

3-25-2009

The Beacon, March 25, 2009

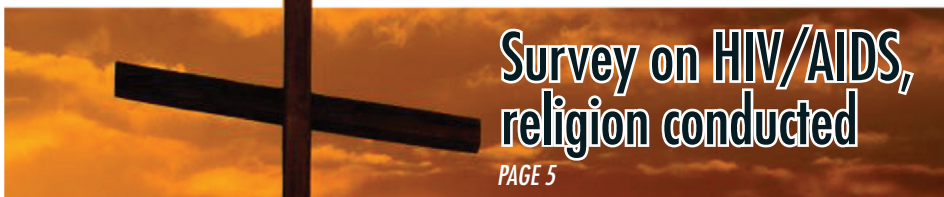
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Survey on HIV/AIDS,
religion conducted

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Baseball sweeps first
series this season.

PAGE 8

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Police officers will start biking around campus as public safety implements an eco-friendly patrol method.

OPINION PAGE 4



FIU should go beyond the 10-hour work week over the summer in order to save cash.

SPORTS PAGE 8

The Golden Panthers' two starters are big reasons why they are 15-4 this season.

LIFE! PAGE 6



COLUMN: Chris Cabral says children should pay for their own schooling now that the new baseball stadium needs governmental support. We say, "what?!"

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Cool off on the upcoming hot days – and save a few dollars – by making your own ice cream.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sony Ericsson Open, Today, 11 a.m.: A variety of ticket packages are still available for anyone interested in attending the yearly tournament held at the Crandon Park Tennis Center.

Students for Environmental Action meeting, Today, 3 p.m.: Mother Nature's wrath could be brutal, but if you help her out she'll help you out. Make your voice heard at an environmental action meeting held at the GC Pit.

Coral Gables Wine and Food Festival, March 26, 7:30 p.m.: The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida presents its sixth annual festival, bringing crown wine and spirits, food specialties and live entertainment to Giralda Avenue.

Service For Peace meeting, March 26, 4:30 p.m.: Service for Peace will hold a meeting in GC 305. Anyone interested in helping out during Earth Day or during the summer for one of various peace projects should attend.

For the complete calendar, please see page 6 or visit FIUSM.com.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
AM showers
LOW: 66 HIGH: 78



THURSDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 67 HIGH: 79



FRIDAY
Partly cloudy
LOW: 70 HIGH: 82

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SGC-UP SENATE



CHRISTOPHER NECUZE/THE BEACON

BRIEF: Elizabeth Funes addresses the SGC-UP Senate minutes before their vote electing her to the vacant position of elections commissioner.

Funes unanimously elected as new elections commissioner

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

Emotions ran high at the Student Government Council at University Park Senate meeting as election day nears.

After a three-hour long meeting, Elizabeth Funes, member of the elections commission, was unanimously elected elections commissioner while Laura Farinas and Carolina Monique Suarez were placed as members of the Board.

Though the March 23 meeting's agenda was to fill positions in the elections board, contradictions and debate filled the floor while more than one bill had to be voted upon in order to elect the candidates.

Leonard Goenaga, SGC-UP chief justice, said early in the meeting that the code that deals with the appointment of an elections commissioner was too vague on how to properly elect members to the elections board, and what specific branch of SGC-UP was to do so.

"It's our decision that this is too vague a description and that SGC is an arcane title to refer to the Senate," Goenaga said.

According to Section 2, Part B of the Elections Code, the members and head of the board

would be chosen by members of SGC. The argument was whether the Senate or the Executive had power.

The Senate called for a 15-minute recess to draft a proposal for elections code revisions which would allow for the elections commissioner position to be appointed by the executive board and approved by a majority in the Senate.

"This request was made to clarify who has the authority. The elections commissioner is part of the executive branch. I can't fathom in my wildest dreams why the elections code would permit Senate to hold a special meeting to appoint a member of my executive branch," said SGC-UP President Arthur J. Meyer.

The executive branch, during the weekend, filed a petition to the Judiciary to have the Senate cease and desist selection of the elections commissioner.

The Judiciary's decision created a motion to "deny the Executive's appeal to restrict the actions of the Senate. It is not within the Executive's power to create 'authority,' as in the sense of appealing to 'practiced tradition' in appointing the elections commissioner, as it is not clearly stated in law. Doing so would take upon a law-creating/pseudo-legisla-

tive function."

With discussion of the proposed bill lasting more than two hours, Roseme called for a special meeting.

However, frustrations mounted early in the special meeting when it was noted that members of the elections board could not be elected during special meetings.

"The Senate cannot elect a commissioner, nor can the Executive, during this special session. We have to approve this amendment to allow us to elect a commissioner during a special session," said SGC-UP Senate Speaker Jean Roseme.

School of Law Senator Jeffery Molinaro demanded to adjourn the meeting.

"This is ridiculous. This is politics run f**king rampant," he said. "This is not how democracy happens. You're all just changing the law among yourselves to get things done."

After the commotion, both resolutions ended up passing, however the provisions will expire by the end of Spring.

Richard Guzman, former elections commissioner, was removed from office March 12 due to his failure to submit his office reports, meet a minimum of 10 hours in the office and attend at least one SGA meeting per month.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH

Retention bonuses may deter candidates

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

Retention deals for the University's top officials may have an effect on the pool of candidates for the presidential search, as potential candidates may not be able to choose their own top two executives, according to outside observers of politics in higher education.

"It's definitely not common," said Paul Fain, a reporter who specializes on presidential searches for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

According to Fain, retiring presidents will usually come back to faculty at a lower salary, as well as leaving the positions of provost and chief financial officer open for the new president to fill.

"Typically, new presidents would want to choose their top two cabinets," Fain said.

Other higher education experts have noted the contracts could create a difficult situation for the new president, making it harder for candidates to bring in their own senior staff.

"It's an awkward situation," said Ann Duffield, co-founder of The Presidential Practice, a group of former university presidents and chancellors who offer their advice and expertise to current presidents and chancellors in transition. "Many new presidents come into a new university and don't feel that the chemistry is right and wish to bring in their own staff."

Executive Vice President and Provost Ronald Berkman and CFO Vivian Sanchez were given retention deals last summer.

Under their current contracts, if Sanchez were to be replaced by the new president's appointment, she would still be entitled to another University position with her same current salary of \$334,090 for three years. If the incoming president decides to replace Berkman, he would be entitled to a one-year paid sabbatical where he would return to the school as a member of the faculty.

In addition, President Modesto A. Maidique will earn \$478,000, his current salary, until 2015, well into his post-presidency.

NEED TO RETAIN

Some members of the FIU community have defended the contracts of Maidique, Sanchez and Berkman, citing the need to retain each of these highly talented individuals who constantly receive offers from both the private and academic sectors.

Maidique, in a recent interview with *The*

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Jay Leno mentions FIU during late night monologue

Comedian and “Tonight Show” host Jay Leno mentioned FIU’s valet parking in his introductory monologue on Friday.

“Florida International University is now offering its students valet parking,” said Leno. “Unfortunately, because of the economy, the guys parking the cars are all graduates from Florida International University.”

Leno will continue to host “The Tonight Show” until June, where he will turn over the show to Conan O’Brien.

LOCAL

Stadium debate leads to arrests

Two people were arrested as debates regarding the Marlins stadium escalated.

According to *NBC6.net*, the two arrested were members of Power U, a local group protesting the stadium. The Power U protestors continued to chant, “Real jobs now. Shut stadium down.”

After long discussions and constant rescheduling, the city commission approved the deal by a 3-2 vote last week. If the deal gains approval of the Miami-Dade County Commission, the county would contribute \$359 million in construction costs.

NATIONAL

DOW Jones soars almost 500 points

The DOW Jones was subject to a gain of 497 points on Monday.

According to CNN Money, the rally is in response to the Treasury buying bad bank assets and a better-than-expected existing home sales report. Insiders point to this as a possible sign that the market is stabilizing.

On Monday, the Treasury department introduced the second phase of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. The aim of this program is to purchase “toxic” assets from banks in order to facilitate lending to consumers.

-Compiled by Jorge Valens

Cigarette tax hike may aid healthcare

OLGA VELEZ
Staff Writer

On Feb. 18, two FIU students attended Advocacy Day in Tallahassee with more than 500 other advocates to rally for a bill that would increase Florida’s cigarette tax.

Michelle Narganes, a senior and political science major, and Angela Baker, a sophomore majoring in political science and English, joined a group of 500 advocates who met at the Florida Capitol Building.

They met with their representatives and senators and participated in a rally in favor of the bill and a press conference.

The bill they are supporting is known as “Pass the Buck,” because it plans to increase the Florida state tax on cigarettes from 34 cents to \$1.34, according to an article in the Tax Foundation – a nonpartisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C. – titled “Florida Rep. Trying to Call Cigarette Tax a ‘Fee.’”

Narganes was able to speak with various representatives, including State Representative Juan C. Zapata and representatives Marcelo Llorente and Richard Steinberg.

Supporters of the bill, like Narganes and Baker, argue that Florida has the sixth lowest state tax on cigarettes and that it deprives the state of necessary funds other states have, due to their high cigarette tax, to support hospitals.

They also argue that increasing the cigarette tax would reduce the number of smokers and, since smoking is linked to several diseases, it would also reduce the number of medical expenses.

Florida has the sixth lowest state tax on cigarettes in the country, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures Web site. The lowest state tax is 7 cents in South Carolina, while the highest state tax is in New York at \$2.75.



PHOTO COURTESY MICHELLE NARGANES

TEAM EFFORT: The Miami-Dade based group affiliated with the American Cancer Society lobby in Tallahassee for an increase in cigarette taxes.

“Florida should increase the state cigarette tax to save lives and benefit the state’s long-term budget,” Narganes said. “The state of Florida is the second highest cancer-affected state in the nation. Most importantly, this is a public health measure. Studies show that for every 10 percent increase in the price of cigarettes, adult smoking rates go down by 4 percent. Teen smoking will decrease as well. A \$1 increase will reduce the number of new teen smokers by 7 percent.”

Those against the passage of the bill, like the Tax Foundation, argue that a higher cigarette tax encourages smuggling and associated crimes. They also argue that it is a tax that affects mainly the poorest members of the state.

“Higher cigarette taxes also mean more smuggling, as many states are learning,” according to the Tax Foundation article. “Due mostly to federal, state and local taxes, the U.S. price for that same pack can reach many times the average of \$1.25. When smugglers

move just one shipping container with 200,000 packs into the U.S., the profit potential is a cool \$1 million.”

Some FIU students are also concerned about the possible increase in crime.

“There are people who might not stop smoking and might steal to get the money for their cigarettes,” said Veronica Fernandez, a sophomore at FIU. “This might increase crime.”

As for it affecting mostly the poor in Florida, Alan Gummerson, an economics lecturer at FIU stated: “The tax increase would affect the poor more because poor people tend to smoke more. This tax increase will hopefully get them to quit smoking.”

According to Narganes, the cigarette tax revenues would go toward building Florida’s healthcare infrastructure.

“The state needs to invest this revenue specifically for programs, services and institutions that improve the state’s medical capacity and access,” Narganes said.

Faculty assesses modified contracts

BONUS, page 1

Beacon, said he has been approached by 29 universities, while Berkman has been a finalist for the presidential searches at two public universities. Maidique also said Sanchez has received many offers from the private sector.

“These are all highly competent people who are sought after,” said Bruce Hauptli, former Faculty Senate chair and current faculty fellow of the Office of the Provost. “I’d be worried about losing these people.”

Hauptli, who was a Board of Trustees member when Maidique’s contract was modified, admitted the negotiations were done before the budget crisis worsened, yet claimed he still stands by his decision.

“I would not have voted in favor of the modification if it were bad for the University,” Hauptli said.

While Hauptli claimed that the faculty supports the modified contracts, his successor in the Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees member, Thomas Breslin, said there were a few complaints.

“I did receive from faculty members expressions of concern about the use of foundation funds for the president’s salary during a time when there wasn’t money in the foundation for other things,” Breslin said. “There were expressions outside the

Senate floor from a handful of faculty of concern over the contracts given to the provost and the CFO.”

However, Breslin said at a recent Steering Committee meeting, which is comprised of Faculty Senate members and designated to represent all academic units of FIU, that faculty were extremely positive about the work of both the provost and the CFO.

“No one was willing to fault the president, at least not at the Steering Committee,” Breslin said.

MORE OF THE SAME

While Breslin agreed that the retention deals may have an effect on the pool of candidates, he disagreed with leaving the offices of provost and CFO vacant for the new president, especially now with the current economic recession. According to Breslin, the new president should stay the course Maidique has laid out in his FIU 3.0 plan and later add minor modifications to it.

“If we want a president to clear deck during a storm, then this is the worst time to do it,” said Breslin, who is also a member of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, which is in charge of picking the next University president. “Change isn’t always good.”

Yet Breslin, who has been in the

University since 1976, also mentioned that vice presidents have come and gone at the president’s discretion.

“[Maidique] has made no bones about getting rid of a vice president. In my time in FIU, I have known four provosts, all gone,” Breslin said.

Breslin noted that if this situation were to occur, Berkman could return to teaching and Sanchez could be in charge of finances of the new medical school.

“She would be a welcome addition,” said Breslin, who worked with Sanchez to secure the University’s new medical school.

NO BONUSES

Breslin noted that Maidique has already taken steps to reduce his and his vice president’s salaries. According to the Office of the President, Maidique has decided not to award his vice president’s performance bonuses. In addition, the president has given his bonus of \$50,000 awarded to him by the BOT to the College of Medicine, bringing his salary back down to \$428,000.

Yet, the president as well as Breslin, may decide more salary cuts are necessary for the top three administrators.

“If the economic crisis worsens, the BOT may revisit their contracts,” Breslin said.

THE BEACON

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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.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated March 23, *The Beacon* reported in an info box that Brandon Quinones, Vanessa Yepes, Krishan Arora, Steven Cruz were candidates for office. They have since withdrawn their candidacy.

In the same issue, Natalya Cohen’s name was misspelled and Robert Quintana was omitted and is in the running for Rep-at-Large.

Public Safety to start biking around campus

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
Staff Writer

Campus Public Safety is shifting gears as a new patrol squad rides in to improve security.

Starting Fall 2009, University police officers will begin patrolling on bicycles around both the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses, alongside the force's squad cars and officers on foot.

But the bike patrol isn't something new to the University, according to Bill King, chief of police. About seven years ago, there were bike patrols on campus, but they were discontinued due to the difficulty in finding officers that were adequately trained to patrol on bicycles.

"We didn't have enough people on staff," said King. "It was only now that we had enough people to bring back the patrol."

King pushed for the return of the unit, sending out e-mails to other officers asking for volunteers. In response, several officers applied.

In order to work in the bike patrol squad, officers must complete a two-week certification program at the Miami-Dade County Police Academy.

"There are already some officers who are qualified," said Sgt. Edward Degel-Smith of Public Safety.

The bicycle patrol will be covering all areas of the campuses, including the walking trail along Biscayne Bay at BBC.

According to Jesse Scott, captain of Public Safety at BBC, the idea is to provide more safety to students and visitors in the parking lots and buildings by increasing police accessibility.

"It's part of our philosophy of being in contact with faculty and students," Scott said. "The extra staffing will let us do this."

David Silberberg, sophomore English major, said the bicycles will improve officers' response times.

"It will make it easier for them to arrive to buildings and the parking lot," Silberberg said.

Officers on bikes will be able to do regular patrol activities, such as watching for speeders or break-in attempts at the parking lots. They also have the advantage of riding between buildings faster than officers on foot, as well as being able to cover more areas in less time, according to Scott.

"Being on a bicycle is much different than being on foot or in the squad car," he said. "Because the officers are more elevated while riding the bicycle, they'll be seeing and hearing things differently. Each type of patrol has an advantage, so it's advantageous for us to use all three. It will let us interact with people in a different way."

An example of this interaction is that students and visitors will feel police officers are more approachable. Some people

may not want to disturb officers in their squad car, especially with the windows rolled up, according to Scott. An officer on a bike will make people more comfortable with asking questions.

Despite the promise of approachability, the cost of the bike patrol squad is a concern for certain students.

"While it's a great idea and eco-friendly, it might cost a lot of money to start the unit," said Roxette Miranda, freshman political science major.

However, the patrol won't be too expensive for the department, according to Scott.

"The bikes we have were the same ones we had seven years ago," he said. "They're practically brand new. We've had them in the storage all this time and recently took them to get new tires and cleaned up."

In total, according to King, the cost should be around \$500 per officer on the squad, which includes the cost of the uniforms and safety equipment such as helmets.

"It's only running us just under the thousands range," Scott said. "It's a very small fraction of the Public Safety budget allocated from the school."

The bicycle unit will operate at both UP and BBC everyday between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. but the use of a bike patrol will depend on the number of police officers available during the day.

According to Scott, if there are only two



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

PEDAL POWER: Police bikes, similar to the one pictured, will be implemented in the University's police squad.

officers working, they will patrol either in the police car or on foot. The bikes will be used if a third officer is on duty.

"The use of bicycles is very efficient in time and resources," Scott said. "There's no fuel burning involved, which makes it much more environmentally friendly."

FOODGASM

Relax, welcome spring with refreshing frozen desserts

Spring has finally arrived!

While the rest of the country rejoices the passing of winter, we can say goodbye to our 80-degree windy days and welcome the sweltering Miami heat.

My prescription for steamy hot days and final-week nausea is a fresh scoop of ice cream, like cookies and



BIANCA ROJAS

Ice cream is nostalgic, sweet and sticky, but most of all, cooling. It's a foodgasm that has the power to relax and chill you on a hot day, but I know how fast a student on a budget can be forced to say no to ice cream with the Ben & Jerrys of the world charging more than \$4 for a pint.

So what do students with a killer sweet tooth and desire to relive childhood memories of sprinkles and gooey hot fudge do?

Make it at home!

I know it sounds intimidating, but making ice cream at home is easy once you invest in the right equipment.

The first thing you need is an ice cream maker. There are many different kinds,

from the old-fashioned hand-churned machines that require rock salt and can be messy for \$20, to the easy countertop commercial ice cream makers that can cost more than \$300.

For a student budget-friendly ice cream maker, I recommend the in-between machines, such as the Cuisinart ICE-20 model. It's compact and makes up to 1.5 quarts of fresh ice cream in less than 30 minutes for just \$39.50 on amazon.com – half off the normal retail price.

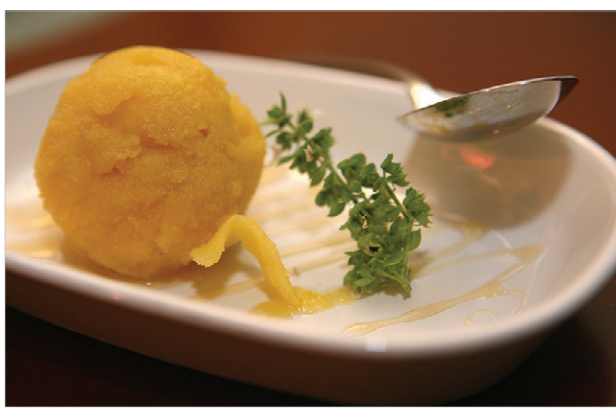
This machine works by pre-freezing the ice cream canister, which is filled with liquid coolant for eight hours and then turning it on for an easy half hour with the ingredients – and *voilà*, it's homemade ice cream.

The first time I attempted to make my favorite treat at home, I was terrified.

How could I, an at-home chef and professional foodie, recreate something so creamy, cold and delicious in my kitchen?

It was easier than making chocolate chip cookies, and now I whip up batches of ice cream at least once a week.

There are two styles of ice



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

COOL DOWN: Tasty and fat free, homemade mango sorbet makes a perfect spring treat for those craving ice cream but not the calories.

Cookies and Cream:

- Ice cream
- 1 cup whole milk
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 6 Oreo cookies crushed

Mango Sorbet:

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 ½ cups water
- 2 cups fresh or frozen mango, cubed

cream: Philadelphia, which is ice cream made with basic ingredients like cream and sugar; and French-style ice cream, which is made with an egg custard base that makes it richer and smoother, but a little bit difficult for a first-time home churning.

I stuck to the basics and

made a Philadelphia-style Cookies and Cream ice cream.

Remember to chill your ice cream canister, and then follow this simple recipe for a Cookies and Cream foodgasm (see box for ingredients).

Mix the milk and sugar with a whisk until the sugar

is dissolved, then stir in the heavy cream and vanilla. Pour this stress-free concoction into the ice cream canister and set the timer for 30 minutes.

During the last five minutes of churning, pour in your Oreo cookies as a mix-in.

This recipe can be changed easily by substituting your favorite mix-in, like frozen cookie dough for the Oreos.

In half an hour, any flavor is possible, and you can enjoy it mostly for the fact that you are no longer paying more than \$4 for a pint of mystery ingredients, like xanthan gum and other preservatives.

Another plus is that you can control the tastes your ice creams have.

Some of you may like your summer treat extra sweet, so you increase the sugar, while others may prefer more of the mix-in sweetness and may reduce the sugar to add extra cookies or cake to the mix.

Making ice cream at home puts you in complete control of your decadent dessert destiny.

Since it is spring, I have to recommend my favorite frozen treat – mango sorbet. Sorbet is a frozen dessert made simply with fruit, sugar and water.

It makes for a perfect beach day indulgence because you don't have the heaviness of cream and milk weighing you down.

For the mango sorbet, heat up the sugar and water on a stove top until the sugar is dissolved and the water is clear; this is called simple syrup and is the base sweetener to all sorbets.

Once the syrup is clear, add the mango cubes and turn off the stove, letting the mixture cool. Once cool, place the fruit and syrup in a blender, mixing until smooth. Add this mixture to the ice cream canister and churn for 30 minutes.

The result is a refreshing and light tropical fruit sorbet, the perfect summer treat.

Making ice cream is just a matter of having the right equipment and simple household ingredients. Not only is your favorite flavor possible at home, but it is an astonishingly easy cooking experience.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or Foodgasm ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com. The columnist pays for all food and experiences.

READ THIS NOW!

Political hypocrisy at its absolute best

Do as I say, not as I do.
Last week, talking heads that transcended party lines and branches of government blasted failing insurer American International Group for its lack of oversight in spending its \$180 billion in bailout money, with most of it going to foreign banks or employee bonuses.

Oversight? Who gave Congress and the president the right to complain about oversight? It was you guys who gave out all of this money without any pan to account for where it goes. You guys could teach a course on oversight, all right.

Do as I say, not as I do.
Charlie Crist ran to become governor of Florida on the premise of a transparent and open government even before Obama used those buzzwords for his presidential run. *The Sun-Sentinel* recently reported, however, that the Governor has been accepting flights on the private jets of influential businessmen, such as the time he flew back to Tallahassee aboard the plane of a wealthy HMO founder after watching the Super Bowl.

Crist once criticized former Governor Lawton Chiles for accepting private flights.

Do as I say, not as I do.
Bernard Madoff is facing the rest of his years in prison for orchestrating perhaps the largest of what is known as a "Ponzi scheme" in history. In a Ponzi scheme, earlier investors are paid back money from the money of later investors. Eventually, the flow of money usually runs dry.

This set-up seems strikingly similar to our current Social Security system. It is no secret that the government-run retirement program is in dire need of repair and might eventually run out of money, as current worker inputs are paying retiree's benefits.

What is so wrong with letting workers invest their money how they please? Of course, if someone were to opt out of Social Security, the government wouldn't have that money for most of the person's lifetime.

At least Madoff's investors had a choice.

Do as I say, not as I do.
Gambling is a dangerous, addictive activity that destroys families. At least this is what the Florida Legislature must think, considering how much time it spends doing everything it can to prevent gambling from becoming prominent in the state, by

creating petty rules about what types of machines are legal or criminal, based on how much skill is involved. The jailing of Gale Fontaine, a woman who was 56 years old when she was arrested in 2006 for operating an arcade where seniors won prizes such as grocery store gift cards, shows how dangerous gambling

must be.

The state knows what is best for us. Apparently, they are the only ones who know how to operate a casino, too, or at least eliminate competition; if you want to gamble in Florida, turn to the state. Curious how much the jackpot is? Just check the government-sponsored billboards on any highway. The Florida Lottery Power Ball jackpot was \$81 million at press time.

Do as I say, not as I do.
FIU, along with essentially every school in the nation, has an academic integrity policy that holds harsh penalties for those caught plagiarizing, including expulsion.

Why is it then, that whenever our leaders and representatives in government give a speech, we know that it was not written by them? You could say that this is not the same because we expect politicians to have someone else write their speeches for them, but could you not also say that it is somewhat expected for a college student to at some point use someone else's words in a paper?

Whether it is a student's thesis or a politician's speech, the audience wants to hear what that person has to say, not meaningless fluff. I'd quite like to see politicians, who can't bother with speaking directly to their constituents, be sent to Conduct and Conflict Resolution for discipline.

Do as I say, not as I do.
Pay your taxes. It's the right thing to do, as a citizen of this country reaping its benefits. Plus, if you don't oblige, the Internal Revenue Service will come after you with an audit so that Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner can make sure the nation's coughers are fully stocked.

They should be fine now that Geithner paid the \$35,000 in back taxes that he himself neglected to dole out prior to being offered a prestigious job in the Obama administration.

Do as I say, not as I do.

COLUMN



ERIC FELDMAN

TIME SAVINGS

FIU cutbacks should be modified

KIMBERLY C. ENGELHARDT
Staff Writer

Back by popular demand, FIU will adopt a four-day, 10-hours-a-day workweek this summer. This will be effective from June 19 through July 31, 2009. According to a University-wide survey, the three primary reasons for the return of the summer schedule are: increased savings on gas and tolls, a better work-life balance and increased savings to the University. Last year, the University saved approximately \$250,000 by implementing this schedule.

As I look at my academic calendar, I couldn't help but wonder why the four-day week isn't in effect as soon as the Summer term begins. FIU could do better in saving money. Forty-three days are great, but 81 days would be much better. We could save an additional \$250,000.

In addition to implementing the four-day work week, the University should also extend the rules to class times. If employees work from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., then the University should offer classes within that time frame as well. That way more buildings can be shut down after 6 p.m. This could earn the University more savings because lights and air conditioning units are not in use.

The only buildings that should be exempt from this proposed implementation are the libraries; these will be havens for students who need to do their homework or study for important exams.

As a senior majoring in advertising, I prefer to get my classes in the mornings so I can stay longer at my potential job. Every time I mention that I might have class in the late afternoon during my interviews, the employers' faces constrict as if they've eaten a barrel of sour lemons.

They don't like the idea that in the middle of an important project I have to stop and say, "Well! I have to go to school now. See

But hey, desperate times lead to desperate measures. When the economy is not functioning ... it's necessary to cut back.

if you can finish this job without me!" Basically, late afternoon classes make a bad impression on potential job offerings.

I've noticed it in two particular interviews and I hear, "Let me think about giving you that job."

This Summer semester, I am aware that I have classes that start at 5 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. If I do manage to get the job of my dreams, I will be leaving during the busiest part of the day. I can't have that. I prefer to have classes in the mornings so that I can stay as long as I want at my job and even work overtime to recuperate the morning hours lost.

However, I have an even better proposition: FIU should waive the online Summer fees and allow more students to take classes online. Through online courses, students won't be using any of FIU's facilities or electricity. As an added bonus, students save time, money and hassle since they would not need to travel to campus. The only setbacks I see in this are not meeting other classmates and the lack of personal interaction with the professors.

But hey, desperate times lead to desperate measures. When the economy is not functioning at an acceptable level, it's necessary to cut back as much as possible.

The four-day-a-week, 10-hours-a-day schedule must include most of May and all of June and July. There is no reason to start in late June. If classes also fall in the 10-hours-a-day schedule or offered online, this would also be beneficial to not only the school, but the students. If we squeeze out savings in the right places, I bet we can save about half a million to \$1 million.

Every dollar counts, don't you think?



STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX



Officer of a student organization? Student government member? University official? Have something to say? Contact us at opinion@fiusm.com and we'll give you 500 words to share your opinion with the FIU community.



SURVEY SAYS

Student body misinformed about HIV, stigmas lead testing decrease

RACHAEL CONGDON
Staff Writer

How much does the average FIU student know about the human immunodeficiency virus?

That was the question that plagued demographer and Professor Maria Aysa's mind when she conferred with a graduate student in 2006 about his own findings, which "were missing data" she said.

She set out to get funding to conduct a two-year survey on FIU students' knowledge of and stigmas toward HIV as well as the effects religion has on both of these subjects. She was granted the necessary funding for her survey by the Crusada Center.

During Spring of 2008, Aysa conducted the first half of the survey at University Park, with the help of her Research Method's class, surveying 1012 students about their knowledge and stigmas associated with HIV. In the Spring of 2009 she conducted the second half of the two-year project, choosing a smaller data pool, only 500 students.

The survey consisted of six parts. The first four, which were given by the interviewer on demographic information, HIV knowledge, religious attitudes and stigma scale. The last two parts, sexual habits and alcohol and drug abuse, were confidential.

According to Aysa, in the HIV knowledge section there were questions such as "Do you know what a female condom is?" and the four vital HIV transmission questions, "Can you get HIV by kissing someone on the cheek who has it? Sharing a glass with someone with HIV? Being around an infected person while they cough? Using a toilet after an infected person?"

The results shocked her.

"Only 70 percent of the [surveyed] students knew, consistently, the correct answers to the transmission questions. That's a much lower number than I was expecting, given that it is a higher learning community," Aysa said. "I was expecting 86-90 percent to have the correct knowledge."

This seems to go hand in hand with what Jason Valdiva, senior and anthropology major, said he noticed during his surveying of people in the past few months.

He was quite shocked at how the stigma of HIV affected the student's attitudes toward people living with HIV.

"A much greater number of respondents than I expected were not totally opposed to separating off people with HIV/AIDS from the rest of the public. It seems a bit barbaric to me," Valdiva Said.

Aysa talked about how stigmas affect HIV knowledge and testing.

"A stigma puts you at a lower risk of getting tested. The

stigma works against the prevention of HIV," Aysa said.

Valdiva noticed how sensitive students on campus were to the survey.

"People tended to respond to the way we, as interviewers, state[d] a question," Valdiva said. "There is more stigma toward HIV/AIDS persons than I expected."

Aysa stressed how important it is for students to learn about the virus.

"We need to talk about this disease. That's the only way we are going to overcome the stigma's toward it," Aysa said. "Get tested, get educated, go to the Wellness Center. Be proactive in how you go about getting information, go online and learn."

For more information on HIV testing and prevention, contact the Wellness Center at (305) 348-2401 or visit www.fiu.edu/~health.



Fast, tricky ways to lose weight quickly

My fellow losers, I have a confession to make: there are six weeks left until graduation and I have yet to lose a pound.

In fact I think I may have gained a few pounds although this is speculation considering I haven't weighed myself.

With exactly 33 days left until I say farewell to this school, I'm concerned with how I will lose at least 12 pounds.

I have considered diet pills, starvation nation (my editor's phrase to describe food depravation), and even a combination of laxatives and diuretic pills.

Bright as I am, I know these will either send me to the hospital or dehydrate me. Therefore, I have considered kicking off my weight loss with a cleansing program and upon much research, here's what I discovered.

The three-day Fruit Flush Diet promises to help you lose 9-10 pounds by consuming only fresh fruits, vegetables and lean protein according to a review published in *WebMD.com*.

The two-step program requires you to drink protein shakes on the first day followed by a vegetable salad and lean meat. One hour after each shake, you will have 8-12 ounces of water. On days two and three you will eat fruits every two hours and dinner will be made up of raw vegetables and a tablespoon or two of olive oil, and a small amount of lean protein or a protein shake.

Nine to 10 pounds in three days sounds like a great idea, but does it really work?

A reporter in Baltimore put the too-good-to-be-true program to the test and lost 4.5 pounds.

Next up, fasting.

When you fast, your body is forced to dip into energy stores to get the fuel it needs to keep going. So you will lose weight, according to WebMD.

But, if you didn't know, when you don't eat you send your body into starvation mode causing your metabolism to slow down.

As your metabolism slows down, you store more energy, meaning that you'll probably gain back the weight you lost and may even put on more when eating the same calories you did before the fast, according to WebMD.

There are also plenty of detox pills out there that will send you running to the bathroom every couple of hours. If you work a full time job, this may become tiresome. Worse, your boss may notice.

With these options, I have decided to try the three day Fruit Flush Diet.

Nutrition experts say you will lose weight on the Fruit Flush Diet because it is so low in calories, according to the WebMD review. There is little evidence to support the notion that any detox diets are effective for long-term weight loss.

But with six weeks left and a little dress waiting for me at one of my favorite clothing stores, three days on fruits and shakes doesn't seem like a difficult task. Remember to always consult your doctor before you begin any health-related program or diet.

COLUMN



EDDITH SEVILLA

CABRALITICS

Who needs education when there's a ball game to go to?

Amid a federal, state and county budget crisis, we should all take a moment to salute our leaders for recognizing what's really important: baseball.

Miami City Hall recently approved the construction of a \$600 million stadium with taxpayer money for the Florida Marlins, and the county government looks poised to do the same.

Of course, a deal as brilliant as this one has its share of critics, some of whom decry spending gobs of money on a facility for a professional baseball team when millions are being taken from education.

What about the children, they ask.

Sure, kids are all well and good, but baseball is clearly much more important than their precious "education." I mean, just look at the entertainment value alone. Baseball is an exciting and enthralling display of man's triumph over objects hurled at him at high speeds.

Education? It's nowhere near as fascinating. Have you ever watched a child trying to read? It's horribly boring.

Moreover, these critics, who are clearly anti-baseball zealots in the pocket of "big children," always fail to mention that none of these kids even have jobs. The unemployment rate among our state's children is close to 100 percent. If these kids want an education so bad, they should get a job and pay for it themselves.

Of course, thanks to big government regulations, children in this state and country are denied the "right to work." Thanks to these silly laws, jobs in the shoe making, toy building and clothes making sectors are being created overseas, where children in other countries get to make up to \$15 a week.

Those jobs could be created right here in the United States, and be held by perfectly capable American children whose fingers are nimble enough to stitch the highest quality inseams and the finest designer shoes.

Think of all the books, toys and candy that our own country's children could be purchasing with their \$15 if it weren't for these federal regulations!

Putting jobs and money in the hands of our state's children could really stimulate the economy, and we wouldn't have to worry so much about educating them. Florida's kids could stop learning about art, music and history and instead learn something useful, like how to operate a loom or forklift.

Thankfully, our state government has been working hard to stop all the wasteful spending on educating children, cutting nearly a billion dollars from education in the last year alone.

Yet despite their best efforts, our state still spends hundreds of millions of dollars on books, teachers and classrooms, just to ensure that children have basic reading and math skills. That's money that could be going to important things like more stadiums or lower taxes on liquor and tobacco products.

Florida is beginning to lead the race to defund education. Every dollar spent on these freeloading children signifies in a very real sense, a cigarette taxed too high, a corporate tax break withheld, a baseball team forced to build their own stadium.

Yet with time, if the people of Florida are consistent enough to stand behind their leaders in Tallahassee and in county and city government, we will some day return to the good old days. The days when traditional values prevailed, baseball was the national pastime, big government didn't exist and children put in an honest day's work at the factory instead of learning to count.

Keep fighting, you fearless defenders of sports and entertainment. Keep fighting for the dream!

Cabralitics is a bimonthly column that looks at the current political state, then points and laughs at it.



CHRIS CABRAL

COLUMN

ART IN ACTION



GIO GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

COPPER PRESS: Umer Rahman, Cristian Larrocha, Alvaro Quinonez, Christopher Khawand and Michael Riobeno interact with "Penny Pincher," a sculpture by Ralph Provisero exhibited in the Aesthetics & Values show in the Green Library.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 25

WHAT: Sony Ericsson Open
WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Grandon Park tennis Center
CONTACT: 1-800-725-5472

WHAT: Abstract Cinema and Technology: Opening Reception
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Museum of Contemporary Art
CONTACT: 305-893-6211

WHAT: African & African Diaspora Studies - Meeting
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Students for Environmental Action - Meeting
WHEN: 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC Pit
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

WHAT: Japan Club - Meeting
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

THURSDAY • MARCH 26

WHAT: Funkshion Fashion Week Miami Beach
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Lummus Park
CONTACT: 305-673-2756

WHAT: Movie Night: Mamma Mia
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
CONTACT: 305-667-1651

WHAT: Coral Gables Wine & Food Festival
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: Giralda Avenue
CONTACT: 954-524-4657

WHAT: Bayfront Park Farmer's Market and Lunchtime Experience
WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Bayfront Park
CONTACT: 305-358-7550

WHAT: Service for Peace - Meeting
WHEN: 4:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-1069

Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

Roary Rage Wants
You to Vote on
April 1 and 2!!!

Cast your vote at
MY.FIU.EDU

Don't miss the candidate
debates on March 25 in the
Rec. Center Courts at Noon

CLASSIFIEDS

PAGEANT

Caribbean Pageantry is seeking contestants for their 4th Annual Miss Miami Carnival Pageant, being held Sunday September 20, 2009. For more information please call 786-356-0869.

JOBS

SUMMER JOBS: Recreation Camp Counselors/ Supervisors for summer recreation program 6/08/09-7/31/09 for children ages 5-14. WSI/Lifeguard and Maintenance Aides (5/09-9/09). Exp. desirable. City of Plantation (west of Ft. Lauderdale) 400 NW 73 Ave., Plantation, FL 33317 or www.plantation.org to download application.

DENTAL SERVICE MANAGER: Conduct & adm. Fiscal open; Direct, & eval. Activities of staff: Analyze facility activities & data to aid planning; Adm Dental Program & Dental facility; Direct recruitment & training; Extabl. Work schedules. Maintain awareness of computerized diagnostics & treatment equip. data processing tech. gov. reg. health Ins. Changes & fin options. Purchase new dental equip. D.D.S. and 1 yr of exp. Exp. In job offered. 40 hrs/wk M-F 9-5 p.m. Send resume to: 1dentalofhomestead@bellsouth.net

Gniadek provides only win in series

SOFTBALL, page 8

made the adjustments that we needed to make.”

Although FIU couldn't adjust to Williams, they did catch a break in the second game on March 21 against starter Allison Moore (8-2), who gave up six earned runs to the Golden Panthers in 3.2 innings to pick up the loss.

Meanwhile, Jennifer Gniadek (7-7) pitched her fifth complete game of the season for FIU and struck out eight to earn the win, which was the lone victory for her team this weekend.

Supplementing Gniadek's solid pitching effort was the offense; three different Golden Panthers knocked home runs out of the park. One of them was courtesy of freshman Ashley McClain who went 3-for-3, also knocking down two doubles.

“We're still working on a lot of things with the freshmen, but overall the ones that are in the lineup day in and day out have done a really nice job,”

McClendon said.

Jessica Landau also went 3-for-3 including an inside-the-park home run. Senior Kim Rodriguez knocked down

Rodriguez then laid down a sacrifice fly to score another run, giving FIU a 2-1 lead over the Trojans.

The fourth inning was also

Following a rain delay, neither team seemed to be able to manufacture much more, at least not in the fifth or sixth innings when both teams went hitless.

In the seventh, Troy scored two more runs but Gniadek would pull out safely from the inning, allowing the opponent to get no closer than 6-3.

After going 1-2 for the weekend, the Golden Panthers have a record of 17-19 with just a 1-5 Sun Belt Conference record.

Coach McClendon seems to feel that her team is still prospering and remained with a positive outlook for next weekend's series against North Texas.

“We're just going to prepare for North Texas and have our normal week,” said McClendon. “I think that they're playing better all of the time. We're still getting decent efforts on the mounds; I wish they could have been a little bit sharper this weekend but I think we're starting to swing better every time out.”

“We need to have better at bats if we were going to do things ... their pitcher had a really good weekend.”

Beth McClendon
head coach

her fourth homer of the season and drove in two of the runs for FIU.

The Trojans were able to get something going early on when Hayden Gann drove in the first run after sailing a double into left field to put her team up 1-0.

It was in the second inning when the Golden Panthers began to claw. Landau's inside-the-park home run tied the game at 1-1.

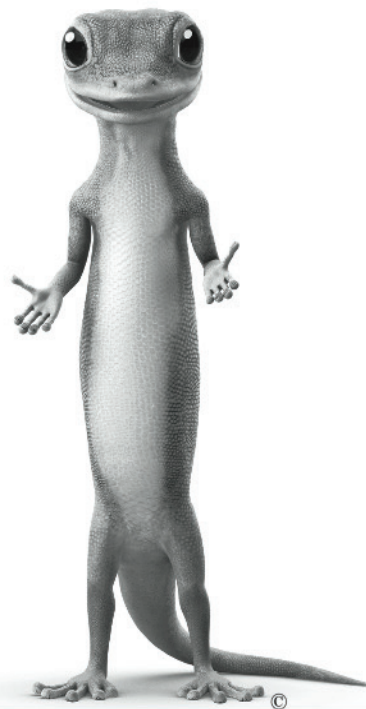
explosive for FIU. McClain knocked down her first career home run directly over the centerfield wall followed by Rodriguez, two batters later, who crushed her homer to put the Golden Panthers ahead 4-1.

Senior Katie Bell followed up with an RBI double and Landau kept clawing with an RBI single all in the fourth inning to give FIU the 6-1 lead.

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Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.



LUIS ESTRADA
Contributing Writer

Last season, pitchers Scott Rembisz and Tom Ebert played junior college ball thousands of miles away from each other.

Now Rembisz, from Manatee Community College in western Florida and Ebert from North Dakota, are coming together to restore prominence to the FIU baseball program.

Both juniors have become the top two starters for a team looking to significantly improve its pitching from last season, when they finished with a 7.12 earned run average. Even though the pitching staff was in rebuilding mode, both pitchers found this opportunity to be the perfect fit for them in Division I baseball, and both players were quick to cite head coach Turtle Thomas as one of the main reasons they chose FIU.

"The team had some top notch prospects coming in, a lot of talent offensively, and coach Thomas' reputation and experience were all factors in my decision to transfer here," Ebert said.

Rembisz agreed.

"We know the scouts are at FIU's games all the time, and coach has always had a great track record and that's definitely one of the

reasons I'm here today."

Thomas, in his second year as head coach for the Golden Panthers, feels both Ebert and Rembisz have the talent and the work ethic to succeed as Division I starters.

"The competition here will be a little tougher for them, but good pitchers make pitches, watch players' swings and study hard to be better. They are well conditioned and will continue to improve," he said.

With the addition of Rembisz and Ebert, the team's ERA is 2.56 through 19 games.

Ebert said there isn't a huge difference from pitching in junior college to facing potential pro prospects in

the Sun Belt Conference, but knows there will be some adjustments to be made.

"The offenses were good at my previous level, but I have to fine tune my pitches, and I won't be able to get away with missing my spots," he said.

Ebert's pitches have earned him a 3-1 record and 0.61 ERA through 29.1 innings with five walks.

Rembisz said the biggest difference is that the talent and big bats aren't just located in the middle of the order, but spread out top to bottom in the lineup.

"Depending on the situ-

ation, I know I have to approach a hitter differently at this level. I may have to let my defense do the work sometimes, and the deeper I go into games, the better our bullpen will be," Rembisz said.

So far this season, Rembisz is 4-0 with a 1.54 ERA in 35 innings, including 30 strikeouts and four walks.

All three men stressed the importance of getting the leadoff man out in any inning.

"It's important to set the tone by getting out No. 1, and then keeping hitters off balance the rest of the game," Ebert said.

"We have to avoid big innings, and that starts with getting the first out quickly, then making sure we get the outs we're supposed to get," said Rembisz.

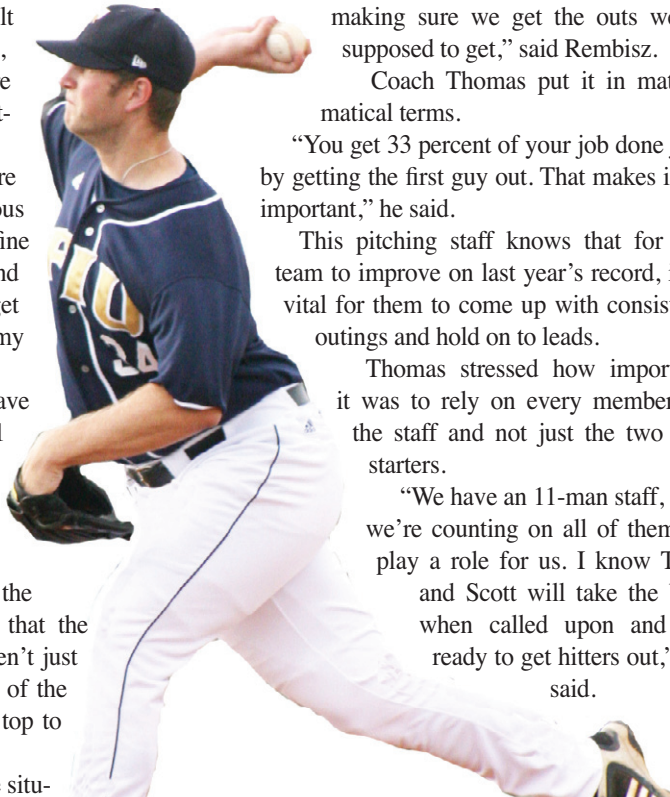
Coach Thomas put it in mathematical terms.

"You get 33 percent of your job done just by getting the first guy out. That makes it so important," he said.

This pitching staff knows that for the team to improve on last year's record, it is vital for them to come up with consistent outings and hold on to leads.

Thomas stressed how important it was to rely on every member of the staff and not just the two top starters.

"We have an 11-man staff, and we're counting on all of them to play a role for us. I know Tom and Scott will take the ball when called upon and be ready to get hitters out," he said.



BASEBALL: FIU 11, FDU 10

Panthers complete sweep

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

After outscoring the Farleigh Dickinson University Knights 46-8 during the first three games, the Golden Panthers faced an exhausted pitching staff trying to avoid the four-game sweep.

The Knights used just three pitchers but could not salvage the final game of the series. The Golden Panthers kept the Knights at bay in an 11-10 victory on March 22 at University Park Stadium.

Garrett Wittels and Doug Joyce hit their first collegiate home runs as the Golden Panthers improved their record to 15-4.

"Everybody practices hard every day, and everybody deserves an opportunity to play," said head coach Turtle Thomas.

They are now five wins away from matching last season's win total.

The game capped off a series that saw the Golden Panthers score 57 runs and sweep their first opponent of the season.

Tyler Townsend continued to prove he is one of the best hitters in the Sun Belt Conference by going 7-for-14 with two home runs and eight RBI. He leads the conference with a .500 batting average. The man preceding Townsend in the lineup, Ryan Mollica, went 7-for-18 with seven RBI for the series.

Daniel DeSimone pitched five innings and gave up three earned runs for the Golden Panthers.

He fell behind early 3-0 through the first three innings, before the Golden Panthers reclaimed the lead with a six-run third, which included Townsend's two-run blast and Joyce's three-run home run five batters later.

DeSimone left the game in the fifth with a 6-3 lead and Wittels extended the lead to 8-3 with his two-run homer.

Mason McVay came on to relieve DeSimone but he struggled with his control of his off-speed pitches and he was responsible for four of the six runs in the inning.

Aaron Arboleya replaced McVay, but a Lammar Guy error led the Golden Panthers to relinquish the lead.

Down 9-8 in the bottom of the sixth, Ryan Hennessey entered the game. He gave up six runs without recording an out during the first game of the series.

On Sunday, he would allow two runs and still get no outs. Hennessey coughed up the lead; his team would never recover.

Jorge Maban entered the game in the eighth and closed the game in two innings. He earned his third save of the season.

Arboleya won his first game of his collegiate career. He allowed two runs but they were both unearned.

During the series, the Golden Panthers stole so many bases they jumped to the No. 2 spot in the conference.

"We have a pretty quick team," catcher Steven Stropp said. "They also have a great first step and mechanics."

The Golden Panthers will face the University of Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns for a three-game series on March 27-29.

The Ragin' Cajuns are right behind the Golden Panthers in the Sun Belt standings.

SOFTBALL SERIES: TROY 2, FIU 1

Dominant pitcher stifles offense

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

The final game of a three-game series vs. the Troy University Trojans came down to a battle of stamina.

But the Trojan's Ashlyn Williams would outlast FIU's Kasey Barret to win 5-2 in 11 innings. Williams kept the Golden Panthers from winning their first series against a Sun Belt Conference team.

The Trojans defeated the Golden Panthers in two of three games with an unbeatable pitching effort by their No. 1 starter, Williams, who entered the weekend with a 1.75 earned run average.

"We needed to have better at bats if we were going to do things," said head coach Beth McClendon. "When we have opportunities we need to play defense just knowing that we're not going to score a ton of runs off a player like that."



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TOUGH AT BATS: Third baseman Carolina Rojas swings against the Troy University Trojans. The Golden Panthers dropped two of three against the Trojans on March 21-22.

Williams threw a one-hit gem on the first game for Troy, striking out 14 Golden Panthers.

She was able to lead her team to a 7-1 victory on March 21,

followed by an 11-inning matchup the next day where she struck out another 14 and allowed just one earned run to grab the win at 5-2.

"Their pitcher had a really

good weekend. She's very talented and I give her a lot of credit," said McClendon. "But I don't think we

SOFTBALL page 7