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Elections appeal taken to SGC-BBC Court

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After former presidential candidate Jose Sirven had been disqualified from the SGC-MMC elections on the grounds that he has not held an SGC-MMC position according to the MMC Supreme Court, he is now looking to take his writ to the SGC-BBC Supreme Court.

SGC-BBC's Department of Justice on April 4, has agreed to hear Sirven's grievance against

Sergio Molina, who is the current SGC-MMC Chief Justice on the premise that, according to Sirven, SGC-MMC Supreme Court held evidence for incrimination and did not follow due process. Sirven was notably disqualified on the grounds that it has been interpreted by the SGC-MMC Supreme court that his position of RHA was not in fact a SGA position. He believes that he was wrongfully disqualified by FIYOU and has stated that "Two months before the elections started, everyone knew I

was running. The advisor of SGA asked specifically if RHA belonged to SGA, and the answer was yes."

"We understand that Sirven has grievances against the MMC Supreme Court that he'd like to address. Although we agree that these grievances should be heard, as is the right of any FIU student, we would advise that he do so in a manner that is in compliance with the SGA-MMC constitution, which, as it stands now, would be in the senate," said Molina.

Once elections began

a writ was filed by Juan Gilces. "He basically said that RHA was not a part of SGA. Therefore RHA position is not an SGA position. That they are two separate things," says Sirven. "RHA was created by SGA, I get paid using the official salary fund. I have to attend all of the SGA meetings."

He also shared the his position by stating that "the constitution does not define what an SGA position is, but if you look at the statutes, nowhere in the governing documents is it defined." However,

he also mentioned that "if you look at the statutes, the closet term that can be defined is an SGA official."

According to Sirven "in the statutes it says that SGA official members are of the legislative, executive, judicial branch, or those other individuals identified in the statutes." He claims that in the statutes it states that "RHA is defined as an agency of SGC-MMC, and was created in 1997 by the university student senate."

Sirven claims that the statutes specifically say that SGA official is ultimately an SGA

position. "The statutes specifically say that the president or director of an agency has to do X, Y, and Z. SGA salary fund is the fund where all sga officials get paid, including senators, and Alexis Calatayud."

However according to the judicial appeal, it was ruled that "neither the SGA-MMC statutes explicitly recognize the RHA President, or the Presidents of other agencies, as SGA

SEE SGC, PAGE 2

BRICK BY BRICK



SELENE BASILE/THE BEACON

Architecture students, Nello Bonanno (left), Brayan De La Cruz (middle) and Edwin Salas (right) test out the strength of their bridge made of toothpicks.

Media Board hires new Student Media leadership

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Monday, April 4, the Student Media Board met to interview and elect the 2016-2017 WRGP general manager and editor in chief of The Beacon.

Starting in May, The Beacon will be lead by current advertising manager Cayla Bush. Bush has been with FIU Student Media since 2013 as a copy editor, interim multimedia editor and design coordinator.

"Student media responds to the change in climate that's happening in the media business. I'm excited to take student media in a new direction, to mirror the professional world," said Bush.

Along with the responsibilities of editor in chief, Bush will

oversee publication on FIUSM.com.

WRGP, the University student radio, will be headed by current News Director Erica Santiago.

"I want to continue to integrate WRGP with the rest of student media," Santiago said. "I also want the radio station to become an important source of information as well as a source of entertainment for the FIU community."

Santiago started her career at FIUSM as a DJ at WRGP, then was chosen as opinion director and finally promoted to news director. Throughout her directorships she continued to work with "The Claw and Growl", a news and opinion radio show covering the latest in world, local and FIU news.

It is with great pride that Amanda Rabines, current WRGP

GM, and Sam Smith, current editor in chief, pass the torch to Erica and Cayla.

"I've worked closely with the new hires before, and I'm excited to see FIU Student media grow under their leadership. They're passionate and are not afraid to work late hours; they are the kind of leaders a media company needs to thrive," Rabines said.

Bush and Santiago plan on working closely together to keep FIUSM unified and modern.

"Our new student leaders have a fundamental understanding of the new media climate," said Alfred Soto, assistant director of student media. "I look forward to working with them in the next academic year."

Sexual assault case causes discussion

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Wednesday, March 30, a former Stanford athlete was found guilty of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman outside a fraternity party in a case that put more pressure on colleges across the nation to do more to prevent assaults and punish offenders.

Among those universities, is FIU, whose annual Slut Walk event will once again demonstrate the concept of consent to the community.

"Often times when sexual assault occurs, it's asked 'What was she wearing? What was he wearing? What were they doing?'" said Drey Aradanas, president of FIU's National Organization for Women, in an interview with Student Media concerning sexual assault. "The [blame] is always placed upon the victim and not on the perpetrator and that's something we want to change."

Twenty-year-old Brock Turner of Stanford University was convicted of three felony charges: assault with intent to commit rape of an intoxicated woman, sexually penetrating an intoxicated person with a foreign object and sexually penetrating an unconscious person with a foreign object.

District Attorney Jeff Rosen said the case helps make the distinction clear between consensual sex and sexual assault.

"Drunk means no," Rosen said. "Passed out means no."

The jury deliberated for less than two days after hearing both Turner and the victim testify over the course of the eight-day trial. As the verdict was read, the Ohio native wearing a navy

blazer looked down, and his mother wailed and stomped her foot.

The eight men and four women on the jury left the courthouse without commenting, as did Turner and his family.

Turner, who voluntarily withdrew from Stanford after his arrest early last year, will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and faces a maximum of 10 years in prison. Judge Aaron Persky set sentencing for June 2. In the meantime, Turner, who had aspired to swim in the Olympics, remains free on \$150,000 bail.

Prosecutor Alaleh Kianerci contended that Turner knew the woman was extremely drunk and purposely took advantage of her. The assault was a crime of opportunity that takes place too often on college campuses, Kianerci said in her closing argument.

"He may not look like a rapist," she said, "but he is the face of campus sexual assault."

The verdict comes after campuses across the country drew federal scrutiny for their response to campus safety and the threat of sexual assault in the past two years. At one point, the federal Office for Civil Rights was investigating more than 90 colleges nationwide.

Though the Stanford case could be viewed as landmark for sexual assault, at the local level, students at FIU are still concerned about what the University can do to combat the problem on its own grounds.

"I don't want to say that administration doesn't care, because they do. But a lot of people, including students, faculty and staff, don't know

SEE ASSAULT, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

UC Davis students march to pressure chancellor to step down

At least 250 students marched across the University of California, Davis campus Friday afternoon demanding the resignation of Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi for what they see as ethical lapses in her acceptance of board seats of private corporations. The students, some of whom have occupied the reception area outside Katehi's Mrak Hall office for three weeks now, carried banners with slogans such as "Mrak Under New Management" and "Katehi resignation speech." The campus sidewalks were dotted with "Fire Katehi" written in chalk, and students spent Friday listening to speakers explain that they want the chancellor out.

California lawmakers dominate oversight of U.S. spy agencies

Three disparate California lawmakers lead Congress' oversight of the U.S. spy services, sharing secrets but not the same spin. One is a former San Francisco mayor and the state's deal-making senior senator. Another comes from the rural Central Valley, holding a master's degree in agriculture. The third is a Harvard Law School-trained former federal prosecutor with statewide political ambitions. When terrifying things happen, from Brussels to San Bernardino, these congressional overseers get called. Daily, even when all seems quiet, they must struggle to corral bureaucracies that keep mum about how they spend an estimated \$53 billion a year.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Writ goes to BBC Supreme Court

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positions." It also explains that the "President of RHA is not considered an SGA position, and that Sirven has had no other SGA position prior to his Presidential candidacy, he has failed to hold any SGA position at all, let alone one for two semesters."

After this ruling, Sirven had said that the justices were illegally confirmed. "We haven't had a court under Alexis Calatayud for the past two years. The only time we've ever had a court is right after FIUYOU filed

a writ against me," says Sirven. "A week after the writ was filed they held a senate session, and during the senate session they confirmed three associate justices."

Sirven also noted that "in order for the senate to conduct official business a quorum is needed." He also suggested that "if they need to pass any resolution, or if they need to vote on anything, or to confirm anybody, then the need half plus 1. So say there are 28 senators, even though there are supposed to be 29. [Half] of 28 is 14, so we need half plus one.

That is 15. There are only 14 senators in attendance. They confirmed the justices with only 14 senators."

Sirven also claims that the hearing was held past deadline. "The writ was supposed to be validated on March 8. It was validated on March 9." Juan Gilces was noted to have submitted the appeal to Molina on February 23. "So according to the constitution, the supreme court has 10 days from the submission of the writ to validate it," said Sirven.

For the full story, visit fiusm.com

Stanford athlete found guilty of sexual assault

ASSAULT, PAGE 1

how to address sexual assault," said Aradanas. FIU's Counseling and Psychological Services as well as its Victim Empowerment program addresses sexual assault on campus via lectures, pit events informing students of the services available to them and personal counseling for survivors of abuse.

Services include a variety of help hotlines both online and over the phone, counseling centers on campus, and medical centers. Stanford convened a task force made up of students, faculty and staff, which late last year recommended ways to enhance the university's educational efforts about sexual assault, increase support for victims and improve its policies and disciplinary processes for reported cases.

Turner was arrested Jan 18, 2015, immediately after two Stanford graduate students who were bicycling by a Kappa Alpha fraternity party about 1 a.m. caught sight of him on the ground outside, thrusting his hips atop an unconscious, partially clothed woman. Outside the courthouse, Kianerci credited bicyclists Peter Jonsson and Carl Arndt for the success of the case and lauded the victim for braving public embarrassment and testifying.

Turner testified that the Palo Alto woman, who was 22 at the time, was awake and conscious throughout their encounter and that he never intended to rape her.

But the woman did not wake for at least three hours and had a blood-alcohol level more than three times the legal limit. Turner acknowledged on the stand that she was "very drunk" but

testified she was "no more drunk than anybody else" at the party.

Yet shortly before the 1 a.m. incident, the woman had left an incoherent message on her boyfriend's voice mail, Kianerci noted.

Turner's blood-alcohol level was twice the legal limit, but he testified he could walk and talk normally. At the time of the incident, he was a member of the Stanford swim team, but did not belong to Kappa Alpha.

The woman was in tears as she testified that she woke up in the hospital with pine needles in her disheveled hair, dried blood on her hands and elbows and no memory of meeting Turner or being hospitalized.

But Turner said the woman had agreed to accompany him to his dorm room, a mere 10 minutes or so after the two began dancing together and kissing at the fraternity party. As they walked outside holding hands, he said, she slipped and they fell, then started kissing on the ground near an outdoor trash bin. He testified that she said "yes" when he asked her if he could touch her genitals and that he did for a minute. He said he asked her if she liked it and that she replied "uh huh."

He told the jury he then began to feel sick from the seven beers and two sips of whiskey he'd drunk, so he stumbled away. Suddenly, one of the bicyclists came at him for no reason, he said, and he decided to run in fear.

Additional Reporting by TNS Staff

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 27, Issue 79, the article titled "SGC-BBC elections still missing options" incorrectly spelled the name of an SGC-BBC Vice Presidential candidate. The correct spelling is Michema Lafontant.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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Sugar daddies – dangerous donors

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE
KRAMER

As the cost of college tuition in the U.S. continues to climb, more and more students are pressured to do whatever it takes to keep from being

crippled by debt.

Traditionally, college students would take up part-time jobs or sell textbooks. However, in the recent years, a growing number of students, particularly female, have sought unconventional ways of funding their tuition. Multiple studies have found that female students are using “sugar daddy” services to supplement their income and pay for their studies.

According to The Economist, nearly 75 percent of college graduates are saddled with debt, owing an average of \$35,051. Compared to 1995, roughly half of all graduates carried debt, averaging less than today’s third.

With the rise of the cost in tuition rose the number of “sugar daddies,” generally older, wealthier men who pursue young women, “sugar babies,” for companionship in exchange for money and a luxurious lifestyle. While that’s the surface image of the deal, it is often reported

that sex remains unspoken.

In 2011, Seeking Arrangement, “the leading Sugar Daddy dating site where over five million members fuel mutually beneficial relationships on their terms,” reported that 40 percent of the website’s total population was composed of college students.

By 2012, that number rose to 44 percent. It is easy to see the appeal as college students who use Seeking Arrangement earn an average of \$3,000 a month.

In 2013, Seeking Arrangement came out with an annual list of its “Top 20 fastest growing sugar baby schools,” stating that 50 percent of the listed colleges and universities were southern schools. Among those listed were University of Central Florida in fourth place, University of South Florida in fifth place, Florida International University in seventh, and Florida State University in 14th.

Brandon Wade, Seeking Arrangement’s founder and CEO, said the site was created to empower women.

“A sugar baby is an empowered woman who is tired of dating losers that contribute nothing to her life. She has made a commitment to only date men who will help her to achieve her goals,” he said.

For many women, the site is

just any other dating site, only with a different type of clientele, which offers a traditional sense of power including resources and money.

While becoming a Sugar

“

This type of relationship is unhealthy because it could potentially become psychologically and physically violent or damaging.

”

baby sounds like a simple way to pay for college, it could lead to dangerous situations. Sugar daddy services pitch companionship for money, but the unspoken truth is that sex frequently factors into the equation.

Rather than learning professional habits or skills, a person is learning to trade their charms for cash. Sugar babies are expected to cater to their payer’s physical and emotional needs. Particularly for women, many sugar daddies expect sugar babies to include sex in the exchange.

Another red flag is that of an imbalance of power in the relationship. A sugar baby is generally younger, poorer and has less power, while the sugar daddy is usually older, richer and has more power.

Both may get what they want, but the sugar baby has to cater to the sugar daddy in ways that satisfy them in order to be paid, therefore making one feel powerless against the other. This type of relationship is unhealthy because it could potentially become psychologically and physically violent or damaging. There is also the potential for sexual assault, sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy and more.

While honest, old school ways of making money still have their appeal to some students, there is also a range of other ways students are making money on the side in unconventional industries - with sugar daddy services appearing to be the popular option.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health and nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at maytinee.kramer@fiusm.com.

Letter: Reporting on SGC-BBC elections ‘blemished with a number of errors’

The SGA BBC Elections Commission Board would like to thank The Beacon for recognizing our efforts in increasing participation for elections and for acknowledging our progression. However, we noticed that the article entitled “SGC-BBC elections still missing options,” has construed a few misconceptions and was blemished with a number of errors.

First, the article stated “the only candidate running for vice president is Michelle LaFontant.” The candidate’s name was misspelled and is actually Michema Lafontant.

In the same paragraph, the article stated that “current Vice President Kenley Jean-Louis was previously listed as running alongside Mejia this election by Student Affairs.” According to Section 6.04, Heading (a), Subsection (vi), Subsection (3) of the SGA Elections Code, “Individuals running at BBC shall run for President and Vice-President separately.” Therefore, Jean-Louis and Mejia wouldn’t have been able to run together.

The article says students have a choice “between two candidates for SJMC Senator, either Sudyen Navarrete or Marquele Brown, after the disqualification of Zainab Osazin.” Since there are only two SJMC senate seats to begin with, both candidates should be voted into those seats.

The article states that “neither Osazin nor Jean-Louis could be reached for comment regarding their drop from the elections.” Jean-Louis said that he spoke with the Beacon reporter, Sam Smith,

on March 29 regarding elections. His reason for withdrawing was that he was graduating and

“

Though our pool of candidates is small, they are worthy. Whatever choices the student body makes, the school will be in good hands.

Anastasia Sizova
Elections commissioner
SGC-BBC elections

”

didn’t feel he would be able to commit to SGA.

Osazin did not “drop from the election,” she was disqualified for missing mandatory candidate meetings, an automatic disqualification.

Because this was an article and not an opinion piece, the last paragraph was puzzling. It seemed that the reporter interjected her opinion, stating: “Regarding the ability of students to select their representatives ... this is a step in the right direction for BBC.” She also made it seem as though the

candidates currently running are not qualified.

What the reporter fails to understand is that becoming a candidate is a rigorous process. The elections committee ensures that each candidate meets the requirements before being officially approved to run. Though our pool of candidates is small, they are worthy. Whatever choices the student body makes, the school will be in good hands.

The SGA BBC Elections Commission Board hopes that this letter will provide some clarification. We encourage the Beacon to visit our office and meet with SGA officials to answer any questions regarding the elections

—Anastasiya Sizova, elections commissioner
for this year’s BBC elections
For the full letter, visit fiusm.com

Editor’s note: While Jean-Louis and Ozasin did return FIUSM’s correspondence, neither did so before the submission of the April 4 paper for print. Further, the article in question was an opinion piece, as indicated by the italicization of the headline.

Letters to the Editor are not written by FIUSM Staff. They are submitted by readers of The Beacon.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Chaotic campaigns overshadow student realities

It has been three years since SGC-MMC has had a contested elections cycle. While we understand the excitement students have, this editorial board is disappointed in the pettiness that has overshadowed the campaigns.

In fact, the irregularity of this election season is likely the cause for the postponement of SGC elections both at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus. Originally scheduled for April 5 and 6, elections will be held at an as-yet undetermined date.

From allegations of corruption on both sides to defacing campaign materials, this cycle has been riddled with chaos since the announcement of candidates. While this makes for an entertaining elections cycle, these elections should be taken seriously.

The vital role that SGA has previously in student lives has faded. Student issues aren’t a means to gain notoriety or a position of power - they’re real and deserving of attention and action to resolve them. This fact has been neglected.

Through all that has transpired during the cycle, student issues have been cursorily addressed. SGA should exist to serve students, not itself.

Student media would like to see candidates, as the student-elected leaders of the University, who are involved in student issues more consistently, not just around elections. For example, during the elections cycle, a lot of attention was paid to non-Greek involvement in SGA when student participation regardless of affiliation should be taken into consideration constantly.

We’d also like to see candidates who have a genuine interest student issues and have actionable, detailed plans for either resolving them. Candidates should cease making outlandish and ridiculous promises for the sake of votes. Instead of antagonizing other parties with snide remarks and catty politics, candidates should be focused on actually bringing their goals to fruition.

Furthermore, while students elect the representatives that make up SGA, it’s important to remember that bribing students for votes is unethical. There have been countless times when funding has been dangled in front of student organizations as a bargaining tool for votes by both parties. This is unacceptable.

Student concerns are more than casual, frivolous insertions in a suggestion box. It’s the duty of student leaders to hear, understand and respond to these very real issues, without resorting to dirty politics.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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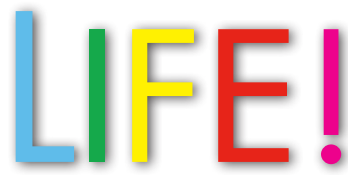
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Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.

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FIU Pride Month kicks off with ‘glitz and glam’

NADINE RODRIGUEZ

Staff Writer

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Everglades Hall’s first floor lounge became the center of drag Thursday, March 31, with FIU’s very own second annual Kings & Queens of Glitz and Glam Drag Ball.

This year the ball was hosted by two hosts, the Palace’s long-term headliner Tiffany Fantasia.

The event’s first performer was Fantasia. She delivered a performance that resulted in dollar tips from LGBTQA Initiatives Multicultural Programs & Services director.

Following Fantasia were a series of performers who varied from drag queens and kings who walked down the red-carpet lined walkway, who displayed their own sense of unique style.

After each performer Fantasia would share her opinion on the performance, some earning compliments while others earned skeptical glances.

The best part of the evening was the unity. Although

different genders and sexualities were intermingling, the crowd was overall positive and receptive. The crowd also expressed glamor and self-confidence.

After the final performance, from Fantasia, there was a quick Q&A resulting in a rather intimate experience.

Fantasia discussed how she became involved in the Drag community, mentioning her first experience earning \$10 tips while attending college. She also explained the difference of being “Tiffany Fantasia” and then her true self, Henry Williams.

Other topics she briefly touched upon were Rihanna, favorite drinks, masculinity in society in reference to Drag Kings and how individuals need to respect Drag Queens by not touching their body parts without consent.

After the Q&A, FIU’s LGBTQA Initiatives spoke about upcoming events, such as Miami Beach Pride Parade happening on April 10. If interested in walking the parade with FIU, tickets can be bought via Eventbrite by searching “FIU LGBTQA Pride Parade.”



PHOTOS BY NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

Top right: La mama performing on stage at the second annual Kings & Queens of Glitz and Glam Drag Ball on Thursday, March 31, 2016.

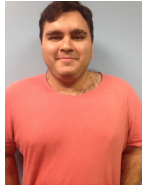
Top left: A performer bends backwards during his performance in Everglades Hall’s first floor lounge at the Drag ball on Thursday, March 31, 2016.

Bottom right: Tiffany Fantasia gets recognized for her performance by Danny Lee, Resident Assistant and Life coordinator, in the presence of the Everglades staff which includes from left to right: Luran Santigo, Alanza Venegas, Jessica Herrera, Lacey Zwick, Kelsie-Ann Baiker, Abigail Cheeseman, Logan Saucer (Not pictured).

Bottom left: Tiffany Fantasia walks on stage for her performance at the Kings & Queens of Glitz and Glam Drag Ball

'Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice' may leave audiences underwhelmed

LIFESTYLE POINTS



JOSEPH
CARDENAS

We all know the name Zack Snyder tacked onto a film nearly makes the chances of a quality movie incredibly slim, but in the case of the DC Extended Universe we're more than willing to ignore that sentiment.

Especially in favor of two superheroes hashing it out in the name of comic fanboy dreams coming true.

Last month saw the release of the long awaited showdown between the two biggest names in superhero history: "Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice."

It also brought us the first ever film to include Wonder Woman in a theatrical release ever, a very blatant presence in the film.

The release of the movie brought us our first real introduction into the DC Extended Universe's direction to combat the Marvel Cinematic Universe - teasing us with Aquaman, The Flash and Cyborg.

But this isn't about the upcoming Justice League movie. This isn't even about Wonder Woman's upcoming first solo gig on the big screen - noting it's also the first

ever solo film for a female superhero. This is about the general consensus that Batman and Superman's brawl left people underwhelmed.

The truth? The movie is trash. Does that mean it wasn't enjoyable? Heck no.

In all honesty, its bleak, dark, and edgy overtone and atmosphere - while it does set up a more realistic approach to superheroes in a modern-day setting - becomes overbearing after a while.

Coupled with the fact that while writing Clark Kent/Superman as a superhero who still feels lost in a world that fears him is a great idea, undercutting his more optimistic personality leaves so much more of his character to desire. It does make him a bit flat.

But it doesn't mean his character is poorly written, just missing an essence of the Superman we're all familiar with.

The pacing was also glaringly slow and felt as though it dragged at certain parts.

It includes dream sequences designed to set up the internal conflicts within both titular roles that come off as too long and unnecessary to the core narrative.

In the case of Bruce Wayne/Batman, we only needed the

flashback to "Man of Steel" at the beginning of the movie and we already get the picture: he doesn't like nor trust Superman.

What should've been more screentime devoted to developing Superman as a more interpersonal, rational and open person is given to emphasize over and over that Batman is a skeptic - i.e. information we already had going in.

All this being said, entering this movie knowing you're only going in anticipating each superhero clobbering the other half to death for amusement (and maybe for Wonder Woman showing up and dragging them both by the ear to time out) is really the only way to watch this movie.

At least, to watch it and walk out impressed. What you'd expect as just a superhero deathmatch, provides you with something actually worth engaging in.

The movie sets itself two years after the events of "Man of Steel," in the wake of the destruction caused by Superman's battle with General Zod and his Kryptonian army.

In this destruction, a Metropolis location of Wayne Enterprises is brought down and Bruce Wayne carries this weight with him, as well as the weight of his now 20-year

vigilante career.

The Batman is a little different than we'd expect him to be - hardened, his faith in himself wavering, but more importantly he is excessively violent.

His methods, including branding his targets and being lenient on his no-gun rule, catches Superman's attention. Eventually, the Man of Steel crosses paths with the Dark Knight in a not-so-friendly warning to stop being a vigilante, which doesn't blow over well for Batman.

Eventually Batman does the one thing he can think of: find out exactly how invincible Superman really is. The first place he looks to is, not so shockingly, Lex Luthor, who's found a mineral left behind by Zodd's ship that causes Kryptonian cells to degenerate and die out.

Meanwhile, a woman named Diana Prince (Wonder Woman) who is also looking into Luthor for her own reasons grabs Wayne's attention once she interferes with his covert, vigilante detective operations.

It becomes clear that Luthor has something big planned

with this mysterious mineral - but the real question is what happens when Batman gets his hands on it?

Contrary to what many would say, the acting was wonderful. The best players vying for their scenes were Jesse Eisenberg's truly psychotic Lex Luthor, Ben Affleck in his rendition of both Bruce Wayne and Batman and Gal Gadot bringing Wonder Woman to life on the big screen.

It also had amazing cinematography and art direction, especially for a superhero flick.

One of the most consistent, negative comments is its "poor structure." Many reviews that defend the movie comment that it is structured similarly to how a comic book would be, which is actually consistent.

It displays itself, formally, as a revitalized comic book adaptation of several Batman and Superman graphic novels.

In respect to keeping this spoiler-free I won't say which ones, but it's apparent all the way through that this movie wasn't designed to present itself as a Hollywood remake,

but a superhero movie made out of pure fun and personal direction.

As a film that wanted to be a superhero movie that, sure took itself a tad too seriously, but at least wanted to dip its toes into comic book lore for a fun ride, "Batman v Superman" is a great experience.

If you go in expecting a divine, awe-inspiring cinematic experience, you will be disappointed. Even expecting it to mirror Marvel's endeavors - even partially, will leave you underwhelmed.

Enjoy it for what it is, not what it could be. Dislike it because you just don't like Zack Snyder's direction with the story. But don't go in with high expectations; It's a disservice to the movie itself to place so much make-or-break blind faith onto it.

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" is now playing in theaters.

Lifestyle Points is a column covering films and pop culture by Joseph Cardenas. For suggestions and comments email joseph.cardenas@fiusm.com

Geek Culture Club talks gender stereotypes in comics

JOSEPH CARDENAS
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Florida International University's Geek Culture Club will be hosting another "Take Back The Night" event this Thursday, titled "The Sex Issue". It will be a forum held in GC140 at 2 p.m. and will explore gendered stereotypes in comics, especially to female superheroes.

Laura Pomar, marketing director of the club, spoke about the event including topics on "the evolution [of sex] throughout the history of comics" and how women have been portrayed over the years.

It will also address topics about sexual assault portrayed in comics. "We'll be covering iconic heroines; Wonder Woman, Harley Quinn, Jessica Jones."

The event is being led by Samuel Pritchard-Torres, club representative for the Council for Student Organization.

"He's the one presenting topics because he, himself, is a feminist. He creates his own comics. He feels really strongly about this," said Pomar.

The forum is meant to be a discussion on how women in comics were movements to empower women. Equally, comic tropes will be brought up, citing one discussion will be about female characters "being re-fridgerators" - a reference to female characters used as plot devices for male heroes.

More information on this event can be gathered by visiting the Geek Culture Club on their Facebook page. Furthermore you can look into the club itself on FIU's Orgsync.



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REVERSE TRANSFER

TENNIS

Panthers take down the Knights in season finale

REINALDO LLERENA

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The women's tennis team found chinks in the University of Central Florida Knight's armor to win their final match of the season in Orlando on Saturday, April 1.

The Panthers (15-2) came back from a 2-0 deficit to down the Knights. The Panthers won four out of the 6 singles matches to clinch the match.

Saturday's win over the Knights improved the Panthers' away record to a perfect 8-0.

The Panthers improved to 4-2 when losing the doubles point and remain

undefeated when winning the first point.

The Knights jumped ahead early and took the doubles point.

The duo of freshman Maryna Veksler and junior Nina Nagode dropped their match, 6-2, to Natalia Serrano and Sofia Baptista.

However, senior Carlotta Orlando and redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro evened the doubles match.

The pairing defeated Emilia Granstrom and Caroline Eberhart, 6-3.

The Knights took the last doubles match, as senior Kaitlin Brozovich and sophomore Nerma Caluk lost to Monica Matias and Cortney Cesarini 6-3.

The Knights added to their lead in the singles portion of the match as Brozovich

fell to Serrano in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1.

The Panthers' first point came when Lazaro picked up her 16th-straight win with a 6-1, 6-3 win over Granstrom. Lazaro remains undefeated in dual matches.

FIU tied the match at two when Orlando defeated Cesarini in straight sets, 6-4, 7-6 (4). The Panthers took the lead, 3-2, when Nagode defeated Baptista in three sets, 6-7 (1), 6-2, 6-2.

But, the Knights tied the match at three when Veksler fell to Eberhart in three sets, 2-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Caluk clinched the match for the Panthers, 4-3, when she defeated Matias in the final set, 7-5, 0-6, 7-5.

The Panthers were scheduled to play the University of Alabama at Birmingham

Blazers on Sunday, April 2, but the match was cancelled because of inclement weather. The match will not be made up.

If the match against the Blazers was played, then the Panthers had to win against their conference opponent to clinch the No. 1 seed.

However, since the match was cancelled and FIU has the lowest ranking in the conference and best conference record, the Panthers clinched the No. 1 seed. FIU will travel to Murfreesboro, Tenn. to take part in the Conference USA Tennis Championships from April 20-24.

The Panthers head into the tournament as the No. 1 seed in the conference.

BASEBALL

Offense comes to life in first conference series win

LOU'S HACKS



LOUIS AGUDELO

For first time this season, the Panthers won a series on the road against another team in Conference USA.

The Panthers finished their short, four game road-trip at the University of Texas at San Antonio, winning two out of the three games against the Roadrunners of UTSA and three out of four on the trip, with their defeat of the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats 21-8, while hitting five home runs as a team.

It would be tough to replicate the offense that FIU displayed on Tuesday, March 29, at Bethune-Cookman.

Their attempt to at least resemble what they did against the Wildcats, against the Roadrunners of UTSA would be nothing more than that.

Seven hits as a collective was a weak showing for a team and below the norm for this offense. It wasn't all bad for the entire FIU team, as catcher Zack Soria had a great day at the plate again, batting .324 on the season and accounting for three of those seven team hits.

Soria, like four other runners was left on base twice, as 15 runners were left on base on this Friday night for the Panthers.

Right hander Andres Nunez (2-2) could have used at least one of these runs, if not four, to combat the four runs he gave up in his start.

In one of his longest starts of the season, he went seven innings.

The strikeouts weren't really coming in abundance for the first pitcher in the rotation, only recording two, but there was plenty of support in the field defensively and for only the second time this season, there were no errors committed in a game Nunez pitched in.

Those four runs were earned and a couple more unearned for the UTSA carried the Roadrunners to a 6-0 win Friday, April 1.

The Panthers could ill afford to



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Utility infielder, Eddie Silva makes the throw to first base. Silva played solid defense against UTSA and was able to help offensively with an RBI double to break the 4-4 tie in game two of that series.

lose another series to a CUSA team this early in the schedule, and they were obviously aware of that early Saturday afternoon.

After walking the bases loaded and giving up a two run single to first baseman Nick Day in the top of the first inning, all without recording an out, UTSA pitcher, and former U.S. National Cricket team player Karan Patel was removed from the game.

An Irving Lopez single would score Zach Files before the top half of the first inning ended, giving FIU a 3-0 lead.

The Roadrunners had no plans of laying down to the defending CUSA Champs and they scored three runs of their own in the bottom half of the inning, knotting the game up at

three and virtually taking everyone back to square-one.

FIU and UTSA would exchange runs again in the third inning and the score would be 4-4 going into the top of the fourth inning.

With no outs, an RBI double from third baseman Eddie Silva would put the Panthers up by one run. Nick Day would follow that by keeping his great day going and hitting a sacrifice fly to score second baseman Rey Perez, and make the score 6-4 FIU.

Those four runs for UTSA were all that Chris Mourelle(4-2) would allow on Saturday, April 2, in yet another mostly dominant start, striking out as many batters as hits, with six.

The next inning, the Panthers

would keep their paws on the Roadrunners' throat, scoring 5 more runs before the bleeding stopped.

With the game now 12-4 in the Panthers' favor, the rest of the game would go by quietly, no more runs for either side in the last three and a half innings and the series would be tied up at a game a piece.

FIU began Sunday, April 3, against UTSA, who was 2-6 against CUSA teams, 3-5 in conference play.

Both teams desperately needed a win to at least draw closer to even and they played like it.

The Roadrunners, technically in a worse position than the Panthers, put a couple runners on base in the first to try to jump out to an early lead.

Both would be left on base, to begin a trend in this series' rubber match that would lead to their eventual demise.

FIU starting pitcher Garrett Cave (2-2) would give UTSA plenty of opportunities to score, walking six batters, but with four strikeouts, as well as only allowing three hits in his five innings, they could only gather two runs against him.

Those two runs didn't come until the end of Cave's start and would be just the motivation the Panther offense needed to get things started.

The FIU offense would post seven runs in the sixth and seventh inning, with a Rey Perez two-run double coming in the sixth and in the seventh an Eddie Silva RBI single and a home run from right fielder Kenny Meimerstorf.

Nick Day would hit a solo home run to help the cause in the top of the ninth inning, putting what seemed to be the dagger in the side of the Roadrunners and the exclamation point on the road trip with FIU's 11th hit on Sunday.

UTSA made one last run at the win, scoring two runs in the bottom half of the ninth inning on two run single, but FIU sophomore Williams Durruthy would get out of the jam with his team leading third save of the season, the game's final score 8-4.

The Panthers will have a chance Friday, April 8, to win another game against a C-USA team and even their record in Conference USA at 5-5 when the Old Dominion University Monarchs visit the Panthers in Miami.

They'll play another game on Saturday, April 9, and finish their three-game series up on Sunday, April 10, before Bethune-Cookman University makes the short trip south from Daytona to try and redeem themselves after giving up 26 hits and committing three errors against the Panthers.

Lou's Hacks is a weekly column about the baseball team in FIU. To contact Louis, email him at louis.agudelo@fiusm.com

SOFTBALL

Panthers snap losing skid with sweep of North Texas

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI

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The FIU softball team figured out the best way to bounce back from a sweep suffered at the hands of UTEP and that was with a sweep of their own this past weekend of April 2 and 3, against the North Texas Mean Green.

On Saturday, the Panthers prepared themselves for a double header in Denton, Texas, against the Mean Green.

The Panthers started to capitalize right away. After the North Texas fielder dropped a routine pop-fly, Mowry took off for home and gave FIU their first run of the game.

In the third, a Stephanie Teixeira sacrifice fly bought Jackie Schoff to the plate, and the Mean Green recorded their lone run in the bottom of the third.

The Panthers got a safety run in the seventh inning, extending their lead to 3-1, and ultimately winning the game by that margin.

Corrine Jenkins (5-5) got a season high nine strikeouts for the game, while pitching a complete

game and only allowing three hits.

The Panthers three runs came in nine hits for the game, leaving eight runners on.

Nothing changed for either team in the nightcap of the double-header.

The Panthers recorded nine more hits, while the Mean Green only had two for the game and FIU cruised on to a 6-0 win.

Gabby Spallone had an RBI double in the first to drive in Ashley Leon, putting up the first runs of the game.

In the third, some North Texas errors would add to the FIU lead. Dominique Grossman got a single, but she made her way to second base after a throwing error.

Teixeira bought her in after an RBI single. Dani Mowry and A.J Belans then had back to back RBI singles of their own, putting the Panther lead at 4-0 as the inning came to an end.

The Panther duo of Belans and Teixeira provided some souvenirs for fans over the outfield walls in the sixth and seventh inning. Belans had her fifth homerun of the season in the sixth inning and Teixeira had ninth home run of the season in

the seventh.

The 6-0 victory gave freshman pitcher Abby Summers (6-5) the win. Summers went 3.1 innings with two strikeouts. Megan Kugelmann pitched 3.2 innings of her own with three strikeouts.

The last game was set for Sunday as FIU looked for the sweep. It seemed as if no one wanted the sweep more than Belans, as she had a career game.

Belans had two home runs in the game, a career high four hits and six RBI's as FIU dominated the Mean Green 12-3.

Belans recorded her first home run in the first inning, bringing in three runs. The Panthers had four runs in the first inning.

It was much of the same in the second inning. With a full count, Teixeira had her tenth home run of the season, bringing in two runs. With four runs in the second, the Panthers got off to a big 8-1 lead.

In the fifth inning, the Panthers did something that hasn't been done since 2014. Mowry knocked one out of the park, followed by Belans hitting a 2-2 pitch out of the field herself. The last time FIU hit back-to-back homeruns



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Freshman outfielder, Devin Kennedy loads up and attempts to hit the pitch against UTEP. Kennedy played a key role offensively and defensively in sweeping North Texas.

was on April 26, 2014, in a 7-0 win over the North Texas Mean Green.

It is the fourth time this season that a player for FIU has hit multiple home runs in a game and Belans' third time doing so this season. The Panthers totaled six home runs in the series, a season high against any opponent.

The sweep also marks FIU's first road sweep of a conference opponent since 2014 when they did so against Southern Miss.

Jenkins started the game but got a ND, while Summers (7-5) got the win with two hits and three strikeouts for the game. The Panthers are now at 21-17, but the more important part is gaining ground in the Conference USA standings, now moving up to a record of 7-5.

The sweep is exactly what the Panthers need, especially with a big weekend coming up. Not only will FIU host their

rivals FAU at Felsberg field, but the Owls are on a hot streak as of late. FAU is currently ranked no. 23 nationwide, and post a 30-7 overall record. They are winners of nine of their last 11 games, and are undefeated on the road this season.

The FIU-FAU rivalry gets another chapter on Saturday, April 9 at 1 p.m., as the first game of a double header will be underway in Miami.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Home turf defended at Surf and Turf Invitational

STEFANO RIVERA

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If there was one thing the No. 10 Florida International University beach volleyball team desperately needed, it was to muster up wins as the regular season concluded.

Coming off the Stetson Invitational, one of the most challenging events in program history in which the team went winless, the Panthers were back at home hosting the fourth annual FIU Surf and Turf Invitational.

The team showed great character as it bounced back in impressive fashion.

"We are a young team. We are going to have some ups and we are going to have some downs," Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said, "but this is our home and they wanted to show that it's our house."

Day one of the event, Friday, April 1, saw the Panthers play University of South Carolina, Tulane University and Florida Atlantic University, all CCSA opponents.

The Gamecocks of South Carolina gave it their all as they fell to FIU 3-2. The rookie duo of freshman, Dominique Dodd, and junior, Katie Hogan, were the deciding factor of this match.

Competing in the No. 1 slot, they defeated South Carolina's No. 1 duo 18-21, 22-20, 16-14, all tightly contested sets.

Also chipping in with wins were the No. 2 duo of juniors, Aren Cupp and Anabela Sataric, and the No. 5 duo of redshirt sophomore, Savannah Davis, and sophomore, Natalia Giron.

The team handled Tulane in its next match, winning 4-1.

The Panthers raced to a 4-0 point lead as their No. 2 through No. 5 duos all got the victories and officially clinched the match when the No. 3 duo

“

We won against all the teams that our in our region and that's important and very crucial for us. It's a rebuilding year for us, and we are still one of the best teams in the Southeast region

claiming the victory. This three-match win streak was the longest for the Panthers all season.

"We won against all the teams that our in our region and that's important and very crucial for us. It's a rebuilding year for us, and we are still one of the best teams in the Southeast region", Buck-Crockett said.

On Day two of the Surf and Turf Invite on Saturday, April 2, the Panthers were faced with

Rita Buck-Crockett
Head Coach
FIU Beach Volleyball

”

of graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz and junior, Marina Boulanger, won.

They defeated the Green Wave's No. 3 duo 21-10, 21-13.

To cap the first day, the Panthers battled instate rival, FAU. In similar fashion to Tulane, the team got off to a hot start and led 3-0,

a tough test: No. 2 and defending national champions, University of Southern California.

Although the Panthers were fresh off a successful start to the event the day before, the Trojans made quick work of them, winning in straight sets, 5-0.

The final match of the weekend came

against conference foe and No. 8, Georgia State University. Before the match, FIU recognized seven student athletes as they took the home court for the final time.

Redshirt sophomore, Emily Podschweit, graduate student, Anne Marie Taylor, senior, Gloria Levorin, graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, Davis, Cupp and Gluchowicz were all honored.

Previously, on March 12, in the Tiger Sand Challenge in Baton Rouge, GSU defeated FIU 4-1; however, things would be different this time around.

The No. 1 duo of Gluchowicz and Boulanger, the No. 4 duo of Cupp and Toghiyani and the No. 5 duo of Davis and Giron swept their competition and gave the Panthers the victory within the first three matches.

The team won 3-2 and rushed the court in excitement as it defeated its first ranked opponent of the season.

"This team all loves each other, they are sisters," Buck-Crockett said, "It doesn't matter who's playing or who's not playing, it's still one heartbeat."

To finish the regular season, the team will travel to Siesta Key, Florida, to compete in the Fiesta on Siesta Key.

On Saturday, April 9, the Panthers will play against Texas Christian University and Grand Canyon University.

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PANTHER PROFILE

Naomi Ruele continues to make her mark

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Since the graduation of Jerica Coley, Panther fans have been devoted to finding a new star to get behind here at FIU. Replacing the greatness that was “Holey Coley” is no easy task, but if anyone can live up to the challenge, it’s a 19-year-old Olympian.

Redshirt freshman Naomi Ruele is a swimmer for the FIU swimming and diving team. Because the swimming and diving team is not one of the “big three” sports, football, baseball or basketball, it seems that the successes of this team and several others here at FIU are constantly overlooked. Naomi Ruele was born in Gaborone, Botswana, a relatively mid-sized country located in the African continent, bordered by South Africa to the south, Zimbabwe to the northeast and Namibia to the west and north.

The African nation is home to just over two million inhabitants, very few of which are swimmers. So how does a young athlete from Botswana get into swimming?

Ruele said she competed in many sports at a young age, but it was swimming that stood out to her and which she really excelled at. The strong relationship Ruele built with her swim coach, she said, ultimately was one of the biggest factors that led her to pursue the sport.

“I went into a lot of sports, track and netball, but I really liked swimming and I got along very well with my coach. He wanted to bring me closer to the sport and I really believed in his vision.”

Swimming with the Panthers this season, Ruele took home seven first-place medals at the Conference-USA championships. As great as that sounds, it sounds even better knowing that seven events is the most an athlete can compete in at the C-USA games. Ruele did as well as she possibly could given the rules of the tournament, going home with a winning percentage of 100.

“Going into the Conference tournament, we were not ranked first in most of our relays, so we did not expect to win them all. I can’t say I expected to go seven-for-

seven but I was so happy when it happened,” Ruele said. “It showed how all the hard work has paid off.”

The relays Ruele spoke of are the four relay events she swam with her teammates, whom she did not fail to credit.

“A lot of my success I credit to my teammates. I would never have gotten this far without their support and of course their performances alongside me.”

Along with her teammates and coaches, Ruele credits most of her success to her family. Specifically, her mother, who Naomi says, “sacrificed so much for me. I am so grateful for her and everything she has given me. And my brother who always supports me.”

Seven gold medals and C-USA swimmer of the tournament in 2016, multiple school records which she broke swimming for the Panthers this season and an appearance in the NCAA Championships are all defining moments for the native of Botswana; however, none come close to what she says is the most memorable of her career thus far.

“Qualifying for Rio 2016. Definitely,” said Ruele, with an affirming head nod and giant smile, which is expected coming from a 19-year-old who just a year ago was sidelined due to a shoulder surgery.

Ruele will be swimming in the official Olympic games this summer, representing Botswana. Only one athlete has ever medaled while representing the African nation, 800 meters silver medalist Nijel Amos four years

ago in London.

By recording a time of 26.07 during an official Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA)



approved time trial, Ruele will have the chance to become the first even woman medalist for her native country of Botswana and only the second ever.

“I’m really excited. My initial goal was just to make the Olympics so now that I have done that, I can shift my goals to different aspects these next few months,” Ruele said. “I am excited to be able to compete for Botswana and it would be a huge feat to bring home a medal.”

Prior to FIU, Ruele competed in the South African games and the Youth Olympic games in Nanjing, China, which she says will surely help her in preparation for the Rio 2016 games.

“Nanjing was one of my first international competitions, and was very overwhelming,” Ruele said. “It taught me a lot that so much goes into being at the top. There are so many sacrifices that must be made and I now know which

sacrifices I have to make. It was a learning experience, for sure.” Ruele made sure to mention that her performance at nationals is something that should be noted as she works towards preparation for the Olympics. Naomi placed 51st at the national tournament this year representing the Panthers, swimming in the 50 free prelims.

As far as her time in Miami, Ruele notes that Wynwood is her favorite part of the city. “I love Wynwood, it is so much fun.” Naomi did not deny that adjusting from Africa to the United States was not easy, but that it was only a matter of time before Miami was a second home to her. Maybe it was the pools here, or maybe the Cuban food.

“I really loved fried Plantains. Those are bomb,” Ruele said. “I also tried fried Oreos for the first time a few months ago and they are now my favorite American food and easily the greatest thing I have ever tried. I could eat those every single day.”

The most surprising part of the interview was when Ruele insisted that Miami summers trump anything Botswana has to offer. “The humidity here is crazy. It is so hot,” Ruele said. “I tell you, Africa is hot, but not this hot. Summers in Miami, Wow. They don’t compare.”

One thing is certain, If Ruele continues to swim this well, she will have no problem staying cool this summer.

“

My initial goal was just to make the Olympics so now that I have done that, I can shift my goals to different aspects these next few months.

Naomi Ruele
Backstroke/Freestyle
FIU Swimming and Diving

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