same name, have a similar mission and organize similar events. Some proposed to keep the current GSA struc-

ture for one year under the close monitoring from SGA. Nevertheless, these initiatives are not being considered by SGA in its decision making.

Who will benefit from the change? The SGA proposal on GSA includes three major changes: the increase in number of graduate senators at MMC from two to four, a \$40,000 budget increase (from \$120,000 to \$160,000, making \$100,000 exclusive funding for conference and research) and integration of GSA as a committee in SGA. Graduate students are not in opposition to the increase in the research and conference funding proposed. According to SGA, the additional money will be coming precisely from eliminating GSA as a council. And at this point, the situation becomes very unclear. Without any doubt, the elimination will give SGA extra money. But at the same time, three new paid positions will be introduced, as well as two new graduate

senators who also will be paid. The current GSA executive positions are not paid. Consequently, would these savings be worth transforming a fully functional council into an SGA committee with limited autonomy? Graduate students will not have an organization they can refer to. Furthermore, their advocating capacity will be reduced, as a minority in SGA senate even with four seats will still exist. Under the present circumstances, the only benefit of the restructuring will be that Campus Life will have one less council to advise.

There is only one question that comes to one's mind. The University SGA members are elected to represent the students, both graduate and undergraduate. Why was a crucial decision such as the restructuring of GSA made without the consultation of 18 percent of the student population?

Svetlana V. Tyutina is a former GSA president.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

## OPINIONPIECE

# 216

The number of votes within the U.S. House of Representatives that were needed to pass health care reform on March 21.

## QUOTATIONATION

"Can you say it was done openly with transparency and accountability, without backroom deals and struck behind closed doors, hidden from the people?"

Sen. John Boehner (Rep-Ohio)  
on Healthcare Reform Package passage

# GUYS & DOLLS

## Star actor juggles performances, school

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ  
Staff Writer

FIU freshman Gabriel Bonilla is everything you picture in a Broadway leading man. He has the handsome features, debonair personality and a presence that lights up a stage.

Bonilla plays Sky Masterson, the lead character in *Guys and Dolls* playing at The Roxy Performing Arts Center across the street from FIU's Modesto Maidique Campus. The play is set in a post World War II New York City and is a hilarious story of love, money and salvation.

The bulk of the action surrounds Sky's bet with clumsy gambler Nathan Detroit, played by Joel Santana, 17, to take religious zealot Sarah Brown out on a date. What happens next is a fast-paced collection of song and dance in the pursuit of Sarah, played by Stephanie Volero, 16, and a place to play craps.

Bonilla heard about the show from a friend he was working with

at a summer camp teaching theatre, who got a job at Roxy and called him to audition for the part.

"His character is the highest roller there is, he makes crazy bets and never loses," Bonilla said of Sky.

*Guys and Dolls* is Bonilla's first major role in a musical production even though he's been acting since the third grade. Besides the shower and with the radio, Bonilla had not done any professional singing, a challenge for the actor.

"The concepts you have to grasp, singing with your diaphragm and all that stuff was completely different and new to me. So, I had to work on it but the teachers work really well with us so I was able to learn," Bonilla said.

"He came in and had a great audition," said Nora Onate, chairman of the Board of Directors, of Bonilla.

The actor, who is currently working on a degree in psychology, sees himself working toward a career in film once he is finished with school and, hopefully, further

developing his voice as well.

How does he manage textbooks and sheet music? He did it with the help of understanding professors and putting in a lot of hard work and effort.

"Rehearsals run late. We get out of here at around 9:30 and [I] just hit the books until I'm done turning in all my work. I just get by as much as I can to get them both done," Bonilla said.

Bonilla does a great job at capturing the slick attitude of Sky Masterson and has great chemistry with his leading doll, Volero.

Though Sky and Sarah are the leads, the musical would be nothing without the quirky relationship of Miss Adelaide, a nightclub performer played by Sonia Roman, 18, and Nathan Detroit, a couple engaged for 14 years. Both were strong actors and singers and offered non-stop giggles for the audience.

There's plenty of Panther pride at the Roxy - the majority of the staff are FIU alumni.

Jillian Torgas, FIU alumna,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ROXY THEATRE GROUP

**Top:** From left to right: Joel Santana, Sonia Roman, Gabriel Bonilla and Stephanie Volero. **Bottom:** Andrew Rodriguez-Triana, Joel Santana, Alex Marrero.

dance director and choreographer of the show, makes a special appearance in the show's biggest dance number, "Havana," and both directors, Ana Andreu and Jorgina Fernandez, are FIU alumni.

Along with Bonilla, other University students in the production are Melissa Gonzalez, Alex Machado and Elizabeth Nickerson.

Alex Machado is hilarious as Harry the Horse. His crazy expres-

sions and accent give his character the perfect amount of physical comedy and his timing is impeccable.

He even got a congratulations from FIU theatre professor Phillip Church after the show.

The Roxy Theatre Group is a non-profit organization funded by The Children's Trust. Its main mission is to spread a love of the performing arts to children across Miami-Dade.

## Actors discuss movie scenes, co-star John Cusack

STEVE MESA  
Staff Writer

Leg warmers, the jerry curl and hair-metal rock bands are some of the things that really stand out from the 1980s.

In *Hot Tub Time Machine*, four guys (John Cusack, Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson and Clark Duke) are vacationing at a desolated ski resort when a night of drinking and debauchery causes them to be teleported back in time to 1986. *The Beacon* was able to sit down with the stars of the film, including Corddry, Robinson, Duke, Lizzy Caplan (*Cloverfield*), Crispin Glover (*Back to the Future*) and Collette Wolf (*Observe and Report*), along with the director Steve Pink (*Accepted*) to discuss the upcoming release.

Lizzy Caplan and Collette Wolf both admired how the director allowed them to develop their own comedy style, while getting feedback from him.

"(Steve) was always open to having our ideas and telling us to improvise, which is not always the case, especially in comedy," Caplan said. "He is the most diplomatic guy because whatever was the funniest take fell into the movie's final cut."

"I loved Steve's direction because he always gave me something positive and then he will give me feedback on my scenes," Wolf said. "I really appreciated it because

not everybody does it but, to me, it would seem like common sense. He always does that and always has something good to say, even on my crappiest takes."

Pink was careful to ensure the audience still got a sense of who the characters were, incorporating serious moments between the laughs.

"I think in all the best movies, you care about the characters no matter how insane or ridiculous the premise is," he said. "The more you explore your characters and the more you like them, the more you laugh at their ridiculous behavior because identifying their flawed behavior is funny to you. Without their behavior, you cannot identify their flaws and identifying a character's disposition really drives the comedy."

As stars of *Hot Tub Time Machine*, Corddry, Duke and Robinson really enjoyed their time working and hanging with co-star and producer of the film, Cusack.

"Cusack was cool, man," Robinson said. "He was very serious off set and then at night, he will say 'Let's go out'. Sometimes he was two different people, but he was cool."

Corddry said that Cusack was "the mayor of Vancouver" and the group basically followed him around.

Corddry, Duke and Robinson had the most fun filming during a skiing sequence. However, there is a scene in the movie which

was not planned where Duke fell accidentally on his snowboard.

"They taught me how to snowboard, but they did not teach me how to stop," Duke said. "I went down the mountain doing all kinds of different turns, but I never practiced stopping. That was the only thing I really had to learn."

"All the stuff on the boat was fun too," Corddry said. "It was the last day of shooting and we shot that green screen bullcrap at night at three in the morning. I also got drunk as I drank a whole bottle of white wine."

Crispin Glover is no stranger to the 1980s as he had roles in quintessential 80s films such as *Friday the 13th Part IV: The Final Chapter* and *Back to the Future*. Glover said he thought it was interesting that *Hot Tub Time Machine* and *Back to the Future* have a similar structure in terms of the plot of the film.

"This movie has interesting correlations and talking about this film has made me talk about certain things I have not talked about for a while," Glover said. "It has been an enjoyable experience on the whole. I am grateful and happy that I am in this film. I feel like this is a film that can do well and I think people will enjoy and get good things out of it."

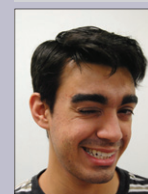
*Hot Tub Time Machine* opens everywhere on March 26.

PANEL PANEL

## Forgotten superhero comes back

I am an avid comic book fan. I have been collecting comics since before I could even read and I visit the comic shop once a week.

COLUMNIST



SEAN GONZALEZ

Despite all of this, I managed to completely miss an entire spectrum of what I would have considered an overlooked niche.

I recently discovered that the Dynamite comics company has five ongoing Green Hornet titles. Five is not so unheard of in the industry, Wolverine and Spiderman are featured in at least six titles each.

But, for a character that is primarily forgotten by the American public, I was completely surprised.

PANEL, page 6

# Upcoming Green Hornet film boosts superhero's popularity

## PANEL, page 5

For those who don't remember The Green Hornet, which is probably most of the college age demographic, a simple summary will suffice.

Created for radio serials in the 1930s, The Green Hornet is a masked vigilante who fights crime with his hand-to-hand combat skills and his state-of-the-art technology. He is also accompanied by his Japanese manservant, Kato.

The Green Hornet was extremely popular, which brought an evolution into television. The

show on ABC was actually where Bruce Lee had his break in America while playing Kato. Its long history is part of the reason why The Green Hornet has managed to survive for so many years, especially with reminders from people such as Kevin Smith, who had been in talks to write and direct a movie based off the character a few years ago.

Talks apparently fell through but recently production has begun on the project with Michel Gondry directing and Seth Rogen starring as the hero.

Smith's lost chance to write one of his child-

hood heroes was not passed up because he writes one of the five titles for Dynamite comics.

With the new movie coming out and writers like Smith working on the books, it's no surprise that The Green Hornet is experiencing a surge in popularity. After picking up a few issues of the comics, I can honestly say that the hype is not taken for granted.

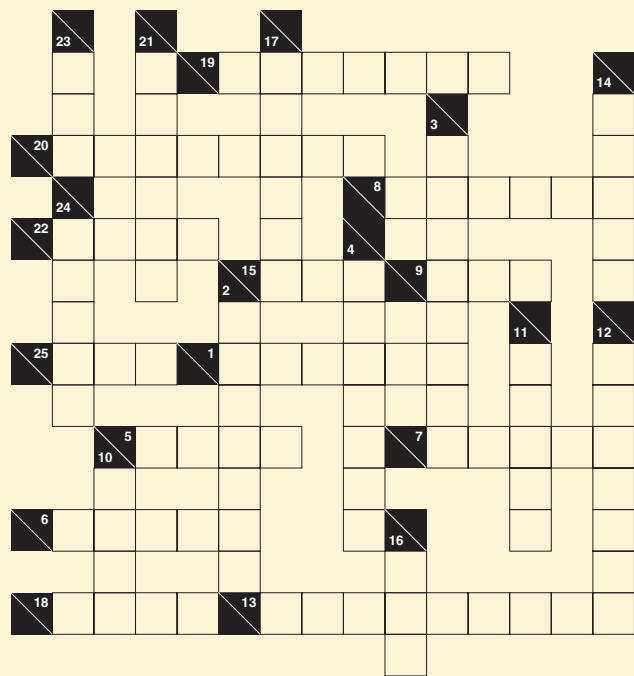
*Green Hornet: Year One* gives the hero an origin that he never had in the radio or TV shows. It manages to embody the old school feel of the 30s without being too campy.

*The Green Hornet Strikes!* involves the hero in a dystopian future. Even Kato has his own book, where he teaches his daughter how to continue his legacy.

If you're interested in getting in on the action before the movie is released, don't be worried about these comics being lousy promotional fodder or attempts to milk money out of fans. The stories are written by people who genuinely love the character and I doubt they'll disappoint.

*Panel Panel* is a weekly comics column. Look for it every Wednesday.

## Diversions



www.sudoku-puzzles.net

- 1) Who solves the crime in 'Death on the Nile'? (Surname)
- 2) What nationality was painter Salvador Dali?
- 3) In 1982, the 'Man Of The Year' in Time magazine was not human - who or what was it?
- 4) Who wrote A Severed Head (1961) and The Sea, The Sea (1978)? (Surname)
- 5) What was the first name of the fictional detective Miss Marple?
- 6) What nationality was the poet Dylan Thomas?
- 7) In the Bible, which animal was the first to leave the ark?
- 8) What was author Dick Francis' profession before he took up writing?
- 9) Which author, born in Boston in 1809, wrote the poem called 'The Raven'? (Surname)
- 10) Which famous artist designed the dream sequences in Alfred Hitchcock's film 'Spellbound'? (Surname)
- 11) Who is the second most mentioned man in the Bible?
- 12) In which country was Hamlet a prince?
- 13) Who wrote 'Of Mice And Men'? (Surname)

- 14) Whose autobiography was called 'A Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man'? (Surname)
- 15) In the book 'Huckleberry Finn', what was the first name of Huckleberry's best friend?
- 16) In George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' what type of animal was 'Napoleon'?
- 17) What is Shakespeare's longest play?
- 18) Who wrote under the pseudonym Richard Bachman? (Surname)
- 19) Who wrote 'Frankenstein'? (Surname)
- 20) Who was British poet laureate between 1972 and 1984? (Surname)
- 21) Which famous fictional character was born on 31st July, 1981? (Surname)
- 22) Which architect was responsible for the rebuilding of many of London's churches following the Great Fire of London? (Surname)
- 23) In both the Old and New testaments which book has the shortest title?
- 24) Who wrote the book 'Taken On Trust' about his time as a hostage? (Surname)
- 25) In the Bible, how many fishes did Jesus need to feed five thousand?

Visit [www.sudoku-puzzles.net](http://www.sudoku-puzzles.net) for answers. Puzzle ID 715665344

**50 BEST PLACES TO LAUNCH A CAREER** BusinessWeek

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# Day one

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## Thomas looks for changes as season nears midpoint

### BASEBALL, page 8

two runs.

Thomas then opted to go with Eric Berkowitz to get the final three outs to close the game. Berkowitz, making his third appearance in as many days, failed to record an out and gave up the lead after a three-run blast by Shohei Fujita to complete the Trojan rally.

Fujita's home run proved to be the deciding blow as the Golden Panthers failed to answer in the ninth after Pablo Bermudez struck out with two runners on base.

### BULLPEN ADJUSTMENTS

Turtle Thomas had his bullpen arrangement just about figured out until last week, when the team learned

that emerging closer Bryam Garcia will be out indefinitely due to an unspecified injury to his throwing arm.

The injury forces Thomas to resort to a revolving door to fill in the closer role and said that Jorge Marban and Alberto Cardenas would fill the gap left by Garcia.

But it was Eric Berkowitz who appeared to have Thomas' trust throughout the weekend. The right-handed senior pitched three consecutive games over the weekend against Troy, picking up two saves before blowing the save on March 21.

### OFFENSIVE POWER

The Golden Panthers may have dropped the final game of their series against

Troy but they stand as the Sun Belt Conference's leading offensive unit as of March 22, batting .342 as a team.

Mike Martinez (.431), Garrett Wittels (.431) and Pablo Bermudez (.407) rank among the top 10 hitters in the conference.

Martinez is tied for most doubles (11) in the conference this season while Jabari Henry, who now has a team-high 30 RBI on the season, ranks third in that category and is first in slugging percentage (.769).

Pitching has been a different story, however, as the team has struggled to keep opposing offenses at bay and now ranks eighth in the conference with a team ERA of 5.73.

## Starters must improve to keep up with potent bats

### TOWERS, page 8

FIU looked like a potential juggernaut. They had stormed through an early conference schedule, going 6-2 against conference opponents.

It wasn't that there weren't some chinks in the armor last season.

As we eventually saw, the starting pitchers were overused in the early parts of the season and the bullpen, which was shielded early, was not able to pick up the slack when the starting pitching stalled.

Last weekend, the Golden Panthers took two out of three from conference foe Troy in their conference opener, winning a couple of close games thanks to timely hitting and a bend, don't break showing from the bullpen, but by Sunday, the pen finally broke, allowing nine runs in three and two thirds innings.

For much of the season, the bullpen has been something of a strong point,

relative to last season, and the starting pitching has failed to hold up their end of the bargain.

If last season's pattern follows, it's likely that the wheels will come off before long, and FIU may not be able to sustain a deep run in the tournament.

### LOOKING FORWARD

The biggest change for FIU from this season to last is the pitching, and it's been a mixed bag. The bullpen, a real weak point, has mostly improved from last year, but the starting pitching hasn't been there now.

The bullpen has had to take on a large amount of innings, so much so that against Southern Utah University on March 18, starter Daniel DeSimone threw a 130 pitch complete game to try and save the bullpen for the weekend series.

While they've certainly improved upon last season's showing, the question remains how

much of a load can the bullpen carry, and whether they have the depth to pick up the starters as the season wears on.

The key will be for the starters, especially Rembisz, who had his best performance of the season against Troy, and Corey Polizzano, the two seniors, to pick up their game.

While the bullpen may be improved, both in talent and in depth, it may not be enough to make up for the starting pitching's regression.

The hitting is there to make FIU an elite program, as coach Turtle Thomas has a knack for finding young, talented hitters with mature approaches at the plate, but finding arms to take the next step has been a much tougher task.

Last year, it was the starters who carried the brunt of the load, and now the pressure's on the bullpen to pick up the slack.

And that may prove to be their undoing.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### JOBS

Looking for part-time or full-time employees to work in children's retail. Sales associates should like to work with kids, reliable, and trustworthy. We are a new, girly, trendy location coming soon to local malls. For more information contact Kayla @ MyTwoReflectionsKids@yahoo.com

# A Friend Dies. Who Cares?

Toxic drinking is an epidemic on campuses all across America.

It means consuming so much alcohol the drinker passes out. But while "sleeping it off," the victim may be quietly dying.

When you come right down to it, students themselves are the best ones to tackle this problem. So, in growing numbers, Stony Brook students have joined together in the Red Watch Band movement.

Working with experts, they fine-tuned a course in techniques to handle these alcohol emergencies. Red Watch Band members can act fast, when every second counts. They know the quick steps they can take to rescue a passed-out student from a drinking death, and can immediately summon professional help. Everyone completing the course is given the distinctive red watch for identification.

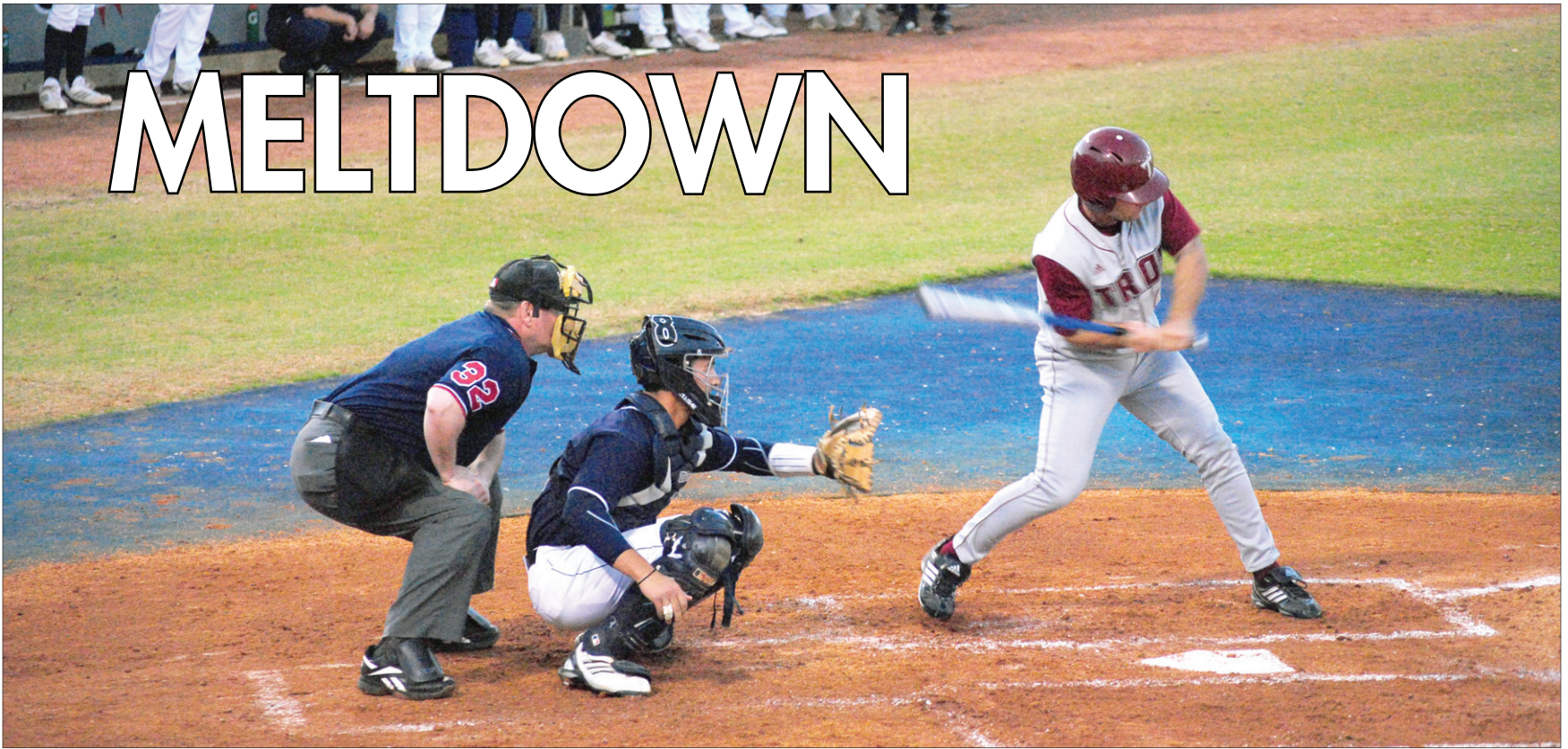
Since its inception at Stony Brook University in March 2009, approximately 40 schools across the country have signed on to implement this lifesaving program.

To prevent toxic drinking deaths, go to [redwatchband.org](http://redwatchband.org)



**STONY  
BROOK**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

## BASEBALL: TROY 14, FIU 12



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

The Golden Panthers failed to secure a series sweep as the Troy offense awoke late and overcame two large deficits to steal the victory from FIU.

## Key to season success falls on pitchers' arms

It is, of course, a little bit too early to take anything definitively out of this season.

Twenty games is a very small amount of time in baseball, and there is still a large amount of change or fluctuation possible for this FIU team.

But we are starting to reach a point where this team is forming an identity, and I'm not sure if it's one that can lead to post-season success for the Golden Panthers.

### COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

### LOOKING BACK

At this point last year, FIU was 15-5, just two games better than their mark through 20 this season.

But the way they went about that record through 20 games was a little bit different than this season's team.

Buoyed by dominant starting pitching from junior college transfers Scott Rembisz and Tom Ebert,

**TOWERS, page 7**

## Overworked pen struggles

JOEL DELGADO  
Asst. Sports Director

### TROY 14, FIU 12

The Golden Panthers held the lead for the first eight innings of their series finale against the visiting Troy Trojans.

But the team ended up falling behind after the one inning that mattered most.

FIU (13-7, 2-1 SBC) gave up nine runs in the final two innings, unable to pick up a series sweep and allowing Troy (8-10, 2-4 SBC) to salvage the final game of the series on March 21.

While FIU still managed to take two of three in the series,

head coach Turtle Thomas was disappointed with the final result.

"Troy is a good team and we flat out just gave them the game," Thomas said after the game. "We just didn't make the right pitches."

Aaron Arboleya cruised through his first four innings on the mound as the Golden Panther offense helped give the FIU starter a comfortable 6-0 lead going into the fifth inning.

That was when the right-hander ran into trouble, giving up a home run over the left field wall to Blake Martz. The Trojans would make it a 6-5 game after

chasing Arboleya out of the game in the sixth inning.

The Panthers struck right back with an offensive outburst in the bottom half of the inning sparked by a double by Jeremy Patton and a single by Mike Martinez to start the inning.

Martinez shined for FIU on offense, finishing 5-for-5 at the plate and scoring three times in the process.

Despite rebuilding their lead, the Trojans proved to remain resilient as Chad Watson crushed a three-run home run to right field in the eighth to pull Troy within

**BASEBALL, page 7**

## SOFTBALL: TROY 5, FIU 3

# Golden Panthers disappointed after promising start

STEPHANIE GABRIEL  
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team thought they were ready.

After almost upsetting No. 5 ranked Alabama on March 18 and beginning the season with their hottest start ever through 23 games, the Golden Panthers thought that beating conference rival Troy and taking an early grasp of the conference was very plausible.

FIU, however, lost its steam.

"After the loss to Alabama we were all really pumped up," freshman Brie Rojas said on March 20. "We thought we were ready for Troy."

The Golden Panthers (19-10, 4-2) dropped two of three games to the Trojans (17-13, 5-1) last weekend, including a 5-3 defeat on March 21 to wrap up the series.

With the win over FIU, the Trojans took an early first place standing in the Sun Belt Conference.

"This was a critical series win for us," Troy head coach Melanie Davis said, according to *troytrojans.com*. "Not only does it mean a lot

in the standings, but later on down the line with seedings in the conference tournament."

Although the Trojans offense generated two home runs in the game, much of the credit is awarded to Ashlyn Williams for her performance in the pitching circle. The junior recorded 10 strikeouts on the day and three earned runs, which were tallied on homers by FIU sophomore Ashley McClain and freshman Jessy Alfonso.

Hayden Gann plastered a home run for Troy to drive in three runs during the first inning while Nikki Hollett recorded a two-run shot in the sixth.

"I'm thrilled that we bounced back from the adversity we felt on the road last week," Davis said. "This win really showed our team's character and inner strength."

Meanwhile, the Golden Panthers have now suffered five losses in their last six games.

"We just need to come out more prepared," Rojas said. "We need to have the mindset that we can play against anybody."

FIU will look to redeem itself as the Golden Panthers hit the road again from March 27-28 for a series against Stetson in DeLand, Fla.



KEVIN GLACKMEYER/TROYTROJANS.COM

The Golden Panthers now have a record of 4-5 on the road this season after dropping two of three games to the Trojans.