



Dean Williams discusses an SGC-MMC bill

PAGE 4



Britto discusses lifelong pursuit of happiness

PAGE 5



Men and women fall during first round

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Stonewall 2 BBC held the "I Want... I Can't... I Do!" commitment ceremony event to raise awareness for same-sex marriage rights.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

SGC-BBC: Council was reluctant to fund a group for a news conference, but approved appropriations for a retreat and Barbecue at the Bay.

EDITORIAL PAGE 4



FIU's Quality Enhancement Plan has its flaws, but overall has more pros than cons.

OPINION PAGE 4

FIU's newest tech fee is bringing substantial change to the University and is a great opportunity for students.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Crime Museum: A controversial exhibit about Miami's dark history with drugs opened at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Modern Classics: Steven Spielberg's story of a Jewish man torn is a triumph.

SPORTS PAGE 7

FIU baseball wins two out of three heading into the final game of a weekend tournament in Arizona.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jeff Garlin at Books & Books, March 8, 4 - 5 p.m. Jeff Garlin from *Curb Your Enthusiasm* will be discussing his new book, *My Footprint*, at the Books & Books on 265 Aragon Ave.

Journalism in Crisis, March 9, 7 p.m. A lecture hosted by Dan Rather will be held at the Wolfe University Theater. Free for FIU students, \$5 for faculty and \$15 general.

FIU Baseball, March 10, 6 - 9 p.m. The Golden Panthers take on Boston College.

— More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!

WEATHER



MONDAY
Mostly Sunny
LOW: 59 HIGH: 77



TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 63 HIGH: 79



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 66 HIGH: 81

CONTACTS

Editor in Chief 305-348-1580
chris.necuze@fiusm.com

MMC Office 305-348-2709
news@fiusm.com

BBC Office 305-919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Tips & Corrections 305-348-2709
tips@fiusm.com

Advertising 305-348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

Two councils to be demoted

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Senior Staff Writer

Resolutions will be presented in the coming weeks that will propose the "movement of Panther Rage and the restructuring of [Graduate Student Association]," according to Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Anthony Rionda.

Rionda said that both bodies will continue to exist but not as governing councils and that their organizational structures would be different.

Panther Rage will be a committee within the Student

Government Association and the amount of graduate senators, who will be responsible for the allocation of conference funding, will increase from two to four.

Giovanni Correale, vice president of Panther Rage, said in an interview with Student Media that the councils were analyzed on criteria such as membership, activity and general support basis.

In other words, they were analyzed based on what they are supposed to do according to their constitution, how they are doing it and how effective they are.

"The two councils that ended up at the bottom of the totem

pole were GSA and ourselves," Correale said.

Correale said two of the causes of Panther Rage's results were their reduced budget and lack of communication with Athletics.

"Things happened that were out of our power," Correale said.

Correale and Anthony Barbato, president of Panther Rage, said that if the resolution passes, Panther Rage would not exist as a governing council. What would exist is a committee chair within SGA that would take

RAGE, page 2

SGC-MMC

2010 nominees declared

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Senior Staff Writer

Two weeks after the Feb. 18 deadline for candidate applications, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Elections Board has released the list of candidates for the 2010 SGC-MMC elections.

The list of 32 candidates who qualified to run, including presidential, vice presidential and senatorial candidates, were notified through an e-mail from the board. In the e-mail, the board told candidates that they are required to attend one of the two candidate meetings, held on March 10 and 11.

The week after Spring Break, March 22, is when the campaigning for elections is set to begin and the Elections Board, a board confirmed by the SGC-MMC senate responsible for the running of all general and special elections at MMC, plans to market elections through print and Internet methods.

Christy Flores, Elections Board commissioner, said the board plans to use flyers and Facebook for marketing. She said they will start as soon as they get in contact with publications.

The Elections Board plans to have a debate between Lower Division senators and At-Large senators in the Graham Center Pit on March 26. Flores said the board is still searching for a moderator and they have several administrators in mind to take up that position. She said students would be able to ask the candidates questions.

PantherSoft will not be the voting system for this year's elections, its replacement will be *votenet.com*. Flores said there will be a trial-run of Votenet for the Black Student Union elections.

SGA elections are March 29 and 30.

NIGHT OF MEMORIES



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

The late Professor Jeffrey Knapp was remembered during the Luminaria Ceremony at Relay for Life on March 6. The event raised more than \$60,000 this year benefiting the American Cancer Society.

More photos from Relay for Life on March 10.

Law school launches mentoring program

MEENA RUPANI
Staff Writer

Last October, the College of Law partnered with the Hispanic National Bar Foundation to launch the Project Access mentoring program, according to the law school Web site. Project Access aims at providing opportunities to minority and other traditionally underrepresented groups in the legal profession.

According to the press release, students will be matched with

mentoring attorneys to explore the application processes of college and law school, internships, scholarships and the real world work of a lawyer.

Associate Dean of the College of Law Michelle Mason, who is overseeing the mentoring program, explained the events the law school is holding this year to further develop the program.

According to Mason, students participating in the Project Access program will partner with other area high school students in a

final moot court competition in April. All students participating will receive a certificate; Project Access schools will receive a plaque for their school and the competition's winner will receive a prize.

In addition, the law school hopes to offer underrepresented students assistance while they prepare for the bar examination.

"These mentors will offer moral support, study tips and time management advice throughout the stressful period of bar study.

Communication will take place by e-mail, phone or in person," Mason said.

Mason explained why it is significant for the law school to participate in a pipeline initiative such as Project Access.

"The law school is committed to providing access and opportunity to members of this community. As a community of legal scholars, the College of Law recognizes its obligations to the region, state, nation and the international community to

ACCESS, page 2

NEWS FLASH

NATIONAL

Arizona bus crash kills six

Several people were ejected from a bus when it crashed on an Arizona interstate on Friday, killing six passengers.

According to CNN, the wreck occurred at 5:27 a.m. on Interstate 10 south of Phoenix when the commercial bus rear-ended a pickup truck.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety told CNN that the driver lost control of the bus, went off road, and rolled over at least once while several people were ejected.

Full-body scans to be implemented at 11 airports

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced Friday that the federal government will begin to deploy full-body scanning machines to 11 airports across the United States.

According to CNN, 40 body-imaging machines already have been put into use at 19 airports nationwide as part of a field test.

The Transportation Security Administration expects to deploy 450 units by the end of this year.

WORLD

Earthquake hits Indian Ocean

A magnitude 6.5 earthquake occurred in the ocean southwest of Sumatra in Indonesia.

According to CNN, the quake occurred shortly after 11 p.m. and was centered about 100 miles west of Bengkulu, Sumatra.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter was 13.7 miles deep.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

– Compiled by Gabriel Arraras

2010 SGC-MMC CANDIDATES

President:

- Helena Ramirez

Vice President:

- Nick Autiello

Lower Division:

- Vanessa Garcia
- Ranshan Gomez
- Macarena Jimenez
- Amanda Jimenez
- Ismar Huingo
- Patrick O'Keefe

- Jonathan O'Campo
- Jennifer Sada

At Large:

- Carlos Acevado
- Daniela Gonzalez
- Cristina Loreto
- Janice Rubio

Arts & Architecture:

- Elizabeth Cid

Arts & Sciences:

- Moses Aluicio

- Jesus Borrero
- Chris Cabral
- Donovan Dawson
- Jesse Giraldo
- Aldo Gonzalez
- Daniel Gonzalez
- Steven O'Campo

Business:

- Kevin Gonzalez
- Hector Mujica

Education:

- Adam do Amaral

Engineering:

- Jeffrey Addison
- William Jose Velez
- Tara Jafamadar

Honors:

- Joanne Myler

Housing:

- Chelsea Franco
- Christina Marinos
- Carlos Rodriguez

Program expected to gain success

ACCESS, page 1

assist the legal profession and the society it serves," Mason said.

She also added, "The FIU College of Law seeks to graduate students who appreciate the lawyer's professional and ethical obligations to serve the community. The College of Law educates future lawyers who understand the value – to the community and to them personally – of helping those in need."

President of HNBF Mayda Prego also shared how happy the foundation is to be partnered with FIU in this initiative.

"The HNBF is dedicated to empowering the Hispanic community through education. We are thrilled that with a strong partnership with FIU College of Law we can bring quality programs like Project Access to so many students in the Hispanic community," Prego said.

Mason commented on the success of the mentoring program last semester and explained what the future

The law school is committed to providing access and opportunity to members of this community.

Michelle Mason, associate dean
College of Law

of the program would be.

"All events were well attended and we believe successful. The point was to expose students to as much information about the variety of areas of law and have them form mentoring relationships with those in the practice."

She added that she

doesn't "anticipate the program ever 'not doing well.' There are always things to be learned and tweaked but both the Hispanic National Bar Foundation and FIU Law are committed to this program's ongoing success."

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

PRODUCTION MANAGER

CHRISTOPHER LEE ADAMS

COPY CHIEF

PAULA GARCIA

NEWS DIRECTOR

JORGE VALENS

BBC MANAGING EDITOR

JASMYN ELLIOTT

LIFE! EDITOR

ASHLYN TOLEDO

SPORTS DIRECTOR

JONATHAN RAMOS

OPINION EDITOR

DAVID BARRIOS

PHOTO EDITOR

ALEX GARCIA

ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS

GABRIEL ARRARAS, MAUREEN NINO

ASST. LIFE EDITOR

JAMES RADZIEWICZ

ASST. OPINION EDITOR

ODETTE BARRIENTOS

ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS

STEPHANIE GABRIEL, JOEL DELGADO

BBC PHOTO EDITOR

TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS

PAGE DESIGNERS

JESSICA MAYA, LEONCIO ALVAREZ,
ASHLEY SALAMANCA, CHRIS TOWERS,
LEXA GARVEY

COPY EDITORS

CARLA GARCIA, ASHLEY CAPO, MARIE
DUNBAR, ASHLEY SALAMANCA, SERGIO

MONTEALEGRE

RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR

ROSALYN DELGADO

ADVERTISING MANAGER

BOBBY JOE BRACY

BUSINESS MANAGER

TATIANA CANTILLO

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ROBERT JAROSS

ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA

ALFRED SOTO



INFORMATION

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, Room 210, at the Modesto Maidique Campus and in the Wolfe University Center, Room 124, at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-2709. Mailing address: Graham Center, Room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at: www.fiusm.com.

RAGE, page 1

up Panther Rage's responsibilities.

Barbato said what Panther Rage is currently working on is having one of the current Panther Rage executive board members filling that committee chair position.

They did admit, however, that they haven't read the resolution themselves and that they were going on what they heard.

Correale said Panther Rage wants the opportunity to give a counter argument.

"If we're going down, we're going down with a fight," Correale said.

He defended Panther Rage during the interview by bringing up how long the council has existed.

"If something wasn't relevant, then it wouldn't have existed for so long," Correale said.

He added that Panther Rage not only has to compete with other events (Homecoming, Dance Marathon), but also with other councils for membership.

Barbato said in a separate interview that this resolution, if passed, would be a step in the wrong direction and would bring a negative light to SGA.

"If they get rid of the spirit organization, then what's next?" Barbato said.

Panther Rage is a 13-year-old spirit organization. Its Web site says that it exists to promote and maintain the highest level of school spirit possible at the University.

Sholom Neistein, SGC at Biscayne Bay Campus president, said that for GSA, a committee would be more efficient than a governing council because they would not have to worry about quorum, the minimum number of people necessary to conduct business.

He also said that setting up an allocation from which the committee could draw funds would be good because "all they did was come with money requests."

Srikanth Korla, president of GSA, said even though having a council is important and "always good," the new model is better because of the increased senate seats and conference funding. Rionda said during the senate meeting that graduate funding would increase from \$45,000 to \$100,000.

"Being under SGA is good for graduate students as well as SGA," Korla said.

– Additional reporting by Jorge Valens



PantherWire

Mon, Wed & Fri 11 am-12 pm

Tune in to 88.1 95.3 96.9 wrgp.org



RADIATE FM

Commitment ceremony celebrates right to love

KATHERINE PORRAS
Contributing Writer

Under the large glass wall of Panther Square, couples showed their commitment to each other in front of a crowd of students and faculty.

Stonewall 2 BBC, the University's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization, held a commitment ceremony for both homosexual and heterosexual couples. The event, titled "I Want...I Can't...I Do!" was held at Panther Square on March 4.

Daniel Anzueto, president of Stonewall, said the purpose of the event was to open people's minds and raise awareness about many laws put in place that do not allow same-sex couples to get married.

"We wanted to increase awareness and education on same-sex marriage and the difficulties they are having statewide as well as on a national level," Anzueto said.

Couples were allowed to participate regardless of sexual orienta-

tion and give each other a commitment of love to be together. At the end of their ceremony, they were given certificates of their commitment. The ceremony was performed by members from the Sunshine Cathedral, a church that is open to the LGBT community.

Several other religious figures were present, including Rabbi Noah Kitty of Congregation Etz Chaim in Wilton Manors, a synagogue also open to the LGBT community, sitting at tables and willing to give more information on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Sarah David-Williams, office manager for Campus Life and Orientation said that she enjoyed the gesture and the symbol the event represented.

"It was great. I loved the participation from the audience and I definitely think they should do it every year," David-Williams said. "I think that if they do it every year, they'll have even more participation."

A total of three couples participated in the commitment ceremony,



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Tabitha Nazario and Livette Aldarondo, members of the LGBT community show their support for Stonewall 2 BBC's commitment ceremony event "I Want... I Can't... I Do!" in WUC Panther Square on March 4. Durrell Watkins, Senior Pastor of Sunshine Cathedral in Ft. Lauderdale presides over the ceremony.

two same-sex couples and one straight couple.

"[The event] provided a venue in which same-sex couples could express their commitment," David-Williams said.

Anzueto pointed out that they kept the event as "commitment" and

not "marriage" to show their respect to other religious views.

"It increased awareness and people learned a lot. We got a lot of support. A lot of people joined in," he said.

Anzueto believes the event was a success and would like to try to have

the event again either in the Fall semester or next year.


For more information regarding upcoming events from Stonewall 2 BBC, contact the office of Campus Life and Orientation at 305-919-5800 or send an e-mail to stonewallbbc@gmail.com.

Global Learning for Global Citizenship

Tuesday Times Roundtable

Title: **"Global Weirding is Here"**

Moderator: **Fernando Figueredo**
(School of Journalism and Mass Communication)



Time & Location: **Tuesday, March 9, 2010**
12:30pm - 1:30pm
GC 150
Lunch and refreshments provided.

presented by **The New York Times**

FIU Student Government Association **FIU** Global Learning

SGC-BBC

Senate disperses funding

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

With quorum met, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus went straight into business during their weekly meeting on March 1.

With four pending appropriations presented by SGC-BBC Finance Committee President Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC deliberated on which funds should be allocated or denied.

The largest discussion during the meeting surrounded a \$2,158.81 request made by seven students to attend an Honors College news literacy conference in Norman, Oklahoma.

According to Arbabi aski, who is also an SGC-BBC lower division senator, the money will be used toward air fare and the conference registration fee of \$30 per person.

"I feel very uncomfortable funding a non-club for a conference," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation and SGC-BBC advisor. "It is not even a club. It is just students who got together and want to go to something for an academic reason."

According to Arbabi aski, the group must create an event on campus to fully inform

students of what they learned by the month of April.

"We did give them a deadline to have an event at BBC and that way we hold them accountable," Arbabi aski said.

However, the council remained unconvinced.

"How do we know they are not partying?" said Nickolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC speaker of the senate and lower division senator.

According to Andrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator, the students are involved in both the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Honors College and were informed about the conference by Professor Fred Blevens.

"Do not look at it as an Honors College thing, but a group of students who want to attend a conference," Arbabi aski said.

There was a time, according to Zapata, that conferences were not funded by SGA and he recommends that a system be established to help facilitate the appropriation process for future situations.

"A lot of people ask money for conferences and we want to accommodate that, but we want to be consistent with everyone," Zapata said. "Everybody wants their conference but nobody had money, so they come to [SGA] and basically when

you give money to one, you give money to all of them. In the future, there should be a number in mind."

After further discussion, the senate agreed to table the motion for the March 3 SGA meeting where it was once again tabled for March 8.

With some debate, the council unanimously approved funding for an Intervarsity Fellowship Group Chapter camp retreat.

According to the club, the retreat, taking place in Georgia from May 4-9, will be a learning experience for 15 out of its 30 members.

"The people who are attending will be leaders of the club next year. If no one attends they will not have leaders next year," Arbabi aski said.

The Office of the Vice Provost, Fellowship Club and the Student Organizations Council will also fund the event, according to Arbabi aski.

The council, however, only approved \$1,350 from the requested \$2,000.

"It is reasonable," Chikishev said.

Additional funds were also requested toward the excellence lectures offered by the Honors College for \$870.36 and the Barbecue at the Bay event. Both requests were unanimously approved.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Though flawed, University's QEP strategy delivers valuable global perspectives

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is set to arrive at FIU on March 9, with the purpose of examining the University.

Its purpose is to decide whether to re-accredit the University for the next decade. The focal point of FIU's bid for approval is the Quality Enhancement Plan, a newly established requirement dictated by SACS. The QEP plan, titled "Global Learning for Global Citizenship," establishes the creation of a new curriculum for all FIU students and focuses on international issues.

The QEP brings important changes to the University and is a good step in refining the education undergraduates receive.

Currently, six pilot courses have been proposed within the University for lower level students while weekly meetings, named Tuesday Times Roundtable, in which students discuss world issues, are promoting global awareness among students.

By adding courses of study that deal with global supply chains, artistic expressions influence on the world, international environmental issues, among other things, FIU can help students inherit understanding that will better prepare them for their careers and make them more informed citizens.

One of the courses, "How We Know What We Know" discusses the nature of the media and the public and how information is digested. It is through developing a greater understanding of the world that surrounds us that we will be able create students who will be more competitive in the current job market.

However, the program has several faults. The most glaring issue is the extra money students will have to pay in order to take these classes.

All lower level students are required to take at least two classes within the newly established course catalogue. With each class costing \$426.12, this is an extra \$852.24 students will wind up paying. Many students may be able to deal the extra money. There are of course individuals within the University living on tighter budgets who may face a difficult time in raising the funds.

Raising the average graduation credit count to 126 credits, scholarships will also face having to dish out more money to students.

Despite this, *The Beacon* believes that the QEP is beneficial to students, because the money they would owe for the new curriculum is just a fraction of what they will pay for their years worth of education.

In addition, FIU would keep pace with other state schools such as Florida State University and Central Florida, who have implemented similar programs. At FSU, the LEAD program has been established, promoting curriculum that calls for enhanced leadership among students.

During the most recent University-wide Budget Committee meetings, it was noted that *The New York Times* readership program that brings over 500 copies of the newspaper daily to FIU stands, would be cut for the next fiscal year.

This situation could eliminate the Tuesday Times Roundtables which are sponsored primarily by *The New York Times*. These types of events could still be possible even without *The New York Times* on campus and *The Beacon* hopes to see that happen.

The Beacon hopes that the University continues advancing the purposes of the QEP even after it gets reaccredited.

SGC-MMC

New Senate Rules Act has its flaws

In a senate meeting on March 1, the 2010 Senate Rules Act was passed by a 17-0 vote, in efforts of establishing new and re-affirming senate rules and procedures. SRA promises to maintain order and consistency in meetings and SGA affairs, but it is uncertain as to whether this piece of legislation will achieve its goal.

SRA doesn't resolve the issue of immaturity at senate meetings. At the very meeting that the SRA was voted on and passed, the student senate debated an appropriation from the Football Rugby Club, requesting \$1,700 to purchase new jerseys for the club's members. The representative informed the senate that there were more members than jerseys for use, which presented a health risk to members.

Members of the student senate laughed at the representative's assertion. Student senators desired to grant the club's request, but had to deny the appropriation altogether because the organization had previously been funded by the Recreation Center. While many of the student senators may not have meant to laugh, the fact that they did displayed their level of immaturity. There is a level of responsibility that comes with being an elected student official, and student senators should refrain

from such immature behavior when handling the business of the student body.

Section 1.01(f)(i) of SRA notes that senate pages "...shall be responsible for assisting the clerk of council in the recording and distributing of minutes, legislation and other literature during meetings."

Often times, it is difficult for student senators, much less public attendees, to obtain copies of agendas, resolutions, appropriations or council bills. It is fortunate that SRA affirms this, and we can rest assured that it will no longer be an issue.

Section 11.01 (a) states that "the rules of procedure of the Senate may be suspended temporarily by a two-thirds vote of the Senate body."

As previously mentioned, student senators should conduct the work of the student body in an effective and professional manner.

The particular problem with this section is not that it provides for the temporary suspension of the rules of procedure, but that it doesn't recommend when in particular the rules can be suspended. Clarification is necessary, as it is certain that not every instance might be reasonable as a moment at which the rules of procedure can be set aside.

COMMENTARY



DEAN WILLIAMS

UTS putting tech fee to good use

JUSTIN JANS
Staff Writer

Four dollars and 42 cents per credit hour.

Doesn't seem like a lot does it? But it sure does go a long way. This is the amount students pay for the newly instituted tech fee; a fee which helps to make the student experience at FIU much more satisfying.

The purpose of the fee is to "enhance instructional technology resources for students and faculty," according to the Florida Statutes that established the fee.

The most evident example of use of the tech fee is providing Microsoft Word 2007 and McAfee Antivirus for free. Students can download them from the University Technology Services site. UTS negotiates the purchase of a certain amount of licenses; all based on the amount of students currently enrolled and projected downloads. FIU is currently bordering 40,000 enrolled students.

The only downside to this whole thing is the fact that if you download once, and your

“When I'm in the Graham Center, especially in the piano room, my connection drops down faster than Obama's approval ratings.

computer crashes you will not be allowed to download it again. Make sure to back up the installation file when you download it.

UTS has noted that they are looking forward to making all the future versions of Microsoft Word available. The tech fee has not lived to its full potential yet and hopefully will not be limited to merely providing free word processors.

UTS is also working on other updates. Many of them are upgrades to existing services and maintenance on current systems, but two proposed plans could make the fee live up to its purpose. The University plans to extend and add additional wireless coverage at both BBC and MMC campuses; furthermore, additional laptops will be made available in the libraries,

with the efforts of the Library Laptop Initiative.

The reasons for the importance of these plans are obvious. The proposed wireless coverage is hopefully going to fix a lot of the spotty wireless coverage, especially in the Graham Center and the residence halls. Both those areas are main areas for students, areas where students spend most of their time when not in class. These areas should be the center of attention and receive the best wireless connection.

I can speak about the inadequacies of the current wireless system. When I'm in the Graham Center, especially in the piano room, my connection drops down faster than Obama's approval ratings. I also know from friends living on campus that dorms are not the

best places for getting excellent wireless connection. They are forced to go to the study lounge for a manageable connection. The fact that UTS is planning on fixing this problem with the tech fee shows they are using the fee for the students' needs.

The Laptop Library Initiative is important because the library, as many students will attest to, does not have enough laptops to lend out to everyone. The laptops that they do have are antiquated at best. This plan will helpfully correct that oversight and get us some newer models as well.

These plans will take time to go into effect, but in the end, it will make the technology services at FIU better. This shows that our fee is being put to good use, and I applaud UTS for their work.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

OPINIONPIECE

68

Number of deaths due to overdose of illegal prescriptions given at a Kansas City health clinic.

QUOTATIONATION

"Do I hope that those people die screaming of rectal cancer? Yeah..."

Sean Penn, actor and activist on people alleging malpractice of his charity.

BRITTO



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Romero Britto proved to have as vibrant a personality as his paintings when he brought his theories on “The Art of Happiness” to the College of Business on March 4.

Described as a modern day pop culture icon who creates contemporary masterpieces that evoke a spirit of hope and convey a sense of warmth, Britto is a charismatic man who is pretty young for having such global success.

He was introduced by Brian Shriner, dean of the College of Architecture and the Arts, and University President Mark Rosenberg, who both tied Britto’s work to that of FIU’s.

Shriner connected Britto’s work to that of CARTA’s staff, whose “creative spirit cultivates the imagination and intellect of [FIU students].”

“Mr. Britto’s work reflects the optimistic faith in the world around him,” he said.

Like FIU’s, Britto’s art is accessible, vibrant and global. He is an artist embraced by the world.

“No better way to initiate our World’s Ahead understanding era, our global perspective and understanding era, than with a modern day pop culture icon, Romero Britto,” Rosenberg said as he introduced the artist.

When Britto took the podium, he made a point that his art is about happiness. He explained that his art is what he wants to see in the world. He revealed that he gets emotional when thinking about his opportunity to do what he loves and how his work has affected so many others.

He offered advice to students weighing the practical and creative options for careers and gave simple but profound suggestions.

“The most simple fact is you have to follow your heart and that way you’ll always be right,” the artist said.

Britto recollected about his childhood in Brazil and how he felt reborn when he moved to Miami. After growing up poor in Brazil and finding happiness in Miami, he decided to take advantage and be happy and grateful for his success every day, translating that ideology to his art.

“My mission is to be able to wake up and bring joy, and definitely to know what’s going on out there. Sometimes, I feel concerned people may not get the right message but I think they are because otherwise I wouldn’t be as successful as I am today. I know what’s happening out there but I don’t want to repeat that in my work,” he said.

With the evolution of the Internet, Britto says we are bombarded with negative images and he doesn’t want his art to bring fear to anyone. He joked, “I don’t pay money to watch a movie and get scared and have nightmares.”

Britto is known around the world for his vibrant use of color and shape and the lecture provided an opportunity to discuss his career highlights.

Britto talked about being commissioned to create the largest art installation in the history of Hyde Park in London back in 2007 to commemorate the return of Tutankhamun to London after 35 years.

“In the early stage of this project, I was asked in a suggestion where I wanted to see the pyramid and I went kind of a little bit crazy and said, ‘Why don’t we do it in front of the Buckingham Palace, or maybe in front of Parliament or maybe Hyde Park?’ So, Hyde Park really worked and it’s been an incredible experience for me,” Britto said.

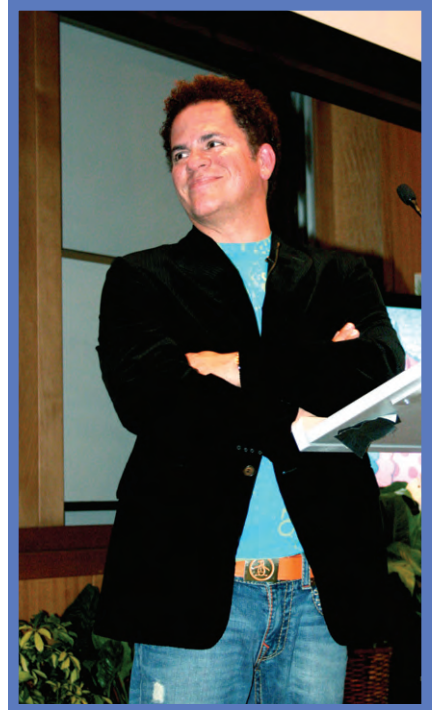
“After one pyramid came another pyramid,” he said of his inclusion in the Louvre Museum. His original painting, “Journey,” tells the story of a child going through the journey of

Famed artist describes the theory behind his art, conveys message of joy

learning and as of 2008, is still on display at the Parisian museum.

One of his favorite moments was the opening ceremony at Super Bowl XLI in 2007. The ceremony was a grand event that showcased his art in a way he never thought was possible. He found the experience so incredible because it was an art installation seen by so many people simultaneously. He joked that in the end he was glad his piece was in the beginning because by half-time everyone would be drunk and not paying any attention.

Britto claims the reason behind his success is that “[he] paints something that not only [he] wants, but the whole world wants – happiness.”



TOP: Romero Britto talks about his artwork and what he wants to transmit through his art.
BOTTOM: Students converse with Britto after his presentation.

Controversial exhibit reminds Miami of its criminal past

AMANDA BATCHELOR
Staff Writer

Miami is a city with history, not all of it good. The city has progressed since being the “criminal paradise” it was often portrayed as during the 1970s and ‘80s, when mobsters, murderers and cocaine smugglers ran the street, but the notorious reputation for being a scandalous city has not been forgotten.

On Feb. 19, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, located in downtown Miami, unveiled a new (and controversial) exhibit named *Crime in Miami*. This exhibit, which will be up for six months, features photographs and memorabilia of notorious criminals and some well-known unsolved crimes throughout Miami’s history.

In an interview with *The Miami Herald*, Miami-Dade



COURTESY OF HMSF

This image of a City of Miami police investigator is on display at the HMSF’s “Crime in Miami” exhibit which will remain open for six months.

Circuit Judge Scott J. Silverman, one of the founders of the 11th Judicial Circuit Historical Society said, “What the exhibit will try to do is capture Miami’s crime history during the last century to today and see how it’s impacted the people of this community in the past, and in the future.”

Not all Miami residents are keen on the idea behind this exhibit. It commemorates a darker time in Miami’s history and, for some, re-opened old wounds, like the notion that some police officers were complicit in the rampant cocaine smuggling. After *The Miami Herald* released a preview of the opening of the exhibit, some community members lashed out at its “absurdness.”

Despite the controversy, the opening day of the exhibit experienced a great turnout. Some

community members feel that this time was a huge part of local history, and to forget it would be a mistake.

Many criminal justice majors attended the opening of the exhibit and did not consider it to be praising criminal activity in any way. Instead, it served to remind South Florida of our own history and the impact it had on our community and the ways we as a community can move forward.

“It’s beneficial to have this [exhibit] in the museum because it represents a crucial era that molded Miami’s culture and image,” said Kevin Rojas, a junior and criminal justice major. “This exhibit showcases the foundation and development of Miami.”

The crimes showcased range from Prohibition era mobsters and gangsters, like Al Capone,

to drug wars, to unsolved kidnappings and murders, such as that of Judith Ann Roberts. Long-time Miami residents may remember the 1954 case. Roberts was a 6-year-old who was kidnapped from her living room bed. She was found on a deserted road in Coconut Grove and her body was found strangled, beaten and sexually assaulted. Her crime was never solved.

The lead detective in Roberts’ case, Irving Whitman, who lives in Miami and is now 88 years old, told *The Miami Herald*, “I’ve never forgotten this case.”

He says he still has hope that one day her murder will be solved.

Whether or not Roberts’ crime is solved, *Crime in Miami*, which will be running until August, ensures that South Florida’s past will not be forgotten.

MODERN CLASSICS

Spielberg thriller examines morality behind revenge

There's a moment that occurs late in Steven Spielberg's *Munich* where the protagonist, Avner, played by Eric Bana, is simply trying to make love to his wife. Starting off tamely, the scene builds as images from the tragedy of the 1972 Olympics play through his mind - a tragedy which has directly affected his life.

Scenes of Israeli hostages on an airport tarmac held at gun point, a vicious fire fight, explosions move forward as Avner is in a pool of sweat in a moment when he should be feeling ecstasy. He's gone savage and cannot concentrate. He's a man who is haunted.

Avner was not there at Munich to witness the Palestinian organization known as Black September take 11 Israeli athletes hostage. Nor did he see the blood shed that ensued. He had no personal ties to members of the teams or the events except that he too is a Jew and that he would be asked by his nation to help avenge their deaths.

The film presents itself as an episodic thriller across Europe; Paris, Rome, London. In lesser hands, this could simply have been a well-crafted thriller. Certainly, there are breathtaking moments throughout.

For instance, take the first murder conducted in Rome. The target, Adel Wael Zwatter, is followed by Avner and another member of the team to his apartment. They point their weapons at Zwatter, whose arms are bound with groceries. Both men hesitate but do the job. You see the blood mingle with the fresh milk and you know you're in the hands of a master filmmaker.

But, explosions are the preferred manner: more public and more likely to bring fear. In Cyprus, Robert (Matthew Kassoovitz), a former toy maker turned bomb maker, arms a bomb under the bed of their next target, Hussein Al Bashir, in a hotel. Avner is set in the room next to the target, to send the signal for the detonation as the target sleeps. Yet, waiting on the balcony, Avner converses with Bashir and finds him to be charming.

The more death that follows, the more that the simple revenge concept crumbles: Avner's paranoia grows as he fears for the lives of his wife and young daughter whom he's been unable to see grow up. The purpose of the task is questioned as new replacements are made for those who have been killed.

After the first assassination, Steve (Daniel Craig) remarks with triumph: "Don't fuck with the Jews."

Later on, Robert, his conscience heavy, questions it all: "We're Jewish. We are supposed to be righteous. That's a beautiful thing. And we're losing it. If I lose that, that's everything. That's my soul."

Spielberg soon gives way from making a typical political thriller and poses fundamental questions, not only about Israel's relations with Palestine. In one nightmarish incident, Avner and his team are set in a safe-house in Athens that is also being frequented by members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

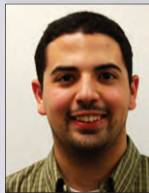
Convincing the PLO members that they are communist agents, they co-habitate and converse. The PLO members hold the same claim for the same land and with the same insistence: However long it takes, whatever the cost, it is their homeland. This is the same sentiment displayed by the Israelis as they pursue their reprisals.

Then the natural question comes: Where does it all end? How do you pursue your country's interests without compromising them? These are all points that have been raised countless times. Spielberg's victory is in doing it in one succinct package. It's not just a taut thriller; it's an honest and unrelenting look at the policies of nations.

And then there are the pawns like Avner, sitting in a cold sweat and unable to live a normal life. They're the greatest victims of all. They suffer with the sins of their nations carried out in their own hands.

Modern Classics is a bi-weekly column reviewing modern classic films.

COLUMNIST



DAVID BARRIOS

MODEL MAKEOVER



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

Cassandra Roache, a graduate in Public Health (top), receives a complimentary makeover in the GC Pit on March 1. Students lined up to participate in L.E.I.'s Model Citizen contest by recording a two-minute interview explaining why they are model citizens. The winner of the national contest will be awarded a \$100,000 scholarship and be the new face of L.E.I.'s Model Citizen campaign.



THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, MARCH 8

YOGARDEN



Come relax with the Yoga Club.
WHEN: 1 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Garden

LECTURE: "WHOSE PLANET IS IT?"

Lecture by Dr. Gary King, featured Glaser Distinguished Biology Speaker.
WHEN: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130

MOVIE AND PANEL DISCUSSION



Presented by Women's Studies.
WHEN: 5 - 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballrooms

2010 GLASER DISTINGUISHED BIOLOGY LECTURE

"The Macular Pigment: its possible role and influence in neonates," lecture by Dr. Lewis Rubin from USF.

WHEN: 4 - 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: CP 145

JEFF GARLIN AT BOOKS & BOOKS



Jeff Garlin ("Curb Your Enthusiasm") will be discussing his book, *My Footprint*.

WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: 265 Aragon Ave.

YOGA IN THE PARK

Bring your own mat, water, gear.
WHEN: 6 - 7:15 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Tina Hills Pavilion, Bayfront Park

TUESDAY, MARCH 9

"JOURNALISM IN CRISIS"



Lecture by Dan Rather, journalist.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free for FIU students/faculty, \$5 other students, \$15 general
WHERE: Wolfe University Theater, BBC

Evolve Yourself by Improving the Bioenergetics of the Body

Presented by Preksha Meditation Club. Lecture by Dr. Herman Vega.

WHEN: 6 - 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free, free food
WHERE: GC 243

SPC-MMC UP-ROAR CONCERT REVELATION

WHEN: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Pit

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

"Global Weirder is Here." Lunch, refreshments provided.
WHEN: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

SYMPHONIC BAND CONCERT



Presented by FIU Music.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, \$15 faculty/staff, \$25 general
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall

Madonna, Oprah And Angelina: Gender And The Politics Of Celebrity Activism In Africa

Lecture by Prof. Zine Magubane.
WHEN: 4 - 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Panther Suite, GC

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

FIU PRIDE DAY



Wear your FIU gear! T-shirt swapping by SGA: Bring in a shirt from another university and swap it for an FIU one.

WHEN: All day
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: T-shirt swap begins at 1 p.m. in GC Pit.

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET



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

NETWORKING SUMMIT

Presented by Delta Epsilon Iota and IBHS. Refreshments provided. Dress in business attire.

WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Faculty Club, next to Ballrooms

LECTURE: "WHO'S MANAGING THE ATMOSPHERE ANYWAY?"

By Dr. Gary King.
WHEN: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130

The Present Financial Crisis and the Future of Globalization

Lecture by Jeff Frieden, Harvard University.
WHEN: 2 - 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

FIU BASEBALL

Vs. Boston College.
WHEN: 6 - 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Baseball Stadium

THURSDAY, MARCH 11

JAZZ CONCERT



With guest drummer Adam Nussbaum.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5 students, \$10 faculty/staff, \$15 general
WHERE: WPAC Concert Hall

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

For the complete schedule, locations and to buy tickets, go to: miami.bside.com/2010/schedule/week
WHEN: All day
HOW MUCH: \$7 students

Exploiting or exploited, how do microbes interact with more complex organisms?

Lecture by Dr. Gary King.
WHEN: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130

READING GROUP

Hosted by the French Club, Le Circle Francais.
WHEN: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM 457

THE CHERRY ORCHARD



Presented by FIU Theatre.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10 students, seniors, faculty/staff, \$12 general
WHERE: WPAC Main Stage

PERRICONE'S THURSDAYS



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

BASEBALL

Golden Panthers suffer first loss; win two more



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Junior Arrojo [above] broke out of his slump and played a large role in the Golden Panthers' victory over Cal Poly in the Coca-Cola Classic tournament on Mar. 6.

JOEL DELGADO Asst. Sports Director

Leading up to a showdown with Arizona State on Mar. 7, FIU (8-1) earned two victories and dropped one in the opening days of the Coca-Cola Classic in Surprise, Arizona.

FIU 10, CAL POLY 8

It wasn't the prettiest ending in the world, but FIU was able to return to its winning ways by surviving a last gasp effort in the ninth by Cal Poly to earn its eighth victory of the season on Mar. 6.

The Golden Panthers jumped ahead early on and cushioned starter Corey Polizzano with a 6-0 lead going into the bottom of the fourth, where Polizzano ran into trouble on the mound.

A string of singles enabled the Mustangs to cut the lead in half but nothing more, as Polizzano avoided

any further damage. Polizzano earned the win for the Panthers and improved his record to 2-0.

With a four-run lead in the ninth, the Panthers tacked on three more insurance runs thanks in part to a two-run single by Junior Arrojo, who broke out a massive slump with a 3-for-5 performance and four RBIs, to make it 10-3.

The Panthers would soon find out how valuable those late-inning runs would be, as a series of errors and walks allowed the Mustangs to slice into the FIU lead with five runs.

But Bryam Garcia came in and silenced the Mustang rally with two strikeouts to seal the victory, earning his second save of the season.

UC-RIVERSIDE 4, FIU 3

The Golden Panthers have been able to work some late inning magic to keep their perfect record intact.

But that magic came up short as the UC-Riverside denied FIU of another comeback victory, their first loss of the season on Mar. 5.

Pablo Bermudez hit a two-run homerun in the bottom of the ninth to make it a 4-3 game, but it was too little too late for FIU.

FIU 5, UTAH VALLEY 4

FIU got their weekend started off the right way with a victory in the first game of the Coca-Cola Classic in Surprise, Arizona against Utah Valley on Mar. 4.

The two teams were locked in a 2-2 tie for most of the game, until FIU busted out with a three-run eighth inning to give the team the lead for good.

A late Utah Valley rally came up short as the Panthers held on for the win.

Wittels went 3-for-4 on the evening to extend his hitting streak to a team-high seven games.

Thomas experiment will take time

RISK, page 8

around has already paid off, at least in the form of recruiting, which is most important.

Ultimately, it will be the quality of players on the floor that will bring FIU into conference contention every season with Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. That's what Thomas has proven he can do, on his reputation as one of the NBA's best players ever.

If it were on his reputation as an NBA coach, he wouldn't be having the same success. That is why with this atrocious season in the books, Thomas will now have to avoid

another season like this to avoid losing any of that mystique as a legendary player that has been a powerful pull in recruiting.

Thomas has also made some ripples in recruiting for 2011, but other headlines have trampled any news on that front. In January, Thomas stated he was happy at FIU but did not directly deny that the Los Angeles Clippers called him during the season to discuss a position in their front office, after rampant speculation. It is rumors like these that FIU will have to get accustomed to as Thomas has more success with the Golden Panthers. The Clippers are at the bottom of the NBA, but

if a more respectable offer comes, it could be too difficult for Thomas to pass up.

The minor risks of hiring Thomas are the negative media coverage that comes with hiring someone who has been a failure in NBA front offices and was recently accused of sexual harassment. Some of that will continue to be exaggerated through some uninformed outlets.

But all of that is cured with winning.

It is all part of Garcia's biggest risk since he was hired into his position, the first chapter of which ended on a sour note Saturday.

Roberts, Kee absent for violations

MEN'S, page 8

were missing in the lineup, Gary, who usually plays point-guard, moved over to forward and even center for parts of the game. After the game, he commented that the adjustment the team had to

make without key players in the lineup wasn't a big deal to him.

"It wasn't a big adjustment," Gary said. "What coach wanted us to do with [Denver's] size is if they

missed a shot just get out and run. That's what we tried to do tonight."

With the loss, the Golden Panthers finished the season with seven straight losses and a 7-25 record.

"This group of young men, their job was to do the dirty work and they did the dirty work," Thomas said. "They got a lot of mud on their shoes and a lot of blood under their fingernails."



RODRIGO ZAMITH/THE BEACON

FIU point guard Phil Gary finished with a game-high 23 points in the Golden Panthers loss to Denver.

Late shots put FIU away for good; Bosilj scores 13

WOMEN'S, page 8

the Year Jasmine Godbolt was able to take back the lead as she connected on a tough layup and got the foul for a three-point play.

The Golden Panthers continued to have no answer for Godbolt as she continued her dominance inside with another three-point play to push the lead to 36-32 with 14:16 remaining. At the 13:09 mark, she put in another layup to put UNT up by six points.

"They just played a harder than us," FIU point-guard Michelle Gonzalez said. "They were at first playing a half court basketball game then they came out running the court like they usually do."

Free throws by FIU senior Marquita Adley, with just over nine minutes remaining, cut the UNT lead down to one.

However, again the Golden Panthers' sluggish defense showed no answer for shots beyond the arc. Kellum knocked down a three with 8:05 remaining to make the score 44-40 in favor of the Mean Green.

FIU came no closer than five points the rest of the way while UNT was able to go up by as much as 12 points as they closed out the game on a 20-11 run.

Monika Bosilj ended her FIU career with a team-high 13 points while Carey totaled eight points and a game-high 11 rebounds with six blocked shots.

They just played harder than us. They were at first playing a half court basketball game, then they come out running the court.

Michelle Gonzalez, Point guard
FIU

For UNT, Kellum totaled a game-high 17 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

The game marks the second consecutive year that North Texas has upset a team in the first round while the Golden Panthers, who ended the season with an eight game improve-

ment, faced their second straight first round elimination after losing to South Alabama in last year's tournament.

"I am really proud of my staff and my team," Stephens said. "Everyone came together and fought to beat FIU."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: UNT 61, FIU 51

Golden Panthers upset in first round

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The No. 7 seeded FIU women's basketball team started the 2010 Sun Belt Conference Tournament with a game that turned out to be exactly what some Golden Panthers had predicted.

"We're going out there sluggish and [North Texas is] fired up because we beat them twice," FIU forward Elisa Carey said after a practice on Mar. 3. "We might think this will be cake, and we've done this before, but they come and might be hungry for a win."

The No. 10 seeded Mean Green weren't just hungry; they were starving.

After losing to FIU twice during the regular season, they were finally able to disappoint the Golden Panthers, 61-51, at the Summit Arena in Hot Springs, Arkansas on Mar. 6.

"FIU looked daunting, they beat us by 18 just a couple of weeks ago," UNT head coach Shanice Stephens said. "We started working on the game plan; started believing and the girls were able to watch an extensive amount of film. I am really proud of how they absorbed the game plan."

FIU had a 10-point lead with 3:37 remaining in the first half before UNT guard Caitlin Hawkins went on a run of her own.

"Any other normal team would have been beaten up with their head

down, but our girls were able to overcome that," Stephens said.

Hawkins knocked down three shots from beyond the arc within three minutes, including one at the sound of the buzzer to bring the Mean Green within five points as the teams headed into the locker room for halftime.

"I think it definitely gave us a big intensity boost, we all needed something to get us pumped up," Hawkins said. "Ending on that note, it definitely carried over to the second half so I think it was a big shot."

While UNT continued its efficient three-point shooting in the second half with a 46.2 percent (6-of-13) effort for the game, effective perimeter defense by the Mean Green forced the Golden Panthers to shoot just 8.7 percent (2-of-23) from beyond the arc.

"North Texas came out here tonight playing very well," FIU head coach Cindy Russo said. "They showed a lot of enthusiasm on the court and did a really nice job."

North Texas came out of the halftime break with momentum and a 9-1 run, which enabled them to take the lead after pair free throws by Denetra Kellum with just under 18 minutes left on the clock.

FIU was able to respond as freshman Finda Mansare knocked in a jumper to put her team up by one-point, however, Freshman of

rebounder, J.C. Otero, was also absent after suffering a knee injury in the team's final home game on Feb 27.

Thomas, however, was pleased with the team's overall effort this season and the way his small lineup handled Denver.

"I'm proud of the foundation that this team has laid," he said. "They did a good job of establishing an identity that we want to play with in the future. They never quit."

The Golden Panthers battled with the Pioneers through four ties and 12 lead changes, but when sophomore guard Brian Stafford hit a three-pointer with 12:51 remaining, FIU never regained the lead.

"I was expecting a game like that," Denver head coach Joe Scott said. "It's March; that's the way it is. Florida International played well tonight. They had a good game plan and I thought we handled it pretty well."

FIU cut the Denver lead to one-point at the 6:18 mark after free throws by Treywayne Russell, but the Pioneers immediately stretched



Courtesy of Tom Ewart/NWA Photography

FIU forward Monika Bosilj [left] looks up the court in the Golden Panthers loss to North Texas in the first round of the SBC tournament. Point guard Michelle Gonzalez [Bottom] passes to teammate Carmen Miloglav during the game.



MEN'S BASKETBALL: DENVER 71, FIU 64

Depleted team loses to Denver

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

In the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, a game against No. 6 seeded Denver showcased exactly what the No. 11 seeded FIU men's basketball team has been dealing with the entire season.

"They were true to form in terms of how we said we would be this year," FIU head coach Isiah Thomas said. "We said we would be undersized and undermanned but we would fight extremely hard and we would be a tough, scrappy team."

Undersized and undermanned was even tougher on this night because FIU was without three key players as they were eliminated in a 71-64 decision on Mar. 6 at the Summit Arena in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Forward Marvin Roberts and guard Martavis Kee did not participate in the game after violating team rules, according to Thomas. Meanwhile, the team's leading

rebounder, J.C. Otero, was also absent after suffering a knee injury in the team's final home game on Feb 27.

Thomas, however, was pleased with the team's overall effort this season and the way his small lineup handled Denver.

"I'm proud of the foundation that this team has laid," he said. "They did a good job of establishing an identity that we want to play with in the future. They never quit."

The Golden Panthers battled with the Pioneers through four ties and 12 lead changes, but when sophomore guard Brian Stafford hit a three-pointer with 12:51 remaining, FIU never regained the lead.

"I was expecting a game like that," Denver head coach Joe Scott said. "It's March; that's the way it is. Florida International played well tonight. They had a good game plan and I thought we handled it pretty well."

FIU cut the Denver lead to one-point at the 6:18 mark after free throws by Treywayne Russell, but the Pioneers immediately stretched

This group of young men, their job was to do the dirty work and they did the dirty work. They got a lot of mud on their shoes.

Isiah Thomas, head coach
FIU

the lead with a pair of free throws by Stafford and a Justin Coughlin slam-dunk.

Coughlin, who scored a career-high 17 points, including 11 in the second half, was fouled on the dunk and converted the free-throw to make the score 55-49 with 4:34 remaining.

Phil Gary, Jr. scored a game-high 23 points for the Golden Panthers. Due to the players who

MEN'S, page 7

Thomas experiment ready to commence

When Isiah Thomas was hired to coach the FIU men's basketball team amid a tsunami of media scrutiny last spring, he said he wanted this year's Golden Panthers to have enough momentum toward the end to finish on a high note and bring a positive wave of attention the school's way.

In the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on Saturday, that plan failed as FIU lost to Denver in the first round, finishing Thomas' first season with a 7-25 record.

"They were true to form in terms of how we said we would be this year," Thomas said. "We said we would be undersized and undermanned but we would fight extremely hard and we would be a tough, scrappy team."

Those valuable intangibles will not equate to winning

COMMENTARY



JONATHAN RAMOS

without the personnel, however, Thomas knows that. That is why he will be delighted to welcome Dominique Ferguson to campus this summer. Ferguson, a four-star prospect on the rivals.com five-star scale, will lead what is probably the best incoming group of recruits the program has ever had. Along with Ferguson, there are a few solid recruits who could help bring FIU out of the doldrums soon, as long as Ferguson can anchor it.

But by hiring Isiah Thomas, FIU athletic director Pete Garcia took a risk, which has involved a slew of negative publicity and also resulted in losing 2008-09 SBC freshman of the year Freddy Asprilla, who transferred and will play for Kansas State next season. Thomas sticking

RISK, page 7