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Florida International University

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Domestic violence awareness lacking

VANESSA GALLARDO
Contributing Writer

The Florida Department of Children and Families reported that women between the ages of 16 to 24 were at the greatest risk of nonfatal, intimate partner violence in 2009-2010.

Locally, DCF said there were approximately 2.5 million offenses in Miami-Dade County and approximately 1.75 million in Broward County.

At a university where the majority of the student population is women, especially from countries with a high amount of violent incidents, one would anticipate a great deal of domestic violence awareness campus wide.

But at the University, it's rare to see a sea of purple ribbons, the unifying symbol of courage, survival and dedication to ending

violence awareness," said Lindsay Garber, a University alumna. "As a nurse, I now realize how important it is to spread awareness, especially on college campuses."

Gerber, now a registered nurse at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, has taken care of many children and has seen a number of abuse cases.

"Victims don't know how to get help," Gerber said. "Many that are in that situation hadn't learned much about it, and they don't know how to get out. They need to spread awareness to prevent it but also, so that girls know what to do if they are unfortunately placed in that situation and how to get out."

Congress designated October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, yet there were no signs of acknowledgment around either of the University's campuses.

Elika Nerette, assistant director at the Victim Advocacy Center, said the reason why you won't see banners, tables or much of any type of awareness is because of funding problems.

"There is so much more we can do," Nerette said. "We can even put our 'relationship IQ' pamphlets in girls' bathrooms, which help you analyze whether or not you could possibly be in an abusive behavior."

Nerette said the primary method to reach students is by talking and tabling at freshman orientations and making presentations in the many freshman experience classes.

Even so, Nerette said that although the center does not make presentations for transfer orientations, she's very proud of the free services it does offer.

The center offers various free services to its students, faculty and staff including support, therapy and assistance. Advocates are even available to accompany clients to the hospital, police station, court or to other appointments. Nerette said they are even willing to request academic accommodations for students.

But, Nerette said, awareness remains problematic.

"It's something we have to keep working on," she said.

Transfer student Danielle

ABUSE, page 2

ART APPRECIATION



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

George Fleites [left] and Rachel Richardson [right], both junior business administration majors, observe a glass piece from an exhibition at the Frost Art Museum.

UNICEF chapter at the University seeks to make its mark

AURA ALTAMIRANDA
Contributing Writer

United Nations Children's Fund, better known as UNICEF, works to better the lives of disadvantaged children in over 150 countries through donations and volunteer work.

Through its many partnerships nationwide, it gathers support and has its partners advocate their goals in order

to rally further support in more communities.

UNICEF@FIU is in its third year working with the national headquarters, promoting campaigns on campus and raising funds for UNICEF's purposes.

As college students partnered with a much larger humanitarian organization, they are limited in what projects they can engage themselves in. While

they cannot venture out and participate in fieldwork that requires travel, they offer their services through projects within their reach.

Yasmin Zakkout serves as the UNICEF@FIU representative in the Council for Student Organizations. CSO is responsible for the funding the group received to attend the Campus Initiative Leadership Summit in October. Attendees trav-

eled to New York from Oct. 8 through Oct. 10, networked with organizations from other universities and returned to their respective groups with ideas to apply to their operations.

They were also exposed to lectures by UNICEF employees about their experiences and the protocol for situations they have

UNICEF, page 2

Peer leaders help students

AURA ALTAMIRANDA
Contributing Writer

One of the largest programs in the country, comes from the University's biology department.

Peer Lead Team Learning is a national program with a number of participating universities designed to reinforce principles taught in various disciplines of biology.

Thomas Pitzer initially brought the program to the University in 2000 when the only courses the program offered aid in were Biology I and II.

A little more than a decade after its inception, it has grown to serve approximately 2,500 students at the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses

in the following biology courses: General Biology I, General Biology II, Genetics, Fundamentals of Human Physiology, Human Biology, Ecology, Evolution and Neurobiology.

The staff is working to implement Intro to Microbiology as well as General Microbiology into the course offerings. Alberto Cruz, assistant coordinator, said, "It is pretty difficult for someone to get a degree in bio or a minor without participating in PLTL."

PLTL is a network of students helping students understand difficult concepts in course material.

While the incentive of the program as a student is to better grasp the course content, most professors

PEER, page 2

COMING UP | Sports

Check out the Nov. 30 issue for a recap of this year's momentous FIU football season by columnist Brandon Wise.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Miami Beach getting ready for Art Basel Dec. 1-4

Live graffiti painting. A colossal rose bed soaring 20 feet high. Early photos of Andy Warhol, a Picasso up for auction and a naked woman living in a pig pen. They’re all part of the lineup for Art Basel Miami Beach, which runs Dec. 1-4, with a host of related events beginning Nov. 30.

The pig pen installation will undoubtedly be the most jaw-dropping event at the art fair. Known for photographing herself nude in subway tunnels or in front of graffiti walls, performance artist Miru Kim will be living with pigs for her performance “The Pig That Therefore I Am.”

NATIONAL

Students no longer need to give professor snacks

A California university professor can no longer demand snacks from students taking his psychology classes.

Sacramento State professor George Parrott has demanded snacks from his students for 39 years. Students were told of the snack demand on the first day of class. But two weeks ago he walked out of his Psychology 101 lab class because there were no snacks.

University spokeswoman Kimberly Nava says members of the psychology department at California State University, Sacramento decided Parrott’s decision to walk out of class was unacceptable and the dean told him to stop.

WORLD

Europe gets signal from Russia’s Mars moon probe

The European Space Agency has received the first signal from an unmanned spacecraft bound for moon of Mars since it got stuck in Earth’s orbit.

The ESA, which has been helping Russia to try to communicate with the errant probe, said in a statement Wednesday that its tracking facility in the Australian city of Perth established contact with the spacecraft late Tuesday.

Russia’s space agency Roscosmos said Russian and European space experts will coordinate further attempts to contact the Phobos-Ground probe.

The \$170 million craft has become stranded in orbit after its thrusters failed to fire after the Nov. 9 launch to send it to one of Mars’ two moons, Phobos.

– Compiled by Melissa Caceres

Program members provide tutoring in various course materials

PEER, page 1

further encourage students to participate by using completion of PLTL as a replacement for the cumulative final exam.

To accommodate students who cannot commute to campus, scheduled discussions are led through smaller online sections using a web conferencing tool Adobe Connect.

The commitment of the program is similar to that of juggling an additional class but its work is intertwined with the subject it reinforces. During the first five minutes of every session, leaders administer readiness surveys to the students to foster engagement.

Once a student misses three or more, he can no longer earn credit for the program. After the surveys, leaders facilitate discussions based on course material that has been covered. Their purpose is not to teach new material, but to review.

Nataly Rodriguez, assistant coordinator, described PLTL as “active learning,” which serves as additional aid to the “passive learning” of lectures and textbook reading.

Omar Fernandez, a sophomore and biology major, who initially took PLTL for Bio I, leads discussions for General Biology 1.

“What goes on in a session moti-

vates most of them to study for the next. We have surveys at the beginning that contribute and motivate them to know more about the material,” he said.

Most universities with smaller programs have the funding to pay their leaders; with the exception of staff

We’ve been doing PLTL for over 10 years and research shows that students who take PLTL earn a full grade higher than those who don’t.

Nataly Rodriguez, assistant coordinator
Peer Lead Team Learning

members, the University’s program operates through the volunteer work of its leaders.

There are currently 130 PLTL leaders teaching at least two sections each. Beginning as students in the program, they each advanced to lead groups consisting of about 12 students on average.

Leaders attend an initial orientation

UNICEF, page 1

confronted, such as natural disaster relief. Other sessions promoted teamwork and offered ideas on increasing membership nationally beginning with increasing membership locally.

The members’ greatest struggle is attaining and maintaining member-

ship from the University community.

“Our organization is very young at FIU and the workshops taught us teamwork, how to get our members more motivated and how to get us more motivated,” said Nasreen El-Masri, activities coordinator. As a result, UNICEF was able to retain over half of its members. On the last day of the trip, the Global Poverty Project was discussed. Initiated by humanitarians Hugh Evans and Simon Moss, the project’s main focus is for its participants to attempt five days of little spending to highlight the difficulty of living in impoverished countries.

UNICEF@FIU’s activities have included bake sales, the Halloween Week Fashion

Show, trick-or-treat boxes used to collect donations and selling water bottles to support the Believe in Zero campaign.

Approximately 50 years running nationally, the Believe in Zero campaign’s goal is to stomp out the child mortality rate from preventable illnesses and lack of resources. It is the organization’s main focus. A year-round project, Believe in Zero is making leeway by the thousands annually with the University making its own contributions. “As small as we are, every dollar counts. Twenty-five cents can provide clean water for a child in a poor country,” said Loan Van, president.

Promotion plans for the University include creating flyers and pamphlets, visiting

classrooms and broadcasting a public service announcement on the Discovery Channel, which is one of their key tools in reaching out to the community.

Their Orgsync page is updated periodically to keep students updated on their activities.

“UNICEF has not only gone to FIU Panthers but to communities in Miami, in public areas. There were people who didn’t even know what UNICEF was,” said Zakkout.

In spring 2012, UNICEF@FIU intends to further promote the educational aspect of their program, continuing to use every month to focus on a certain area of the world and demonstrate what UNICEF is about.



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ALFRED SOTO

Abuse remains an issue

ABUSE, page 1

Kong said at her previous university, York University in Toronto, Canada, the campus staff went out of their way to make it known that there were always counselors available.

“I’ve never, ever, ever seen any domestic violence information around campus, not this month, not ever,” Kong said.

“Florida Atlantic University even has volunteer fairs in collaboration with Women in Distress to help bring awareness,” Kong said. “Around here, there are tons of flyers about academic assistance

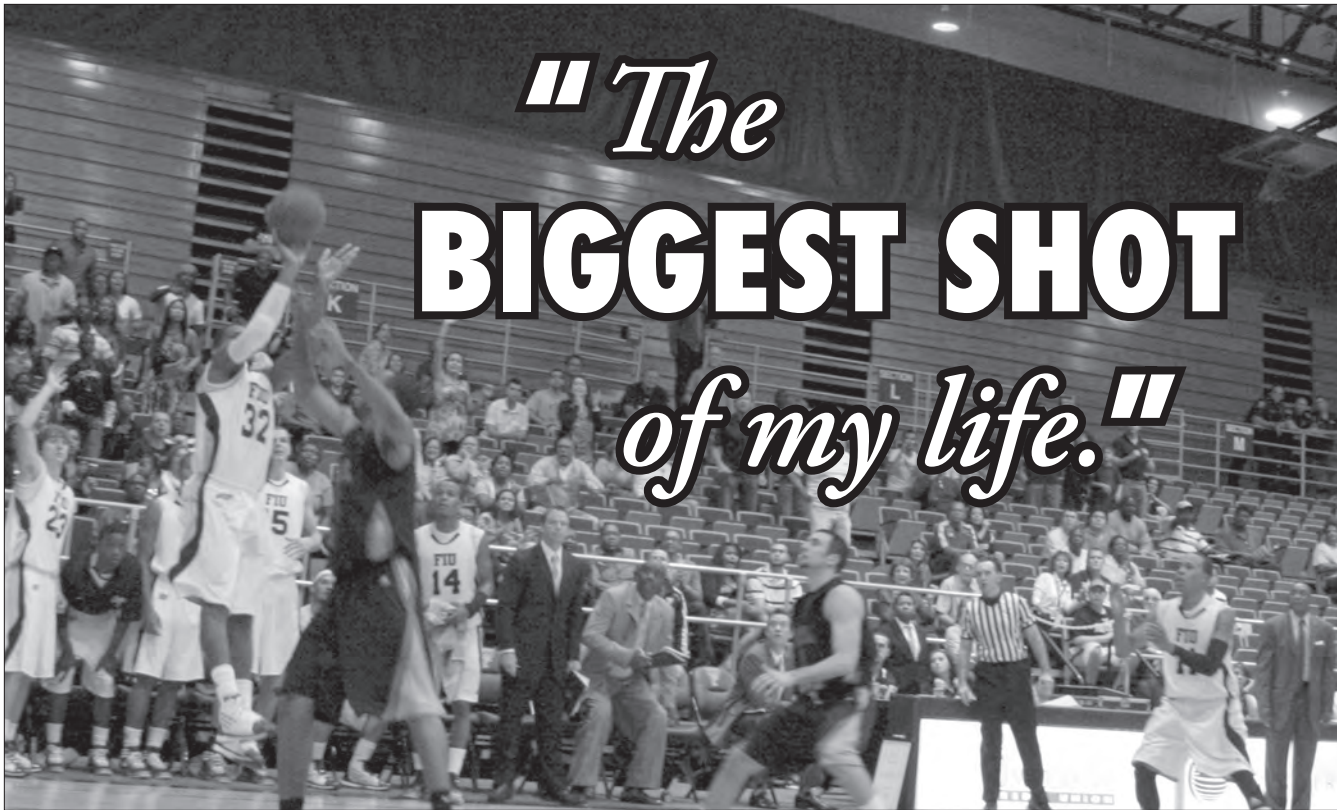
but never about personal assistance.”

The Broward volunteer coordinator said there are steps the university can take to improve. She said the University could partner with students from women’s studies, social work or sociology to hang signs or set up information tables.

“I think this sums it up pretty well: I do what I do so hopefully one day, I will work myself out of a job.”

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to thenewswave.org

MEN'S BASKETBALL



JOSEPH KOSANKE /THE BEACON

Jeremy Allen scored a game-high 19 points, including the game-winner at the buzzer to give FIU its second win of the season.

Allen's buzzer-beater stuns Chanticleers

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

With less than a minute to go in the FIU home opener and the game tied up, the Panthers were hoping for some late heroics.

Jeremy Allen delivered.

The senior captain nailed the game-winning shot as time expired to lead the Panthers to a thrilling 64-62 victory over the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, who came in to the game undefeated.

"That might be the biggest shot of my life," Allen said after the game. "We needed this. It was a tough game. It was a big win for us at home."

The Panthers came out with a high-tempo offense and were able to set the pace for most of the first half.

On the other side of the basketball, Coastal Carolina struggled to come up with

an answer to FIU's aggressive defense as they attempted to force the visiting team into settling for shots from the outside.

Despite a strong start, the Chanticleers kept the game close and went down by only five points at the half.

Chris Gradingo and Anthony Raffa, who led the Chanticleers with 13 points each, led the second-half charge by Coastal Carolina as they took a 50-43 lead with just over 12 minutes to go in regulation.

But FIU battled back. Both teams exchanged the lead heading into the climactic final minute of play, setting up one of the most memorable moments in recent program history.

"I liked our perseverance...our tenacity," coach Isiah Thomas said. "Our guys slowly regained their composure and fought their way back into the basketball game."

A layup by Dominique Ferguson with 41 seconds to go tied the game at 62-62,

setting up a pivotal final possession for Coastal Carolina with just six seconds separating the shot clock from the game clock.

The Chanticleers milked the shot clock to the final seconds, dishing the ball out to Raffa for the potential game-winner. The shot missed the mark and was rebounded by Tola Akomolafe with seven seconds to go.

Akomolafe quickly passed the ball down the sideline to Phil Taylor, who then found Allen near the baseline.

Allen released the ball with less than a second to go, as a later review by the officiating crew confirmed, and the crowd erupted in celebration as the Panthers mobbed Allen near the FIU bench.

The win snapped a three-game losing skid for the Panthers, who are in the midst of a brutal schedule filled with extended stretches on the road. FIU now plays seven of their next nine games away from home.

FIU 31, MTSU 18

Panthers reach school-record eight wins

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

After beating Middle Tennessee for the first time away on the road, FIU (8-4, 5-3 SBC) finishes the season with the best record in school history. Now the waiting game begins. It is still uncertain whether a second consecutive bowl berth comes with it. Mario Cristobal will have to wait a full week until Dec. 4 to see if the Panthers are bowl bound.

The Panthers scored 17 points in the second half while holding MTSU to 12 to end the game at 31-18.

Sophomore Kedrick Rhodes, who ended the game early with an injury, finished with 20 carries for 117 yards. The tailback is now 12 yards away from tying Rashod Smith's record of 1,133 in a single season.

"[He suffered a] sprained ankle. He tried to go back in but just couldn't push off it," said head coach Cristobal.

Cristobal is happy with what the Sun Belt teams have produced this year and is now ready to start looking into whether or not FIU can make a bowl.

"I'll start studying that on the plane ride," Cristobal said. "We try to stay focused on just taking care of business. People are finding out as they play the Sun Belt teams that there's a lot of good players and some good football teams."

Senior Wesley Carroll got the start at quarterback over back-up Jake Medlock after his performance at ULM, where he threw three touchdowns and zero interceptions. It was his last regular season start as a collegiate. On the second drive of the game, Carroll led a 14-play, 84-yard drive that resulted in a five-yard touchdown catch by tight end Jonathan Faucher. Faucher's touchdown was the third FIU touchdown scored by a tight end this season.

The Panther defense held the Blue Raiders to just six points in the first half and 156 yards of total offense. The two scores, all field goals, came from Alan Gendreau from 37 and 25 yards away.

T.Y. Hilton came close to getting his fifth kickoff return for a touchdown of his career when he took the pooch kick and zig-zagged his way to the MTSU five-yard line to set up FIU's second touchdown of the half on a one-yard run by Rhodes.

"It's only fitting for a guy whose had so many magical plays in his career," said Cristobal. "I'm surprised somebody got him. He ran out of gas there at the end. He had to run a long way to try and get the ball so he probably ran about 190,200 yards on that play."

In the third quarter, FIU was able to get possession of the ball at midfield after the defense forced the Blue Raiders into a three-and-out, and Faucher partially blocked the punt. It led to Hilton's third catch of the day, a touchdown to make it 21-6. Hilton's touchdown catch was his seventh touchdown of the season, tying his own single-season mark.

The Panthers ended the quarter with a 28-6 lead on a one-yard run from Jeremiah Harden after an interception from defensive end Gregory Hickman gave FIU the ball back at the MTSU 26-yard line.

MTSU made an attempt at a comeback in the fourth quarter when running back Benjamin Cunningham ran it in for the Blue Raiders first touchdown of the game with 6:55 remaining. The second one came on a Reggie Whatley one-yard run. The FIU lead proved to be too much though, as the Panthers added on a Jack Griffin 25-yard field goal in between MTSU touchdowns to seal the deal.

Glen Coleman and Eric Russell were both ejected in the second half following a scrum. It is still unclear if Coleman will be suspended if the Panthers do receive a bowl bid.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Coley shines in a losing effort to Terapins

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

If there is one thing the Panthers are thankful for in the midst of the Thanksgiving holiday, it has to be the stellar play of guard Jerica Coley.

The sophomore standout turned in yet another performance on Nov. 25, scoring 24 points against a staunch Maryland Terapins defense.

But unfortunately against the visiting No. 8 ranked Terrapins, it was nowhere near enough.

The Terps outmatched the Panthers in just about every single way in an 84-52 rout, powered by a balanced offense attack and strong defense.

Coley scored 19 of her 24 points in the first half to keep the Panthers in the game, but the

Terps still managed to take a 14-point lead at the half.

Things got worse for FIU when the Terps made some defensive adjustments in the second half that kept Coley unproductive and essentially a non-factor.

"We had to defend her by committee," Maryland coach Brenda Fraser said of Coley. "We did a better job communicating and knowing where she was at."

She's a talented player and we're excited to come out of here with a win."

Besides Coley, only one FIU player scored in double digits: Fanni Hutlassa with 13 points. The rest of the Panther squad struggled all night long to establish a presence down low and were forced to settle for mid-

range jump shots.

Panthers head coach Cindy Russo was not pleased with her team's inability to get more involved on offense.

"We had very few stepping up tonight and it was a poor performance," Russo said. "We're trying to get more people involved and we're still learning a lot about each other."

FIU finished the night shooting just 31 percent from the field and an abysmal 16 percent from beyond the arc.

Meanwhile, the Terps had no problems getting multiple players involved in the offense with four players reaching double-digit scoring, led by Laurin Mincy and Lynetta Kizer who scored 15 points each.

Maryland converted 63 percent of their shots from the

field and was able to physically outmatch FIU underneath the basket, outrebounding the Panthers 35 to 23. The loss was a frustrating one for the Panthers, who simply could not find a way to slow down the red-hot Terps, who remain unbeaten on the season.

Despite the loss, FIU is hoping to use this experience as a stepping stone and a wake-up call to make adjustments that will be necessary if this team is expected to compete for a conference championship.

"We were excited to play a really good team," Coley said. "We take away the good things from a loss like this."

We were able to keep it close. We just have to build on everything we did wrong and keep getting better.

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FIU

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association

finals week

cram jam

ALL GIVE-A-WAYS & ACTIVITIES ARE FREE WITH VALID FIU STUDENT I.D.

PREP WEEK

MON

NOVEMBER

28

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

10am for 24hrs

Massage & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:

Yoga/Pilates

10-11am

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:

Release Week Kickoff & Interactive Games

10am-2pm

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:

Yoga/Pilates

10-11am

TUE

NOVEMBER

29

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

Massage & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:

Hip Hop

5pm-5:30pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:

Holiday Fest

11am-2pm

Tree Lighting

12pm

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:

Yoga

5:30pm-7pm

BBC/AC1 - 160:

Memory Techniques for For Testing Workshop

5:30pm-7pm

WED

NOVEMBER

30

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/Everglades Hall

Massage & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:

Yoga/Pilates - 10-11am

Biofeedback: 9am-2pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:

Spa Day

11am-2pm

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:

Yoga - 10am-11:30am

BBC/Hospitality Management Lawn:

Under the Stars Movie Night

7:30pm

BBC/AC1 - 160:

Test Taking & Anxiety Reduction Workshop

8pm-9:15pm

THU

DECEMBER

01

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

Massage & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:

Yoga/Pilates - 10-11am

Biofeedback: 9am-2pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:

World AIDS Day

11am-2pm

FRI

DECEMBER

02

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/GC Lawn:

Yoga

10-11am

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Rec&Fitness Center:

Yoga

10-11am

SAT

DECEMBER

03

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

SUN

DECEMBER

04

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/Green Library:

Opens at 10am for 24hr Service

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Hubert Library:

10am-4am

FINALSWEEK

MON

DECEMBER

05

MMC/Fresh Food:

Midnight Breakfast

Doors Open: 11:45pm

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

10am for 24hrs

• DJ, Massage & Giveaways

11pm-1am

MMC/Green Library:

Open 24hrs

MMC/GL 220:

Massage, Aromatherapy & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/GC 305:

Pilates

9:15am-9:45am

MMC/GC Lawn:

Yoga

10-11am

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Hubert Library:

7:30am-4am

TUE

DECEMBER

06

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes - 24hrs

MMC/PG5:

Chick-Fil-A - 8pm-10pm

MMC/GL 220:

To Go Bags - 8pm-10pm

Biofeedback: 9am-2pm

MMC/Green Library:

Open 24hrs

MMC/Everglades Hall:

Donuts, Coffee, Tea & Aromatherapy - 8pm-10pm

MMC/GC 305:

Abs&Glutes - 8:15pm-8:45pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

BBC/Panther Square:

Holiday Fest - 11am-2pm

BBC/Hubert Library:

7:30am-4am

EC/Panther Pit:

Engineering Late Night Meal - 6pm-8pm

WED

DECEMBER

07

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/GC 305:

Yoga/Pilates

10-11am

MMC/GL 220:

Massage, Aromatherapy & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

Biofeedback: 9pm-12pm

MMC/GC Computer Lab:

Free academic printing

MMC/Green Library:

Open 24hrs

BBC/Hubert Library:

7:30am-4am

THU

DECEMBER

08

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/GL 220:

Massage, Aromatherapy & Giveaways

10:30am-3:30pm

MMC/Green Library:

Open 24hrs

BBC/Hubert Library:

7:30am-4am

FRI

DECEMBER

09

MMC/GC Pit:

Stationary Bikes

24hrs

MMC/Green Library:

Closes at Midnight

BBC/Hubert Library:

7:30am-4am

SAT

DECEMBER

10

MMC/Green Library:

8am-8pm

BBC/Hubert Library:

7:30am-4am

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FIU

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GRADUATION

Students face harsh reality about debt

ASHLEY LAPADULA
Staff Writer

Students graduating from college this year are walking away with more than a diploma in their hands—they are also leaving with a hefty student loan debt.

Thanks to the weak economy and rising tuition, students must rely more heavily on loans to pay for their college education. Student loan debt, especially for those combining both undergraduate and graduate school debt, puts a huge burden on graduates.

Additionally, students attending graduate programs and expecting to receive a master's or doctorate in their field of study face tough options. Depending on the school they attend, the average student is looking at more than \$21,000 in debt, according to the Huffington Post Investigative Fund.

Christina Garcia, Daniel Perez and Isabelle Torres are alumni from the University who attend graduate school elsewhere. They have been friends since high school and throughout college, and they always manage to make time to study together on the weekends.

"I am having to face loans that will eventually add up to around \$91,000," said Garcia, a Nova Southeastern University law student. "I am confident that all my hard work will help me pay off this heavy burden, but it is a scary thought to see how much I will end up having to pay."

However, Garcia receives some financial assistance from her parents. "Most of my law school friends, [though], are really beginning to struggle with the thought of this unfathomable outcome."

Perez thought about buying a new car, but after doing the numbers for his monthly payments, when he realized that buying one would only add another burden to the payments, potentially putting him in a terrible financial situation.

"Like many others, loans are

currently a big issue for us all. I have had to make several sacrifices, like postponing buying a car or even starting my own family sooner than usual," the University of Miami medical student said. "I hope that something can help alleviate these loans, but that is just me being hopeful," he said. He dreams to one day work as a trauma surgeon at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Torres, a law school student at St. Thomas University, aspires to be a criminal defense attorney. "As much as all my dreams feel so nice and realistic, I think of these unfortunate loans. It is a hard thought to overcome knowing that 15 years ago, there was no such thing as student loan debt," Torres said.

"The economy surely has not helped most graduate students' loans," Garcia said.

In early November, the Obama administration issued an executive order after the student loan debt reached an appalling number—\$1 trillion.

They announced new programs to ease the repayment of student loans, change the income-based repayment program next year to allow lower monthly payments and shorter durations for low-income borrowers, and offer a slightly lower interest rate to borrowers who consolidate their loans.

It may seem like a big and scary step in these students' lives, but they all have a slightly positive outlook in their minds. They all hope that all their hard work will pay off in the end and trust that there will be a better outcome to this awful student loan mess.

Statistically speaking, college seniors who took out loans this past year to fund their college education owed an average of \$25,250, five percent more than the class of 2009 owed, according to a report from the Institute for College Access and Success' Project on Student Debt. In addition, the report said the class of 2010 faced an unemployment rate for new college graduates of 9.1

DEBT, page 6

BANDSTAND



LUIS CARDUCCI/THE BEACON

Michelo Milfort, a junior engineering major [left], Johnny Rez, a junior biology major [center] and Thomas Sebastian, a junior majoring in computer science, are members of a nameless band. They performed in the pit outside of Deuxieme Maison on Nov. 21.

DEBATE CLUB

Debate focuses on Occupy Wall Street movement

DENNIS URIARTE
Staff Writer

Big white sheets of paper, upbeat music, and crayons. No, this was not an event dedicated to arts and crafts, but rather an event dedicated to the art of debate.

Jonathan Edward Pardo, a senior and political science major at the University, sat down with a couple of friends, as well as debate head coach Daniel Blaeuer, and tried to come up with ways to add an exciting twist to the typical debate format.

"How can we make this as fun as possible for the audience?" Pardo recalls asking his peers. "We wanted the audience to not feel like this is a formal event, but more of a fun way to express their ideas and make it feel like an activity."

The group decided that crowd interaction would be key to making this event distinct, and they did so by providing the audience with a welcoming atmosphere and fun way to express their ideas.

The focus of the debate were the Occupy Wall Street protests. Rosinia DeNobile-Gonzalez, a University student, was drawn to the event in an effort to learn more about it. "I didn't agree with it too much, but I thought it would be interesting to hear both sides."

Much like DeNobile-Gonzalez, other students were excited about the idea

of being able to learn more about the movement from different points of views. Stefano Murcia, an electrical engineering major, liked that he would have the opportunity to discuss the topic at hand with his fellow students. "[I attended the event] to engage the other students and to see what ideas come up," Murcia said.

ment was about. "Hopefully, [events like these] are just the beginning," said Rosales.

"The movement is gaining momentum and, for the most part, heading towards a hopeful direction and this is just an example of that."

The event was underway as the organizers of the event each welcomed to the audience their unique spin on a

It's a great time for our generation to stand up and try to find new innovative ideas to influence change in our government.

Katherine Borgen
International Relations and Political Science, Senior

Katherine Borgen, an international relations and political science major, and one of the organizers of the event, felt that this event could not have come at a better time.

"It's a great time for our generation to stand up and try and find new innovative ideas to influence change in our government," she said. "The people in office now don't really think about what their constituents want and need, so I think it's time that people stand up and discuss these issues."

Alex Rosales, University student and one of the panelists for the debate portion of the event, liked that he would have the opportunity to clarify what the move-

normal debate. "Our goal here is to mix dialogue with a debate format," said Blaeuer.

The event then continued with the debate portion. Here, the panel of three debaters presented their respective points of views about the Occupy movement. They consisted of Rosales, Warren Krup, a member of the debate organization and a public relations major, and Christopher Díaz, a political science major and U.S. Army veteran.

After each panelist presented their argument, the audience was asked to choose who they wanted to hear a rebuttal from first.

DEBATE, page 6



STEVEN SENNE/AP IMAGES

Keegan O'Brien [center] joins members of the Occupy Boston movement during a march on Nov. 2 to protest the nations growing student debt burden.

COVER TO COVER

Students unsure of career can benefit from Buffett's advice

If you were to think the children of the man who ranks third on Forbes World's Billionaires list are spoiled by privilege, you would be totally wrong.



KELLY MALAMBRI

Peter Buffett, son of legendary investor and multibillionaire Warren Buffett, proves that "Life is What You Make It," not what your parents, or anyone else, make for you. In his book, Buffett inspires, and the message is sure to speak to any student or working professional.

Although he was about 50 years old when the book was published in 2010, Buffett writes in a young, non-condescending voice. In fact, when he mentioned his age in the last few pages of the book, I was truly surprised. His way of giving advice resonated deeply with me as a reader because I did not feel like he was a rich, older man trying

to tell a young student how to live their life. And that is just his point —no one can tell you how to live your life.

Buffett goes on to discuss the troublesome and challenging act of discovering what one's true vocation is. He raises the question, through specific example, of which is better: to choose a life path because of money, or to choose a path in life because we love it.

The advice Buffett gives in relation to this question was extremely inspiring to me because, as a senior, I am still in the dark about where my degree will take me. I can only imagine I am not the only one who wonders, like Buffett, "...How much sense does it make to barrel through life full speed ahead before we're even quite sure where we really want to go?"

Once you have found this vocation, Buffett stresses the importance of putting your greatest effort into all that you do. He

notes that anything less than your best work will go on to serve as a "personal embarrassment."

Being a writer, whose work is constantly judged, this sound advice inspired me, as I assume

Buffet [discusses] the troublesome and challenging act of discovering what one's true vocation is.

it will to many, who, like me, constantly feel that their busy lives take away from the effort they should be putting into those things that they love.

Buffett rightly points out that, that which we love should be our

lives, and we should not put that aside for anything or anyone.

Proving that his book is not just for young students, Buffett also touches on parenting advice. He writes that if a parent is able to, they should "give a child enough to do anything but not enough to do nothing." Buffett describes the way in which his family did not just allow him to coast through life, but pushed him to make one of his own, and suggests that we live our lives and raise our children in the same manner.

While noting that money is a necessity, and that not everyone gets a "level playing field" and time to slow down to find what they truly want in terms of reaching their goals, Buffett states: "We don't get to choose where we start in life; we do get to choose the kind of people we become."

His message throughout the book is to do what you have to do to find a way to combine what you love with something the world is willing to pay for, and you will

be on the right track to making a fulfilling life for yourself.

He also notes that this fulfilled life cannot come without giving back to the community, and suggests that we all contribute to the global community in whatever we can, as he and his father have so generously done through programs like NoVo and large contributions to various programs around the world.

As Buffett gives his advice, his time and his money to better the global community, he suggests we all do the same, in whatever way we can.

His book, "Life is What You Make It," is the perfect read for any student looking for a major or trying to find a job after graduation, as well as any professional already working in a chosen field looking for an inspiring, fresh take on life in a bleak economy.

Cover to Cover is a bi-weekly book review column. Look for it every other Monday this fall.

Unique twist to debate inspired discussion

DEBATE, page 5

Interaction during this portion was heavily encouraged, as the audience was able to voice their displeasure or approval of any argument by tapping the tabletops.

A Q-and-A portion followed the debate, and this is where the full engagement of the audience came into play. One by one, the students raised their hands and directed their comments, questions and concerns towards the

panelists.

"Next semester is my last," said Pardo, "so I'm looking to maybe do one or two more of these events in the spring where we can follow up on these topics or maybe touch on some more important topics such as the 2012 presidential election."

Judging from the great turnout from their first event, Pardo and his fellow organizers may have discovered a winning formula in their unique twist to debate.

Graduates must deal with highest debt in recent years

DEBT, page 5

percent, the highest in recent years.

It is expected that there will be a hiked increase in the years to come with student loans and possibly unemployment rates as

well.

Torres tries to remain optimistic. "All we can do is hope that these loans either get pardon, like President Obama promises, or hope that I make enough money in the future to pay it off quickly."

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, NOV. 28

- **Nature Preserve Volunteer Day:** 2-5 p.m., FIU Nature Preserve, Make sure to arrive at the scheduled time in order to receive volunteer credit. Wear closed-toe shoes; anybody wearing sandals may be asked to go home. Long pants are strongly recommended. Workdays happen rain or shine.
- **FASA Art Talk:** 7-9 p.m., MBUS Gallery, 420 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach
- **Yoga:** 3-4:30 p.m., BBC Recreation Center
- **Melancholia:** 7:30 p.m., O Cinema
- **JP Jams - Roots Juicy Mondays:** 9 p.m., Purdy Lounge, Free
- **Madame Monsters:** 9 p.m., Score, \$25
- **Biscayne's Underwater Secrets:** 3-4:30 p.m., Miami Museum of Science, \$9.30-\$14.95

TUESDAY, NOV. 29

- **Chamber Music Series: Chamber Winds:** 7:30-9:30 p.m., Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall, \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
- **Rat Bastard presents - Anti Art Becomes Art:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m., Churchill's Pub
- **The Haitian Hillbilly:** 10 p.m., Kill Your Idol
- **Aviation in Miami: The First Hundred Years:** 10 a.m., HistoryMiami
- **Rembrandt's Erotic Secrets:** 11 a.m., World Erotic Art Museum, \$15
- **Mark Handforth: Rolling Stop:** 1 p.m., Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami
- **DJ Obscene:** STK Miami
- **Flying Yoga:** 9 a.m., South Florida Circus Art School, \$25



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- **Spirituality, health and medicine**
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 - Yoga and Alternative Therapies – Dr. Ram P. Agarwal, Univ. of Miami School of Medicine
 - Spirituality in the Hospitals – Rev. Guillermo Escalona, Baptist Health Systems
- **Spirituality of the Warrior**
 - The Samurai Code – Dr. Eric Messersmith, Asian Studies
 - U.S.M.C. Honor Code – Maj. General Juan G. Ayala, USMC, Chief of Staff at Southcom
 - The Non-violent Warrior, Mahatma Gandhi
 - The Non-Violent-Warrior 2, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Instructor: Prof. Nathan Katz, Religious Studies, Exec. Dir., FIU Program in the Study of Spirituality. He developed this course as Kauffman Professor of Global Entrepreneurship (2009-2010)

WRITE TO CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED!

SGC-MMC COMMENTARY

Progress made, but political party discussions die out

The prospect of implementing political parties, which seemed to meet the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus with reverence and understanding just a few weeks ago, now seems to have lost its allure.



COLUMNIST

ALEX SORONDO

As Giovanni Correale, senator of arts and sciences, pointed out at the end of the Nov. 21 meeting, to a senate made silent and tired with the recursive deliberation over how the parties would function, if the senate was really passionate about this, then things would have been moving forward.

“I feel like I’m wasting my time,” Correale said, closing his argument while the senate sat silent and, just maybe, a bit shamed.

Progress has indeed been slow, and SGC-MMC is less enthused about the idea than they initially were. But, considering how productive SGC-MMC has been lately—compared to earlier in the semester—it seems the political parties system might be too complicated, too demanding and too lacking in prospective benefits to give the senate the impression

that it warrants the amount of time and effort it requires.

A political party system will introduce some spirit to student government and arouse more student involvement, and a rise in student involvement will likely trigger a similar rise in its governments awareness of student interests, concerns and desires, which in turn could lead to a far more productive SGC—one that not only knows what needs to be done, but works quickly under the demanding gaze of a larger and more informed and invested student audience.

This is speculation, of course, and pretty optimistic at that, but it is feasible, and therefore renders the party system worthy of an endorsement it isn’t receiving.

It cannot fairly be said, though, that the plan is being ignored completely out of laziness. The Nov. 21 meeting saw the passage, most notably, of two bills.

Senate Resolution 1115, passed quickly and without debate, will divide the Accumulated Cash Balance into four categories.

At the end of each fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, the leftover money from the Student Government Association’s budget is placed into the Accumulated Cash Balance, which thus far has been one big pot, accessible

“But it was refreshing, nonetheless, to see a senator with the integrity to stick to his opinion.”

to both MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus, amounting to about \$4 million.

The new Accumulated Cash Balance Policy divides the account four ways into an emergency cash reserve, a contingency cash reserve for both campuses and “a project planning cash reserve where funds can be accumulated for special, planned projects to be undertaken at a future point in time,” according to the SGC-BBC senate bill, of which the SGC-MMC’s was an identical copy.

Then came SR 1116, written by Senator Correale, which ensures that all buildings henceforth erected at the MMC will have gender-neutral/family bathrooms.

The bathrooms will be a single-occupant room—not the usual setup with two or three stalls and a few sinks—and will be equipped with a baby-changing station.

Correale argued the bill’s validity primarily from the basis of its gender-neutrality, touching only in passing on the family aspect.

While progressive, pluralistic and admirable from an ethical grounding, the necessity of such a bill was called into question by a senator who, while demonstrating his understanding of the benefits provided to transgendered students as well as families, was nonetheless candid in voicing his doubt about whether it was worth the additional expense.

However, the initial expense was never discussed. He was ultimately convinced that it was worth the added expense, and the bill was passed with unanimous consent.

But it was refreshing, nonetheless, to see a senator with the integrity to stick to his opinion, to voice a concern he knew was unpopular and perhaps politically incorrect, and to then display enough humility as to have his mind publicly changed.

SGC-MMC Commentary is a feature that evaluates the student council’s performance. Look for it every Friday.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

University President’s definition of global does not include Americans

Mr. President,

I come to you by open letter because the guards have closed off the tower, reportedly, at your direction.

The message I have been attempting to deliver, these past two months, is too urgent to allow formality to exercise its deterrent effect.

Florida International University is a US-taxpayer-funded institution. According to your recent protestations, its purpose is to mold “global citizens.”

My concern is that your definition of “global” does not seem to include Americans, particularly at the all-important graduate level.

While recruiting the best and brightest from around the globe is essential in the globalization equation, it is only part of the computation:

International Students + Global Education = International Citizens

In order for our institution to truly be global, we must consider the entire equation:

“(American Students U International Students) + Global Education = Global Citizens”

The taxpaying citizens of the cash-strapped State of Florida did not found, nor do they fund FIU with the intention of creating a center for international students to congregate in US soil and obtain US knowledge to use for the betterment of their home countries.

Becoming a haven for intellectual migration to the US was also not its intended purpose.

FIU was envisioned as a place for the world’s best and brightest to mingle with, learn from and teach America’s best and brightest.

Yet, my suggestions for creating a 2-pronged focus in admissions, recruitment and career services have been met with your closed door.

Consistently deferring my concerns to individuals tasked with policy implementation when clearly my concern is the policy itself, while polite, is still a brush-off.

Is the belief that our institution is incapable of doing 2 things at the same time? Or that belief in the necessity of one somehow denigrates the other? Ludicrous, a false choice and unfairly skewed argument.

What have we done to serve the taxpaying community that has entrusted its faith and resources to you?

Have we increased the number of American students receiving PHD’s or advanced degrees?

Has that increase been in proportion to that of our international classmates?

Have we fostered interchange between American and International academics?

How much of that inter-

change has occurred with our American as opposed to International professors?

If you don’t count first-generation Americans, there are 2 Americans in our Masters in International Business program.

My German and French classmates complain that they have more American students in their classes in their home universities than in their classes at FIU.

They did not come to FIU to get a European educational experience. They came here to meet Americans.

Neither population is being adequately served by our current blindness, our limited focus.

Your refusal to even meet with me to discuss the issue speaks of a deterioration, the death of that innovation which is the very lifeblood of American progress.

This is a university. Have

we learned nothing from the seething global dissension against those at the top who refuse to acknowledge or even listen to the legitimate concerns of those at the bottom who are footing the bill?

Have we gotten so lost in power distance that the president of an American University, a traditional fundamental center of change, is now taking management cues from bankers and tyrants?

I am proposing that we make broad and sweeping changes out of love for my university. Maidique spearheaded broad and sweeping change out of love for our university. What is the problem?

Did you take the job out of love? Or should your apathy be taken as an indication that you only took it because you were next in line?

-Masheika E. Allen JD, LL.M, MIB Candidate 2012



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Delinquent organization finds loop hole in system

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

On Oct. 31, the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Senate voted to freeze Panther Power's funds due to the student council being delinquent on submitting their Event Audit Report to the SGC-BBC Operational Review Committee on Oct. 7, by 5 p.m.

SGC-BBC Operational Review Chair, Oluwatobi Adekoya, had informed all councils that fall under the purview of Campus Life at BBC on Oct. 3 that their Event Report Audits were due by the end of the week; if an organization were to not be in compliance with this request, SGC-BBC would take disciplinary action.

According to the University's Student Government Association University Wide Statutes, section 3.09(d)(ii):

"On a first offense, an organization's funds will be frozen. An account shall be frozen for a period not to exceed 10 school days. Two school days prior to such freezing, SGC President or the Comptroller must notify in writing to the Treasurer of the entity whose funds are being frozen and to the Senate, the reason of such action and the duration of the account freeze."

In regards to the freezing of Panther Powers funds, the senate had passed the measure by a vote of eight in favor and two in

opposition.

According to Adekoya, it is common practice for the executive branch to respond to measures, resolutions, or statutes within five days of their passage within the legislative branch.

Kevin Gonzalez, SGC-BBC comptroller, informed Panther Power of their fund freeze on Nov. 14, 14 days after the senate passed the measure.

In an interview with Student Media regarding the BBC-wide event audits, Gonzalez, Adekoya and SGC-BBC Finance Committee Chair, Oluwatamilore Odimayo, explained that the reason for the audits is for assurance that student organizations that are funded through student fees were transparent with their accounting and maintaining a degree fiscal responsibility, and would take necessary measures against delinquent organizations.

"Fiscal responsibility is a shared feeling between me and Adekoya," said Gonzalez. "It's about doing what's right and preserving the integrity of the campus."

However, while SGC-BBC was demanding that organizations that are funded by Activity and Service Fees were following the guidelines associated with proper A&S money spending, the comptroller had yet to hold an A&S fee spending orientation with any of the student council executive

boards until Oct. 19, 60 days after the start of the fall semester.

Gonzalez admits that he was negligent with his responsibilities when it came to holding the A&S fee spending orientation and sending Panther Power's fund freeze notification in a timely manner.

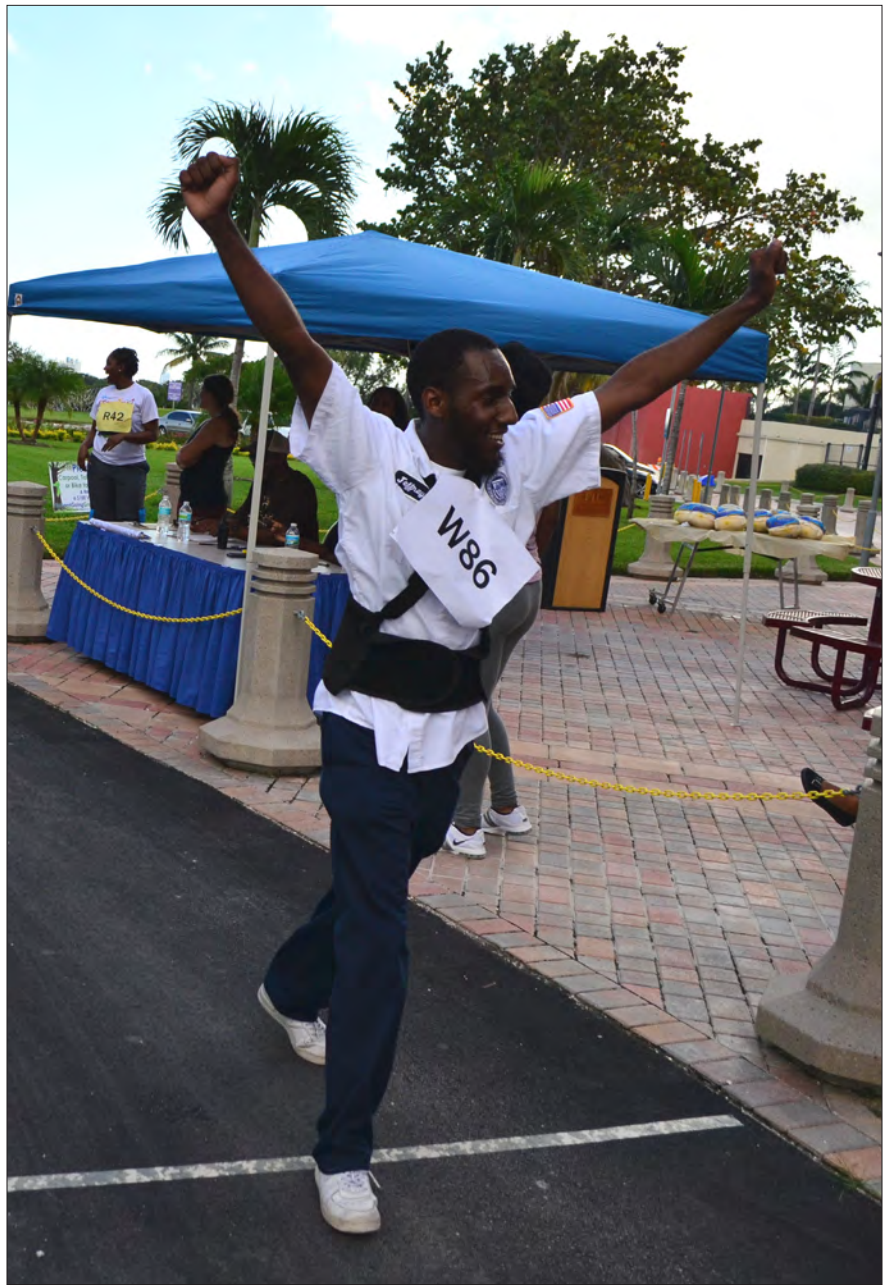
"I dropped the ball with the orientation," admitted Gonzalez. "When I was [SGC-Modesto Maidique Campus] comptroller in the spring I didn't have to hold an A&S orientation. And when I came to BBC, I was never made aware that I was supposed to hold it either...In my defense [regarding the Panther Power freeze] the two weeks that it took me to send out the notice was also during internship recruitment, which I was focused on."

If Gonzalez, who is responsible for \$911,096, would have informed Panther Power, who is funded \$16,311, within the five days after the freeze measure was passed in the senate, Panther Power would not be able to hold its annual Winter Wonderland.

At time of press, Tamicha Roger, Panther Power president, had yet to respond via email to requests made by Student Media as to how much money is budgeted for Winter Wonderland.

In order for an organization to have their funds released by the Campus Life Accountant for a

TROTTING INTO FIRST



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Jefrey Joseph, Wolfe University Center custodian, finishes in first place at the Biscayne Bay Campus' annual Turkey Trop. Winners of the Turkey Trop take home a turkey for their Thanksgiving Dinner celebrations.

specific event, they must submit a File For Funds form specifying where the money will be spent, and for what purpose.

File For Funds must be submitted no later than three weeks in advance of an event, which in the case of Panther Power's

Winter Wonderland would have fallen during the freeze period, if it would have been enforced accordingly.

However, in spite of Gonzalez's delayed notification, Panther Power was able to submit not only their File For Funds

for Winter Wonderland but also the Event Audit Reports, for which they were getting the funds frozen, by Nov. 3.

As a result, the fund freeze, which officially began on Nov. 16, had no effect on Panther Power's programming.

Proposed expansion meets opposition

ANTHONY CAVE
Contributing Writer

North Miami residents, University students and University President Mark Rosenberg packed Nov. 15's North Miami City Council meeting for one agenda topic – the University's proposal to build a second entrance along 135th street.

The line stretched out the chamber door, as the televisions in the lobby displayed the meeting live for those in standing room only.

North Miami Mayor Andre Pierre went straight to the issue, asking the crowd if they were there for the FIU issue; most raised their hands in unison.

Rosenberg said that the University would have more than 64,000 students over the next 10 years, with more than 15,000 expected to enroll at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Currently, an estimated 7,500 students attend BBC. He also said at least 200 jobs would be

added because of the proposed expansion.

"We do intend to expand the Biscayne Bay Campus," he said. "We have a clear pathway now that our board has approved our strategic plan."

Rosenberg cited safety concerns for 151 street, BBC's only entry and exit point. Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High and the David Lawrence K-8 Center share the same pathway causing congestion during school zone hours.

However, the crowd responded with a flurry of boos, shouting, "What about our children?" and "Why don't you build it in your backyard?"

Mayor Pierre stressed other alternatives for the University's desired second entrance – 143 street, expanding 151 street so three and four lanes would go in and out and 163 street to Oleta Park.

Residents and University students stood in line to voice their concerns as Mayor Pierre opened an unofficial public forum

after Rosenberg's initial statement.

"I think the money [for expansion] needs to be used toward education, there isn't enough classes available on campus," sophomore sociology major Vanessa Urvina said.

A stretch of land used for walking and bike rides, 135 street is home to Arch Creek East nature preserve.

"The walk is the nicest part of my day," sophomore liberal studies major Gene Yllanes said.

Plans for a second entrance into BBC date back to Modesto Maidique's presidency, Rosenberg's predecessor, but has not gathered momentum until Rosenberg began to implement his 10 year 'Worlds Ahead' strategic plan which calls for a gross influx of students to the University.

The initial resolution brought forward by councilman Scott Galvin to oppose any proposed expansion passed in a unanimous vote by the North Miami council.

SGA funds shuttles for finals

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. News Director

At the Nov. 4 University-wide Council meeting, the Student Government Association requested the use of funds from the their Accumulated Cash Balance Account to allow students to use the Golden Panther Express shuttle for free during finals week.

Student Media reported on Nov. 9 that the council decided to request \$3,000 from SGA's ACBA to cover free trips to and from the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Modesto Maidique Campus for the first two days of finals week.

The entire week would cost up to \$10,000 according to Patrick O'Keefe, president of the Student Government Council at MMC. The first two days would cost up to \$2,000.

Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones' approval is still pending, which is required for the release of said funds.