

4-14-2016

The Beacon, April 14, 2016

Florida International University

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Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, April 14, 2016" (2016). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 897.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/897

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IT'S NOT FAIR

FIU, Miami Dade Youth Fair continues battle over land



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIA RELATIONS

A rendering of the proposed engineering building that is slated to be built on 64 acres of land that is currently in use by the Miami Dade Youth Fair. In November 2014, a referendum vote approved of moving the Youth Fair in favor of providing FIU with more land, given that the county would not have to pay relocation costs.

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As a growing institution, the University doesn't want to lighten its load; it wants to broaden its shoulders said President Mark B. Rosenberg.

The 64 acres of Miami-Dade's Tamiami Park that is at the heart of a dispute between the University and the Miami Dade Youth Fair is the planned site of a new engineering center, Rosenberg announced at the State of the University Address held Monday, April 11.

"We're confident we're going to get these 64 acres. What's right is right. We want to continue to grow. We need the additional land," Rosenberg said at the address.

The engineering center, an estimated \$150 million 225,000-square-foot, LEED Certified Gold structure, is planned for the land that is currently the center of a fight between The Youth Fair and the FIU.

"We have a sense of urgency about this because we are basically out of facilities and space at our Engineering Center. We know that there's a significant opportunity to grow programs within engineering that are part of our strategic plan, but we're

out of space," Rosenberg said.

The new building, according to Rosenberg, is the start of many great things to come using the 64 acres.

"I've said this repeatedly that we've turned the impossible into the inevitable and we make the invisible visible. And that's exactly what we're going to do here with your strong support," said Rosenberg.

The building, he says, is somewhat a function of administration imagination with the fight for the land underway.

The Youth Fair, which ran from March 27 to April 10, currently sits on 64 acres that FIU has pursued since 2013. In 2014, the Florida Legislature granted \$10 million for the University's Strategic Land Acquisition initiative and a referendum to allow for the expansion to this land was on the November ballots. A 67 percent "yes" vote to the referendum appeared as a victory for the University.

"Voters knew what they were approving when they overwhelmingly voted in support of the initiative to expand our community's FIU on November 4, 2014," said Rosenberg. "They know that they need to expand FIU so that FIU is here for generations of students to come. So that FIU helps to

continue to build the jobs that would be critical to the economic development and wellbeing of this community.

"So when Mr. Hohenstein levels a broadside against our students, he is attacking the will of the people who voted with a large majority in November to expand FIU and to move the fair at no expense to those same voters," he said.

The vote, however, came with the condition that a "suitable" site for relocation be found for the Fair, which has a 99 year lease on the land through 2085, as well as the payment of all county costs associated with the relocation. Neither party has been able to agree on what an "acceptable" site would be.

"We are not giving up. We're also proud of the fact that we've gotten a lot of support from the community beyond the 65 percent vote," Rosenberg said.

Since the vote, FIU has been lobbying elected leaders to force the annual event to move. Youth Fair executives blame FIU for causing logistical problems by denying access to the stretch of Southwest 17th Street that runs through campus.

Fair-goers use the street to access the park, and FIU's closing of the street for two Saturdays prompted a flurry of letters from fair lawyers

to both the school and the county. FIU said the closures were needed to manage traffic for events on campus, including this weekend's debut of the Miami FC soccer squad.

"We have always been good neighbors but the fair has outgrown the space and FIU can no longer help make up for it," Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, FIU's senior vice president for external relations, said in a statement Sunday. "It's time to relocate the Fair to a more suitable venue."

Aside from the annual Fair and Exposition, the nonprofit runs the four-week fair that draws about 600,000 attendees each year, and also makes money running an expo center that houses trade shows, conventions and weddings during the rest of the year.

The Fair's lease protections have so far been considered so iron-clad that Gimenez recently described the situation as a card game that he'd like to win on FIU's behalf -- but that he's bound to lose.

"The Youth Fair has an ace of spades, a king of spades, a queen of spades, a jack of spades, and a 10 of spades," City of Miami Mayor Carlos Gimenez said in February. "I have a two, a three, a four, a five and a seven."

A few weeks before the fair's March 17 start, FIU issued a press release touting student Alexis Calatayud's petition on change.org urging county leaders to "take action" on the fair site.

"This petition is really important. FIU literally doesn't have anymore space, and the community need for more people to be educated and have a high quality education grows as the community grows. We don't have the physical space on our main campus to accommodate what the community needs," said Calatayud to Student Media.

A few days later, Fair President Robert Hohenstein sent a three-page letter to Calatayud, a senior and president of FIU's Student Government Association, and urged her to use her campus post to "demand the university stop its divisive, untruthful and deceitful practices."

The letter also took aim at FIU's success as a university, with Hohenstein urging Calatayud to pressure the school to support "the 80 percent of your classmates who don't graduate after four years ... and the nearly 50 percent of the students who will spend six years at FIU and still not graduate."

"For the CEO of the Fair to misunderstand FIU student's gritty, real, and

challenging issues impeding them from an ultra-traditional, Ivory Tower experience of attaining a bachelor degree in four years is to essentially not understand, even after decades of service to this community, the ever-pounding, ever-optimistic, ever-striving, heart of Miami-Dade County itself, said Calatayud.

"If he doesn't understand the issues and challenges of the community, why should we and how can we expect him to understand the transformative solutions FIU Expansion offers to meet our community's upward mobility and educational needs," she said.

The CEO's statements also reached the office of the president.

"Yesterday, the CEO of the Fair chose to attack, in a local newspaper, our students and their hardworking families. This attack was a part of a criticism of our University and its approach to adding more and better educational and job opportunities to our community," Rosenberg said. "The Fair President chose to disrespect almost all of our students and the will of our community by criticizing our students for not graduating in four years.

"As if he didn't understand that most of our

SEE FAIR, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Women who saw Berkeley balcony collapse file lawsuit

Three young women who stepped off a fifth-floor balcony seconds before it collapsed last year, killing six college students and injuring seven others, have sued the builders, owners and property managers of the Library Gardens apartment complex. The suit offers new allegations of negligence in the decade before the tragedy. Joining the 13 victims and families of the June 16, 2015, collapse, Caroline Conlan,

Clíodhna Maloney and Aisling Tallon sued the contractors, owners and property managers last month in Alameda County Superior Court, alleging that the wooden balcony had poor workmanship and that warning signs of extensive water damage to the structure were ignored. If not for pure luck, the three roommates claim, they could also have been killed or injured.

Mizzou president assures legislators university is making progress on diversity

When state lawmakers threatened to cut Mizzou's funding, school leaders sprung into action. When pressure to fire Melissa Click reached its zenith, the university's board took decisive action to dismiss her. But on the issue of making the University of Missouri-Columbia a more inclusive place for minorities, the university is dragging its feet. At least that's what Democratic state Rep. Courtney Allen Curtis

claimed Monday during a meeting of the Urban Affairs Committee. Curtis is chairman of the committee. He was just one of two legislators who attended the meeting. As a Mizzou alum, Curtis said he is "livid" about what he described as persistent racial tension on campus dating back to his time as an undergraduate several years ago. "There doesn't seem to be a sense of urgency," he said.

One reason for more Cuban arrests: more dissidents since U.S. opening

In one of her first public acts of opposition, Aymara Nieto Munoz joined three other Cuban dissidents who rushed toward Pope Francis last fall screaming "libertad" as his Popemobile arrived for a scheduled Mass at Revolution Plaza in Havana. "In my heart, I was hurting," Nieto said in an interview last month. "I was

hurting watching my neighbors who didn't have food for their children to eat. There is too much pain to see." Nieto is part of what Cuban opposition leaders say is a growing activist network that's sprung up since President Barack Obama began warmer relations with the communist nation 15 months ago.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CORRECTIONS

In volume 27, issue 84's editorial, FIYOU is wrongfully credited for wanting to "lower the suicidal idea on campus." This is a goal of Access FIU's platform.

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

University welcomes first Reproductive Justice Summit

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After Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill that established tougher regulations for abortion clinics last month, the topic of women's access to public health care and reproductive justice have become areas of discussion for Floridians.

Although state laws banned funding of abortions, some supporters believe that there are \$200,000 spent indirectly every year on preventive care at those clinics. According to an article published by the Miami Herald, abortion clinics will be required to have admitting privileges with a nearby hospital for safety purposes starting July 1, of this year.

However, it was also reported by the Miami Herald that the bill would also block state funding for people, specifically women, to have access to public health services. This is because funding cuts for clinics that offer elective abortions will also have lack of funding for additional health services such as screenings for cancer and tests for sexually transmitted diseases.

Some of these issues have inspired students at FIU to provide a platform for discussion on these topics. Social issues that discuss the importance of women having access to health services, as well as providing reproductive rights for women of color will be discussed at FIU for the first annual Reproductive Justice Summit next week.

The summit will be on Monday, April 18th, 2016 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm in GC 305. There will be tables in the GC pit to lead people who

need directions to the room. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

There will be two panels at the summit; the first one will be on Reproductive Justice and the second, Future Estate Black Feminism. For each issue presented, the speakers will talk about factors that institutionalize the issues like power, privilege and repression. Activities will follow those dialogues.

Megan Shade, the lead organizer is a senior majoring in Women's studies who is part of Young People For fellow under the People for the American Way Foundation. "The framework that we use was created back in 1994, and we use it to facilitate the summit through education, awareness and community" she said.

The summit will serve as a platform that creates dialogues about reproductive justice and social justice issues such as abortion, sexual orientation and racism according to Shade.

FIU's Stonewall Pride Alliance is hosting The summit sponsored by The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health. The mission of the summit is to educate students about reproductive issues and spread awareness particularly in a marginalized group such as women of color and the LGBTQ community, Shade said.

Two-thirds of the women in prison are women of color according to everydayfeminism.com. Facts like this one will be discussed at this year's Reproductive Justice Summit at FIU.

The same website confirmed that 93 of every 100,000 white women were incarcerated in 2008, but 147 Latina women and 349 Black women of every

100,000 faced the same fate.

Reproductive Justice is the human right to have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments according to SisterSong, a network of organizations who work to improve the lives of women of color in the United States by advocating for Reproductive Justice.

This year is the first year of the summit and Shade is hoping to make it the best it can be. "The idea is to create a sustainable change and with the summit, I will set something in place to build on so that those on the summit team now can have a path to follow for future years," she said.

The speakers include students at FIU and people from other outside organization such as Youth Empowerment, National Teen Institute, Planned Parenthood, and Power of Youth. "There are a lot of community leaders who are going to be here, as well as student leaders," Shade said.

Shade mentioned the reasons why one should come to an event like this one. "Be a part of the conversation, be engaged! The issues that we are talking about are affecting not only us individually but us in the community and us as a nation. It is important to raise your voice, your voice matters no matter what people tells you or what the media tells you," Shade said. "It's crucial to have conversations like this and that you are a part of it."

Everyone is welcome to participate. For more information and to RSVP, visit their Facebook page: The Reproductive Justice Summit.

Parties seek compromise in fairground land dispute

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students work full or part-time. That nearly half of our students are first-generation in college. That most of our students support family members...who need help. That most of our students themselves depend on Pell Grants or other forms of financial support given their limited family incomes."

On Sunday, FIU's Gonzalez-Levy responded in a statement: "FIU graduates more than 12,000 students a year. Some FIU students take longer than the traditional four years to graduate because they are working and studying part-time. Mr. Hohenstein is welcome to attend one of our commencement ceremonies in May so that he can see for himself."

Calatayud, an FIU trustee who has

accompanied university administrators in their pitches on the expansion plans to elected officials in Homestead and Doral, organized a demonstration outside the fair Saturday. "We just don't have the capacity that our students deserve," she said. "It's difficult to find a place to be, to sit, to relax between classes. There is almost no places for our student organizations to meet."

Hohenstein urges compromise rather than banking on a judge's ruling for one side over the other. "This situation needs to find a solution. A solution where, maybe, there's a little bit of discomfort for both sides," he said. "And neither party relies on the judicial system for a resolution."

Additional reporting from Erica Santiago and TNS Staff.

Panama Papers reveal a lack of awareness

THE LEVELER



AUBREY CARR

“Interested in data?” was the sentence that began the financial and political mess that has been dubbed “The Panama Papers Incident.” An anonymous informer going by the alias “John Doe,” submitted the inquiry to *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, a paper based in Munich.

The Papers are confidential documents leaked from the Panamanian law firm, Mossack Fonseca and connect hundreds of wealthy and powerful people to offshore shell companies.

According to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, the documents contain 11.5 million records over 40 years, making it the “largest leak in offshore history.”

Shell companies can be perfect for tax evasion, amongst other sketchy and illegal financial pursuits, although it is not certain that there is necessarily any illegal activity in this incident, since the act of placing money in offshore companies alone isn’t against the law.

The Papers, according to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, reveal the “offshore holdings of 140 politicians and

public officials,” namely: the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, associates of Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif, Ukrainian President, Petro Poroshenko and the King of Saudi Arabia, Salman.

Icelandic Prime Minister, Sigmundur David Gunnlaugsson, resigned April 5 after the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, working alongside other news organizations, mentioned his name in articles and a planned mass protest took place in Reykjavik where, according to *Financial Times*, a crowd of over 22 thousand people gathered – seven percent of Iceland’s population.

The Panama Papers story has been an explosive one, even *The Miami Herald* is running a series exposing the details – yet, discussion about the issue hasn’t seemed to make any headway in student conversations.

A small survey I conducted, along with some class discussions I had with my peers, suggested that many FIU students are not as aware of current events as they should be.

The *New York Times* offers students free copies of the daily paper Monday through Friday, but it is unclear how many students take

advantage of this and have the time to devote to reading it.

It is our responsibility to update ourselves, but with many of us working part-time or full-time, in addition to completing our academic demands and extra-curricular activities, finding the time to sit down with a newspaper or watch the news is difficult.

In another survey, students said they got their news from a multitude of sources that ranged from reading the local paper to browsing social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

Angel Diaz, a junior, who had not heard about the Panama Papers, suggested that displaying the news on the multiple screens across campus should be the priority, rather than showing ads for food or photo slide shows.

There was an instance when Ben Carson announced his endorsement of presidential candidate Donald Trump that the television screens in the Graham Center Pit broadcasted the news. Students stopped – or at least slowed down – to gather around and watch, which could foreshadow success of converting The Pit from a photo gallery to a news source when there aren’t events occurring in the space.

Though the renovation of The Pit seemed

nonsensical last semester, the addition of the television would be a perfect catalyst to get students quickly caught up on current events on their way to class or while eating nearby.

A different news outlet could play every day so all political perspectives are explored. When on commercial breaks, perhaps we could use the time to display ads for upcoming lectures and events.

Even if it’s merely a matter of catching a glance at headlines, it might spark a Google search by a curious student or inspire a class discussion.

Updating oneself on current events is an extremely important component to being a global citizen, as FIU so promotes. The University should then do everything possible to make this component more obtainable and its students must take advantage of every opportunity provided.

The Leveler is a column on global social justice and political commentary. For suggestions or comments, please contact Aubrey at aubrey.carr@fiusm.com

DEVIL’S ADVOCATE: FLEXIBLE Humanity to be unplugged in 2022



SAM PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

M TALK



MICHELLE MARCHANTE

How long do you think you could survive without technology? A week? A month? How about years?

Unfortunately, the sad truth is that almost none of us would be able to survive more than a few days without aid from some type of technological advancement.

With our civilization becoming more technologically dependent, even if we think we’re moving into the future, we’re actually moving backwards.

We’re capable of doing far more than our ancestors were ever able to thanks to these advancements but if we were to be entirely stripped of them, we would be far worse off.

Being stripped away of every possible tech-equipment in the world may seem impossible but it’s actually a reality that is quickly approaching; all that is required is contact from an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) to Earth from space, and unfortunately, it’s coming.

Experts have estimated that there is a significant chance of the Earth sustaining a direct hit by a massive geomagnetic solar storm, consisting of solar flares, which are sudden bursts of solar radiation that occur when the Sun suddenly releases a buildup of magnetic energy and coronal mass ejections- massive bursts of magnetic field and plasma that arise from the solar corona- by 2022.

Although these types of space weather events are rare, scientists have recognized for decades that they’re

potential threats to our modern-day, technology-driven society and economy.

If the Earth were to be hit by a storm such as this, the EMP would be so strong that it’ll easily be able to wipe out every piece of technology found across the world.

Electric grid lines, telephone poles and satellites would be shut down, leaving us powerless and sending civilization as we know it to a complete stop.

This may sound far-fetched, almost to the point of coming across as an apocalyptic science fiction, but we have reason to worry, as the Earth already went through an event like this in 1859.

The Carrington event caused telegraph equipment everywhere to spark, shut down and even in some cases, catch fire. This led to widespread power failure all over North America and Europe. The results of that space storm in 1859 were devastating.

We can infer that the results of this upcoming storm will be worse especially since our global economy is even more dependent on power grids, communications and navigation systems than ever before.

“Frankly, this could be one of the most severe natural disasters that the country and major portions of the world could face,” John Kappenman, a space weather consultant, told *Gizmodo*.

“Imagine large cities without power for a week, a month or a year,” Daniel Baker, a geophysicist of the University of Colorado’s Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, said in an interview with *National Geographic*. “The losses could be \$1 to \$2 trillion and the effects could be felt for years.”

This space storm threat has become

so critical that the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy has had to create their National Space Weather Action Plan and the National Space Weather Strategy to be implemented in tandem with other government agencies in preparation for a solar storm worst case scenario.

This six-step plan proposes studying the effects a solar storm would have towards vital national infrastructures and upgrading current space storm forecasters to detect potential storms earlier than the current time frame of about 15-60 minutes.

The plan also involves implementing measures to protect electric grid lines and ways to quickly replace Extra High Voltage transformers that would break during the storm.

The action portion of the plan is meant to involve schools, government agencies, the media, non-profit organizations, the private sector and the insurance industry. It also suggests that the U.S. government should coordinate its preparations and responses with those of other countries.

In terms of individual safety, the plan advises that everyone should have an emergency kit with fresh water, food and medication to last at least 72 hours. So Panthers, start stocking up and get yourself a couple of How-To survival guides while you’re at it, you might find yourself having to go all Rambo in the near future.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIU Student Media. Her column, M Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments, please email Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com

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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GAY PRIDE PARADE 2016

Showing off the LGBTQA colors

NADINE RODRIGUEZ

Staff Writer

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Miami Beach's Ocean Drive was the place to be for Florida LGBTQA community members and supporters this last weekend with the eighth Annual Miami Beach Gay Pride Parade.

Before FIU students, alumni and guests formed together to walk, they all met at the Wolfsonian FIU Museum on Washington Avenue. Other than breakfast, there were brief speeches shared by the Associate Director of FIU's Multicultural Programs and Services, Gisela P. Vega, alumni and others.

One individual in particular spoke about gay rights, more specifically the right to marriage. He said although the community should celebrate how wonderful it is to be gay, our rights are basic human rights and should not have to be fought to acquire we are born with them.

Once it was time to start heading over to Ocean Drive, participants were dressed in their designated colors of the LGBTQA flag. Greeting some of the participants and speaking with them at Ocean Drive was President Mark B. Rosenberg and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Around 12:20 p.m. the parade initiated. Tiffany Fantasia, the official host of the parade, pointed out FIU as they walked by her platform.

After the parade, some FIU students and faculty could be found at a tent set up near the stages on the beach. The tent was run by volunteers whose goals were to educate individuals who passed by the tent, while giving away goodies such as t-shirts, pins, pompoms, water and snacks.

Other than the organizations who showed their support, a mix of youthful LGBTQA individuals and elders, such as the Legacy Couples who have been together for 10 years or more, truly made the atmosphere feel unifying.



NADINE RODRIGUEZ/THE BEACON

Top Left: April 10. Parade patrons look on at 2016 Miami Beach Pride Parade.

Top Right: Onlookers enjoy parade entertainment at 2016 Miami Beach Pride Parade.

Middle Left: FIU representatives walk in the 2016 Miami Beach Pride Parade.

Middle Right: Pamela Grisstte showing pride at Miami Beach Pride.

Bottom Left: President Mark B. Rosenberg talk with FIU students at Miami Beach Pride.

Bottom Right: Parade patrons look on as the FIU Pride float passes by.

PANTHER PROFILE

LGBT PRIDE



DARIUS DUPINS

An ally of the LGBT community is a comforting.

In today's series, we have junior psychology major Hugo

Rojas who identifies as a straight ally.

Just for those who aren't aware, the "A" in the acronym LGBTQA stands for ally.

Rojas is open about his sexuality and believes that there is still separation between the LGBT community and heterosexuals.

Before meeting Rojas, I wasn't sure what to label him as - gay, straight, bisexual, questioning, even but throughout our time together it became clear to me that Rojas wasn't sure where he fell on the spectrum of sexuality.

Just to spice things up, I asked Rojas about Grindr and what his profile would look

like.

For starters, Rojas likes sex and if he were to have a Grindr profile, he would use it only for sex. His profile picture would be a self taken photo of him in the mirror, with a shirt - I'm assuming the mirror would be clean. Because Grindr has "tribes" Rojas would be a member of the "clean-cut" and "discrete" tribes.

"Looking for whatever comes my way," Rojas jokingly said when I asked what his "About Me" section would say.

Straight men like Rojas always get a reputation of being bisexual or gay if they are comfortable with their sexuality.

Rojas, a straight male, hopes some day that we live in a world free of labels that distinguish our sexuality.

LGBT Pride is a student profile column that highlight LGBTQA students at FIU.



April 12. Junior Hugo Rojas, psychology major leaving Graham Center.

DARIUS DUPINS/THE BEACON

PRIDE FILTER



SAMEUL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

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SOFTBALL

Weekend sweep of Panthers puts season in danger

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
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Consistency issues are arising at the wrong time of the season for the softball team.

Rival school Florida Atlantic University came to Felsberg Field the weekend of April 9, and won all three games against the Panthers.

Ranked 24th in the nation, FAU started their weekend in Miami with a double-header Saturday, April 9.

The Panthers kept up with the Owls in the first game, only being down 2-1 heading into the final inning of play.

However, two runs in the seventh inning gave FAU some breathing room, and FIU failed to score in their final opportunities, ending the first game with a final score of 4-1.

Corrine Jenkins was marked with the loss after pitching a complete game, giving up three earned runs and striking out three as well. She allowed eight hits.

The lone run for FIU came in the bottom of the fifth. The offense made no noise for the Panthers, as they went on to only get three hits in the entire game.

Kyle Hanson



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Infielder, Stephanie Texeira takes a lead off third base attempting to score. Runs were hard to come by as FIU was only able to score three runs in three games leading to a sweep and dropping their Conference USA record below .500.

dominated on the mound for the Owls, going a complete game with 11 strikeouts.

With little time to recuperate for the Panthers, they took the field for the second game of the double-header hoping to get better results.

However, the offense showed more signs of life, matching FAU with nine hits of their own for the

game, but only coming up with two runs.

A three-run third inning for the Owls proved to be the difference, going on to win 3-2. The Panthers recorded one error in the third that would give FAU two unearned runs.

Megan Kugelmann pitched a complete game for the Panthers, only recording one strikeout but also one earned run.

Kugelmann also had a walk in what is her seventh complete game of the season.

FIU almost had a game changing comeback in the sixth inning, but they were unable to take an advantage of the bases-loaded opportunity.

This would be just a small dent in the troubles for FIU during the game, as they went on to leave

11 runners on base. Jackie Schoff and Ashley Leon combined for three hits and two runs for the Panther offense.

The last game was set for Sunday, April 10, and FAU used a four-run sixth inning to fuel the sweep of the Panthers.

The game was scoreless until the collapse in the sixth inning, and it was the only runs of the game too

as the Owls beat FIU by a final score of 4-0.

The loss was the second time this season FIU was shutout, but there are some concerns with how the rest of the season will play out for the Panthers.

The last three series' FIU has been a part of have ended in sweeps, with FIU only being the winner in one of them.

The team is now 7-8 in the Conference USA standings and falls to 21-20 overall for the season.

FIU only has nine conference games left in the season, including one series against University of Alabama at Birmingham team on the road. The other games come in three game series' against Middle Tennessee State University and Marshall University -- both in the hunt to gain ground in the standings before the C-USA tournament starts.

FIU will have a quick stop in Daytona Beach on Wednesday, April 13, to match up for one game against Bethune-Cookman University. It will be the first non-conference game for FIU since their two losses against Rutgers on March 15.

FOOTBALL

'Friday Night Lights' gives first look at 2016 season

PETE'S PICKS



PETER HOLLAND

There's nothing like coming out and experiencing the Friday night light scrimmage.

For those who haven't been to an organized spring scrimmage, it's just like a regular football game except it's the Panther's offense against their defense. The first stringers will come on to the field during the first series for both sides.

Sometimes the first string offense will go against the second string defense and vice versa just to see how they look under pressure when their name

is called.

The concept of it all is just for the coaches to see the team's progression after months of strength and condition training, and weeks of practice with the returning the players.

Now it gets a little complicated. It's still like a regular football scrimmage. Score a touchdown, that's six points with an opportunity for one extra point, and a field goal is still three points. That's only on the offensive side.

Under spring game rules, the defense can score points as well when they make an defensive play on the offense. For example, if one defender recorded a sack or a three-and-out, that's two points for the defense.

If a defender creates a turnover, that's three points for the defense. A pick six is, of course, six points for the defense.

It's full contact, but you can't tackle the quarterback. If a

defender comes near the QB or touches him, the play is dead.

Now that we know the basics of a spring game, what can be expected for the Panthers this Friday night? The Panthers are coming into this season with a lot of holes to fill, mostly on defense.

Head Coach Ron Turner, going into his fourth year, and his coaching staff has to figure out who's going to replace their long time starters on defense.

Their sack leaders, Michael Wakefield and Denzel Perine, and their starting cornerbacks, Richard Leonard and Jeremiah McKinnon, are gone.

That's a huge shoe to fill for the defense replacing the senior leaders that received All-Conference USA honors. This is the perfect opportunity to witness the next man up mentality for this young defense, who has limited starting experience.

Good news is that the offense could be the strength

for the Panthers that is led by quarterback Alex McGough. The junior is coming in as the second-year starter after having a record breaking season last year when he set single-season records in pass attempts (420), completions (269), passing yardage (2,722) and touchdowns (21).

The Tampa native will also have a young and balanced backfield led by rushing leader Alex Gardner. Gardner finished last season with 760 yards on 186 carries and nine touchdowns. However, they could be competition for the rotation.

Anthony Jones, who sparked a lot of coaches in last year's spring game, will be playing running back full-time after playing both running back and wide receiver last season.

He will be competing with junior running back Napoleon Maxwell, who's returning from a torn ACL last year. Senior tight end Jonnu Smith is back as well.

After a down year last season from a statistical standpoint, he is looking to have redemption year returning after a knee injury late last season.

The offensive line has been the weak point of the offense due to injuries and lack of experience. After swapping around the starting line ups with different linemen, it did show some promises led by All-C-USA center Michael Montero.

It will be blue team versus the white team. The blue team will represent the offense, and the white team will represent the defense.

Quarterbacks will wear red, which means hands off on them. The last thing the team and fans need is him getting injured by his own teammate.

Pete's Picks is a biweekly column about football in FIU and the NFL. To contact Peter email him at peter.holland@fiusm.com

NBA

Dorell Wright reunited with Dwyane Wade, Miami Heat

ETHAN J. SKOLNICK
The Miami Herald
TNS

Dorell Wright on his return: "This is the best fit for me." Some things don't change.

Not even after six years.

And so, as Dorell Wright -- finally, officially again a member of the Miami Heat -- addressed the media following Tuesday's shootaround, Dwyane Wade had an order ready while strolling by.

"Hey, young fella!" Wade, the godfather to Wright's son, shouted with a smile. "Get me some Gatorade on the way to the bus."

"Hey, I ain't the young boy no more," Wright replied, laughing.

No, he isn't, not like when the Heat drafted him to play with Wade in 2004, or when he left for Golden State as a free agent following his breakout 2009-10 season. He's 30 now, and a world traveler, having just spent a season in China before signing with the Heat. And, when asked what he can offer, the first thing he said was "veteran leadership."

It's unclear how much the swingman will play, especially at

first, though he does provide insurance in case Justise Winslow -- now dealing with an ankle injury -- is sidelined for any reason, or if Gerald Green slumps again.

And it won't take him long to acclimate.

The place already feels like home for him, even if Wade and Udonis Haslem are the only players left from his last stint.

"Just the energy I felt when I walked in the building was great," Wright said. "It's been a long time. Somewhere I grew, as a man, as a player, as a professional. I'm just happy to be back."

Wright, who shot 38 percent from three-point range last season in Portland, said he knows he isn't guaranteed 20 minutes. He said he's in good shape, after working out in preparation for joining an NBA team.

Wright said he had NBA opportunities this offseason, but joked, "I gave that all up for more money."

And he knew he would get a shot with someone late in the NBA season, once the Chinese season ended.

How many teams were in the mix?

"Three or four," Wright said. "It got a little serious once people started hearing

I was coming here. That was pretty fun. But this is somewhere I've been looking for a long time, about returning. This is the best fit for me out of all the different situations."

Wright played for Erik Spoelstra and said the system isn't that hard, even if the terminology has changed some. He also believes he grasps material faster than he did when he came into the league as a teenager, drafted No. 19 overall.

The toughest thing for Wright?

To leave.

But Wright now believes it was the best.

"Totally," Wright said. "I have no idea where I would be if I had stayed around. I would have been the 13th, 15th guy maybe, you never know. And I got an opportunity to go to Golden State, and show a lot of people, and even myself, what I really can do. And what I've been working on the past six years I've been here. So it was a blessing, man. To be able to spread my wings, and bring this culture with me, every stop I've been on."

Now he has stopped back home.

DRIVE-IN



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Infielder, Rey Perez drives in a run on a base hit to left field. Perez contributed to the rally that had FIU scoring seven runs in one inning and coming back from a 9-0 deficit. Unfortunately, FIU would blow the lead late in the game and lose 12-11 against Old Dominion on April 8.

NFL

Mock draft predicts future prospects of the NFL

T-TIME



GIANCARLO NAVAS

The next five teams on my mock draft come from the team that made it to the playoffs but just came short.

They may not get the best players in this year's draft, but they can definitely fill the needs by finding the best player available.

One impactful player could get them farther in the playoffs than they were last season.

21. Washington Redskins (9-7)
Ashawn Robinson Defensive Tackle 6'4 320 University of Alabama

Robinson is, who I define, a grown man, and he's only 21-years old.

The reason I said that is because not only does he look like an angry 40-year old man in person, but he also plays as if he belongs in a grown

man sport.

His is 6'4 320 lbs., and he is a complete run-stopper who can swallow up running backs that run up the middle.

He is physically strong enough to push back interior linemen and could penetrate through any linemen that double teams him.

Robinson could be a big pick up for Redskins since they didn't resign Terrance Knighton.

22. Houston Texans (9-7)
Will Fuller Wide Receiver 6'0 172 University of North

Fuller could arguably be the fastest receiver in this year's draft class.

The Texans are looking for another weapon who can line up opposite of their leading receiver DeAndre Hopkins.

Fuller is a burner who can out beat any secondary that comes his way. Though he lacks size, his speed as a deep threat could be a difference maker for the Texans.

23. Minnesota Vikings (11-5)
Josh Doctson Wide Receiver 6'4 190 Texas Christian University

The Vikings still do not have a legitimate number one receiver for their starting quarterback Teddy Bridgewater. Doctson could be the right answer for the Vikings after two productive seasons at TCU.

He provides size advantage and great hands. He's also underrated when it comes to blocking outside. That could be a huge asset for Vikings that is led by their leading rusher Adrian Peterson.

24. Cincinnati Bengals (12-4)
Michael Thomas Wide Receiver 6'3 209 Ohio State University

The Bengals are in search of a receiver opposite of A.J. Green, now that Mohamed Sanu signed somewhere else.

Thomas could be a good replacement for the Bengals. He has playmaking ability and very dynamic for his size.

Thomas could also be a red zone threat when fighting for the football in the end zone. He could be a huge compliment for A.J. Green.

25. Pittsburgh Steelers (10-6)
Eli Apple 6'1 199 Cornerback Ohio State

The Steelers are in desperate need of secondary help. They need both a cornerback and a safety. It won't be surprising if they draft them in the first two rounds.

Apple could be the best the cornerback available for the Steelers. He may not wow you with his statistics, but that's what happens when you are a shutdown corner. He is a high talented lockdown corner that can fit any defensive coverage. If drafted by the Steelers, he can contribute right away.

Pete's Picks is a biweekly column about NFL football and in FIU. To contact Peter email him at peter.holand@fiusm.com

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SGC-BBC 2016 Election Candidates

ERICA SANTIAGO
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SGC-BBC Elections 2016 takes place April 19 and April 20, with results announced April 21. With elections a week away, SGC-BBC candidates are campaigning for students' votes.

Unlike the SGC-MMC Elections, these candidates are not representing different political parties, but are representing themselves and their individual platforms.

This year's Presidential candidates are students Patrick Alcee and Allhan

Mejia.

"There is an importance in having a strong leader," said Alcee. "I am a highly experienced candidate in World Affairs and I seek to accomplish aspiring dreams of operating a hotel."

Mejia says, "My goal is to establish and facilitate a stronger relationship between the student body, the University administration and the City of North Miami."

Vice Presidential candidate, Michema Lafontant, said, "I want to be able to make Biscayne Bay Campus an environment where students feel the need to stay and interact with other students."

A WALK IN THEIR SHOES



CHARLOTTE ALBA/THE BEACON

The Tunnel of Oppression reenacts the Flint Water Crisis for students at the WUC Ballrooms on April 8. The Tunnel of Oppression takes students through different scenes of oppression.

Presidential Candidates



ALLHAN MEJIA
Presidential Candidate

My goal is to establish and facilitate a stronger relationship between the student body, the university administration and the City of North Miami. I also hope to cultivate a culture of involvement which includes campus engagement, community outreach and sustainability

efforts. I will accomplish this by appealing to students on all levels – individual, organizational, and as a collective body. I will strive to create a community of which we can all be proud. I sincerely appreciate your consideration as I venture to represent you and take Florida International University's Biscayne Bay Campus forward.



PATRICK ALCEE
Presidential Candidate

I am a highly experienced candidate in world Affairs that seeks to accomplish aspiring dreams of operating a hotel. With background in French, creole, Italian, Spanish, and Russian influences I seek to gain

sufficient knowledge to apply to everyday life. There is an importance in having a well-rounded leader. I promise to abide by SGA handbook set forward by FIU president and represent FIUs prestigious name while working with and considering the voices of my fellow students.

Vice Presidential Candidate



MICHEMA LAFONTANT
Vice Presidential
Candidate

I want to be able to make the Biscayne Bay Campus an environment where students feel the need to stay and interact with other students. I would do so by encouraging student and staff communication, appreciating and

celebrating the achievement of our diverse student body through various ways, and overall bringing a sense of connection and positivity to our beautiful campus. "Student interaction leads to student involvement." Student involvement leads to a wide variety of opportunities which can increase our retention rate, graduation rate, etc.

Senator At-Large Candidates



LUC PIERRE-LOUIS
Senator At-Large Candidate

During my time on the Student Council, I have strived for the complete representation of the student body. As chairman of the Student Advocacy Committee, I have created various successful surveys to address concerns such as meager dining options and the unavailability of various key

UCC courses on the BBC campus, resulting in an unnecessary commute to MMC. I sat in key positions within the university to ensure that BBC students received proper representation. If elected to be a Senator at-Large, I will relentlessly pursue equivocal representation for all students regardless of college/major. Vote Luc Pierre-Louis. Vote for Change.

MEREDITH MARSEILLE
Senator At-Large Candidate

Currently a sophomore majoring in Public Relations, I have been involved in the Senate for over a year now. SGA -BBC has helped me grow as an individual by being able to network, improve my communication skills, and

continuing my quest to improve BBC. I have been in charge of receiving funding requests, working on surveys to gather student data, and speaking to higher authorities to find out answers to questions that the student body has. In a nutshell, SGA -BBC has given me the skills to further myself and I would like to use those skills to continue furthering SGA.

