SGA ready for elections, changes

An uncontested presidential race, an anticipated polling site that never came to fruition and major constitutional changes are some of the larger issues in this year’s Student Government elections.

University Park’s Student Government presidential candidate Marbely Hernandez is running unopposed with Arthur “AJ” Meyer as her running mate. This is the second consecutive year that a single student ran for president of the Student Government Council at UP.

Last year, current President Alfonso “Alfi e” Leon also ran unopposed. “It was unexpected,” Hernandez said. “We just need to get more people involved in SGA.”

Candidates must receive a plurality of votes to be elected, but “technically, an uncontested candidate only needs to receive one vote to be elected [to that office],” said Charlie Andrews, director of Campus Life.

According to Article IV of the SGA constitution – which governs the councils at both campuses – any SGC president must hold an elected SGA position “for at least two academic semesters, or 154 days, prior to the first day of official campaigning.”

Rosa Jones, vice president of Student Affairs, does not see a direct correlation between the policy as stated in Article IV and the lack of presidential candidates for UP this year.

“Historically, we have had many indivi- duals who have been interested in running,” Jones said.

The SGA constitution also specifies candidates are screened for GPA minimum requirements and “may not be under any academic or disciplinary sanctions.” They must also maintain a minimum amount of credits, and attend at least 50 percent of classes at the campus he or she will represent.

Traditionally, election events begin with a candidate’s debate.

“The debate was changed to Monday so [students] know it’s coming up from kick-off events,” said Judene Tulloch, SGC-UP elections commissioner.

All candidates were officially announced at the “Know Your Vote” barbecue event held in Everglades Hall April 4, at 6 p.m. The election will take place April 10 and 11 (Tuesday and Wednesday).

Candidates discuss their visions for FIU

The Beacon interviewed candidates for this year’s Student Government Association elections via e-mail.

The following is an overview of candidates responses to the questions:

1. Q: What are some of the goals that set you apart from other candidates running for the same position?

Hernandez: Running uncontested, all our goals are individual to me and [Arthur “AJ”] Meyer but many of them include: meal equivalence, plans for students who have meal plans, adding study space throughout campus for students, increasing the amount of laptops available to students in the library, working on an online-based academic advising system, among other things.

Meyer: Being in Student Government for the past three years as SGA Intern President, Lower Division Representative and Representative At-Large (Speaker Pro-Tem), I have accumulated a massive amount of knowledge about the inner workings of this great organization. Also, being a active student lobbyist for the University has given me the experience of dealing with local, state and federal legislators.

Dial: I find it important that tuition not be raised to pay for the athletic program. I believe that there are a lot of unforeseen corporate sponsorships that can be used to support the football program without costing students (more money). I want to reduce housing costs so that they are comparable to the cost of housing off-campus.

Jean: I intend to establish an items exchange website where FIU students may list items such as textbooks, furniture, electronics, lost and found listings and roommate postings. I also plan to work with Campus Safety to launch a safety and theft awareness campaign.

Conception: [The projects I wish to embark on are as follows:] improving environmental health awareness across campus and the community, promoting the different cultural backgrounds of the student body, exposing the students to different backgrounds ... and making student government more accessible.

Labrador: Focusing on the financial aspect of going to college, I know that most FIU students work full-time and go to school full-time. Therefore, I have been focused on issues on a federal level such as the DREAM Act, the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, etc.

Saintable: Two main things I want students to know is what’s going on and to participate in initiatives. Apathy can’t be eliminated but we can reduce it by motivating others. Second, I think we need a stronger presence in the bordering cities.

ELECTIONS, page 3

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Q&A, page 1

The number of candidates running for president itself seems to be an important factor in getting students to

But men who have experienced sexual assault would benefit the most from the event, Bauta stressed. As a survivor of date rape, Bauta stressed that men would benefit the most from the event. Funded by the Student Government Association, this year, the University Park campus’s version of the event occurred from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and was moved to the inside of the Graham Center because of last-minute, rainy weather, but the event still drew in about 50 people.

The event was put together by a planning committee that represented various departments and student organizations at FIU.

Senior Gloria Bauta was part of the committee, representing Stonewall Pride Alliance, a club that caters to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer and questioning community and its allies. As a survivor of date rape, Bauta stressed that men would benefit the most from the event.

“If women survivors are invisible, the way that we treat male survivors is insulting because people don’t believe [sexual assault] happens to men,” Bauta said. “The most important message of this event is that ‘yes means yes and everything else means means no.’”

Onorato began the night by giving a brief history about the event. She went on to cite statistics regarding sexual assault.

Frankie Cedeno, a peer educator from the Victim Advocacy Program, performed an interior dialogue with fellow peer educator, Noelle Service, comparing a “bad date” to a “healthy date.” Cedeno became involved with the event because he had been educated about sexual assault and domestic violence by his father. “My dad raised me to respect women through example, but many men don’t have that experience and I am here to educate these guys,” Cedeno said.

The crowd was then sectioned off into small groups led by a committee member in order to march and visit the stations. One table put together by the Women’s Studies Student Association and the Step Up student organization designed to cater to disabled students with special needs, allowed people to dip their hands in paint and create a handprint on a banner. People could then put to no longer “tolerate the persistence of rape violence on earth.”

“It’s time to end [rape]. This issue is 30,000 years old, and it does not need to be 31,000 years old,” Thatcher said.

The cards that collected were noted later onto a black poster demanding the end of rape.

Onorato said she believes one of the solutions to the issue of sexual assault is to educate men in terms of realizing that each year a woman says no, she does not always mean she is saying no but really means yes.

“Men are taught that if someone is not saying no, then they should have that experience and I am here to educate these guys,” Cedeno said. “My dad raised me to respect women through example, but many men don’t have that experience and I am here to educate these guys,” Cedeno said.

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I want to accomplish include researching payment plans for International Students, increasing attendance at games through the Adopt a Football Player program, increasing safety in the parking garages and increasing wireless access throughout campus.

LaPointe: I intend to provide easier access to professor syllabi when registering and provide students evaluations accessible through the MyFIU portal.

Andrade: [Running Unopposed]

Al-Abdullah: I believe my aspiration for advising is the most dominating component of my platform. Recognizing a real need to personalize and individualize advising, we can ensure that our students graduate sooner and with more diligence.

Q: What aspect of the University do you feel deserves most funding from SGA and why?

Hernandez: I believe that the best aspect for most funding is organizations where students get the most out of their funds going to.

Meyer: I believe that every aspect of the University needs to be fully funded. However, unfortunately this is very difficult to achieve due to the lack of money we receive from the state, as well as our affordable tuition.

Dial: Funding needs to be put into student involvement on campus, especially the [Student Organizations Council].

Jean: Student organizations deserve the most funds from SGA.

Concepcion: Safety and communication across all organizations deserve the most focus because it is through these two variables that we can improve the quality of our academic strength and campus involvement.

Labrador: Every organization that provides services or benefits to BBC Students deserves careful consideration of its proposed funding. Therefore as long as the request is reasonable and manageable.

Q: How will next year’s SGA be different than this year’s?

Hernandez: This coming administration is seeking to get as many students involved in SGA as much as possible. For instance, our cabinet this year although appointed for the rest of our time in SGA, have not been given the opportunity to. Also, we are involving students throughout FIU 25 Idearaisers, where we will be seeking the concerns and ideas of the students about the University and collaborate the top 25 ideas for this year and for FIU’s future.

Meyer: New administration, new vision, new drive!

Dial: If elected, I want this year’s SGA to be more involved with the decisions that affect students, whether they are from a University decision or a state decision. I think that SGA needs to be more involved with the decisions that affect all students, rather than minor details that affect few.

Roseme: Next year’s SGA will be different than this year’s in that it will be a more established organization that has been successful in the past.

Andrade: I am very excited because of the competence of all the candidates running.

Q&A candidates discuss goals for next year

ELECTIONS, page 1

Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at various polling sites throughout both campuses.

This time span allows candidates a week to campaign.

Last year’s candidates were announced Monday, March 27, at noon with elections held April 4 and 5 (also a Tuesday and a Wednesday). This gives candidates an additional 2½ days to campaign.

According to Jose Toscano, SGC-UP advisor, this year’s schedule was too short to be as successful as it could be.

Toscano believes that a longer campaign would have increased awareness for the candidates among students.

“I don’t mean I want to see flyers all over campus, but I feel we have more time to campaign before elections. We then print an extensive platform review along with our recommendations in an effort to give students the in-depth look at the candidates. This also creates a public forum where they can share their views on the University and student life.

Unfortunately, we could not get the Word to the candidates until the middle of last year, which was not enough time to schedule interviews.

I regret that this section didn’t run, since I feel it is an integral part of educating voters.

The number of campaigning days isn’t the only thing that was cut short – the sources of information for this year’s candidates are also limited.

Though flyers may have littered the campuses for days after elections, we at least knew who the candidates were and for what they stood.

Andrade: Next year’s SGA, will enhance the level of communication between both campuses and increase the visibility among the students.

Al-Abdullah: I am very excited because of the competence of all the candidates running.

Online SGA voting may become a future possibility

“[The biggest concern is fraud],” Tulloch said. “[We may start it next year with all campus-wide elections like Homecoming and General Elections. [CAMPUS LIFE] wanted to do more testing and have solid ground to go on. There is no way to mimic a general election.”

Tulloch also mentioned that SGC-UP members advocated the new technique, but that SGC at the Biscayne Bay Campus was hesitant since they believed the results could not be controlled. Because both campuses need to have a uniform voting system, the online method was not used.

SGC-UP also plans on offering the chance to register for a free round-trip Air Jamaica ticket to anywhere in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

“It was a University-wide goal to increase voter turnout. One way we wanted to do this was to offer a voter incentive,” Tulloch said. She would like 3,000 students to vote.

Last year, Leon received 1,539 votes, which represented a 50 percent decrease in voter turnout from 2005. A total of 3,158 students voted for both UP presidential candidates.

Traditionally, elections are held the second week after Spring Break, as mandated by the constitution. This year, elections are being held the third week after the break due to a conflict in the election dates and the Campus Life staff’s schedule.

(See PAGE 4 for BBC elections coverage, and tune in to WRGP 95.3 Monday at 5:30 p.m. to hear candidates answer questions.)
**Spike Lee explores Katrina disaster through documentary**

**H. DWIGHT HOLMES  
Staff Writer**

Spike Lee joked he first heard of FIU after the brawl between the University of Miami and FIU’s football teams last October.

The writer, director, actor, producer, author and entrepreneur spoke at the lecture “An Evening with Spike Lee: America through My Lens,” held at the Wolfle University Center Ballroom, April 4.

With more than 500 students, faculty and community members from FIU, the University of Miami, Miami-Dade College, and the community at large in attendance, Lee kept the audience laughing in a penetrative, but jovial atmosphere.

The lecture was a collaborative effort between the School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Lecture Committee, which includes members from various student organizations and volunteers.

Lee’s lecture focused on his third HBO collaborative effort and most recent documentary, *When the Leveses Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*, a film which looks at New Orleans in the wake of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

The documentary tells the personal stories of those who endured the ordeal and survived to tell the tales of many who lost everything during the storm.

"When Katrina hit, I was in Venice, Italy, glued to the TV switching between CNN and MSNBC," Lee said.

"When you’re overseas, you see things that the American government doesn’t want you to see, because the foreign press shows everything, and after five days I decided to do a film about this thing."

According to Lee, the most important thing about the documentary was to give a voice to the neglected people he saw suffering through the hurricane.

The famed director later addressed students in the crowd to choose a career based on what they love, not on what will make them the most money, or make their parents happy.

"Some students succumb to parental pressure and choose something [their parents] want them to do, and in turn the students become miserable," Lee said.

"Parents kill more dreams than anybody else... so don’t let anyone stand in the way of your dreams... I say my prayers every night because I get to do what I love."

Lee explained that he was a C-student until he figured out what he wanted to do.

"I wasn’t applying myself the first two years of college, and then I decided that film school was the route for me," Lee said.

Lee then completed his film degree, where he is now a professor.

Lee joked that his father would get on his case when he told him he wanted to be a film maker, because Lee’s father didn’t want “a bum for a son.”

"Me and your mother did not work three jobs so your skinny black a-- can go wait tables, my father would say," Lee said.

The lecture lasted almost an hour and a half, to a positive response by students in the audience.

One such student was Athena Jai, a junior majoring in public relations as well as an aspiring actress, said she was moved.

"It was very motivating, and I like that he is giving back by teaching at NYU," said Jai.

Leon Elli, a senior majoring in sociology was proud to have attended.

"He made me proud to be a black man, to be graduating college, and never had a brush with the law at age 26," Elli said.

"He motivated one to follow his dreams, and kick all family members and non-progressive elements to the side in order to achieve one’s goals."

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**SGC candidates discuss plans**

**DOUGLAS FORTE  
Contributing Writer**

Communication and student involvement is the common message from the Biscayne Bay Student Government Council candidates for president and vice president positions.

Their voices were heard at an open forum held April 5.

"We have to outreach to students for involvement," said Gabriel Labrador, presidential candidate and current representative-at-large for SGC-BBC.

The candidates stress that BBC tends to be more of a commuter campus than University Park.

But, this should not deter students from speaking out and getting involved with student activities and organizations to bring about positive changes.

"Most students show apathy towards the school and I know because I was apathetic," said an emotional Cassandra Andrade.

Though not a current member of either council, she is running unopposed for the vice president position.

Andrade was also the first to present her platform. She assured students that she embodies what a true leader and student representative is.

"I have a natural desire to serve. People saw something in me and I care," Andrade said.

According to Andrade, she has run for city commissioner in her hometown and has established a working relationship with current vice president Brent Maximin.

Along with Maximin’s help, Andrade will initiate plans to improve food service and operating hours, communication with University Park and FIU Broward Center.

She also hopes to improve exterior relations and hopefully, transportation.

"I am a commuter student and am always going to and from both campuses, but at the end of the day when I am at [BBC], I have no way of getting food because the dining area is closed and that needs to be changed," Andrade said.

Andrade also wants healthier food options available for students.

"I might want cooked, healthy food after 2 p.m. and it’s not possible," she said.

Andrade believes the fact that she is running unopposed is indicative of the lack of student involvement.

"If there is opposition, that’s great because it’s student involvement," Andrade said.

Aside from Labrador, the other candidate for SGC-BBC president is Katiana Sainable, current SGC-BBC representative-at-large.

Sainable’s platform also includes the need for a public lounge, a cleaner environment and, to a greater extent, more student action, feedback and opinions.

Sainable will also plan to present her ideas to the administration.

"We need to build new leadership, so other students will want to be involved," Sainable said.

In contrast to Sainable’s focus, Labrador’s primary concern is the rise in tuition, which he doesn’t want you to see, because the American government doesn’t want you to see anything that the American government doesn’t want you to see, because the foreign press shows everything, and after five days I decided to do a film about this thing.

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**SGC-BBC Notes**

**April 4, 2007  
Call to Order: 3:37 p.m.  
Adjournment: 4:43 p.m.  
Absent from the meeting: Camilo Silva, President Brent Maximin, Vice President**

**Call To Order (Zachary Trautenberg)**

Since Trautenberg is officiating this week’s meeting, his Comptrollers Report will be left for next week’s meeting.

**New Business**

- Appropriation (aye-nay-abstain)
  - $2800 to SPC for Spring Fling Concert. Total costs for concert is approximately $45,000, but SPC needs more funding. Money generated from the event goes towards Public Safety. Concert usually generates enough money to break even. SPC is expecting approximately 2,500-3,000 people. Approved, 7-0-0.

**Unfinished Business**

- Student Government Council-BBC By-laws: Changes. Biggest change is the definition of tasks of certain cabinet positions. Added High Achievers Award to be held in posterity. Award changes: students taking a minimum of nine credit hours, instead of 12 to be eligible. Addition of the Dr. Raul Moncarz Award of Excellence.

**Advisor’s Report (Craig Cunningham)**

Spring Fling Concert: SPC was already given $45,000 for this event. One year they were given approximately $50,000 and about 100 people showed up. Cunningham: “My advice to you as a council is to go to Spring Fling and observe the results for yourself.”

-Compiled by Jessica Solis
ME, MYSELF AND SEX IDENTITY

C. Joel Marino Editor in Chief • Christopher Nuceo Production Manager • Christopher Cabral Opinion Editor

 Violence and corruption still a problem in South Florida

JOSE MARTINEZ Staff Writer

With the massive influx of individuals from every corner of the world into the confines of Miami-Dade County, there has been an accumulation of wealth and affluence within in a relatively small geographical area. Along with this overwhelming immigration of wealthy outsiders, there has been a rampant encroachment that has threatened to shatter this equilibrium - this divisive force is none other than crime. The cost of living has ballooned to unprecedented heights, many individuals belonging to the poor and underprivileged classes have taken to criminal endeavors, in an effort to scrape together some means of supporting themselves.

Recently in Florida, Steven Stanton was removed from his position as city manager of Largo City because he announced that he would be undergoing sex reassignment surgery. In a 5-2 vote, Stanton lost his job simply because of how he chooses to express his gender identity. Should our society value gender norms over how well someone can do their job?

Sex identity discrimination is just as heinous as racial, ethnic, religious or sexual discrimination. In our own country, individuals are stoned to death and strewn across chain-link fences because of their sex identity.

What is it that we live in? I am persuaded to feel that the right to your own sex identity should be just as protected from discrimination as your right to privacy which you like. The problem is in how our society constructs what gender means. Such a power system would not be possible unless we had labels for what women are and do, and separate labels for what men are and do.

This division allowed mankind to justify the enslavement of women throughout most of our history, like when women were property, could not vote and did not need to consent to sex. Today, we say we want to destroy that system—but we can’t unless we learn to take a man in a dress as seriously as a woman in a dress. The enslavement of women as “women” is also the enslavement of men as “men.” This is because everything we do has a gender. Men do this. Women do that. We have thrown everything into two color-coded boxes, and God save the little bit of pink that gets stuck in the blue.

What is it then that we need to do? To have the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to the maximum of 300 words.
When the term “mid-life crisis” comes to mind, typically one thinks of Porsches, Rogaine, secretaries and a certain corresponding pill even Bob Dole endorses. Its symptoms include a fleeting sense of youth and a strong desire to only button your shirt halfway. It’s comparable to having an extended anxiety attack and, with good reason – coming to the realization that your lifespan is half spent is pretty shocking for the ill-prepared.

Thankfully, if you’re at a certain mindset, you can have a complete freak-out even sooner.

To me, there are two kinds of people who attend FIU: those laid back freshmen who generally aren’t petrified about the future because they live with their parents, are still learning about themselves, etc. and then the same people just five years later. The same anxiety one feels when nervous about their “life” ending can be similar to how one feels before their “life” begins.

With that said, do you feel like you’re never going to graduate? Does your internship drain your soul? Are you coming to the realization that you’re about to embark on a 20 to 30 year journey of routine tasks that will include, but won’t be exclusive, to entry-level jobs, paying bills, marriage, kids, divorce and eventually becoming obsolete? If you answered “yes” you may suffer from a quarter-life crisis and be glad the growth is benign.

If you’re going through this yourself, don’t worry; you were probably always mature for your age. Here’s how to cope.

**COASTING ON EMPTY**

The quarter-life crisis is unlike the mid-life because while it’s a desire to go forward, it’s not necessarily one to go back either. It’s as though you’re stuck in neutral with only the power of wind and down-sloping sides of hills to get you to the next gas station.

One way to approach this dilemma is to enjoy it. Face it; this is the only time in your life where society expects you to mess up. Think of how many inane decisions your parents have retold you by qualifying it with “Yeah, but I was in college…” And that’s just covers gay-themed stories alone.

Revel in knowing that the limbo period is widening. It’s now more common for students to take five years to accomplish a bachelor’s degree or go back to school to tackle a master’s. Do a backstroke in your pool of apathy. If anything, you’ll get some good cardio.

**GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN**

The absolute truth about youth is that it will fade. If you look at this way, you
Crammed venue detracts from live performance

OF MONTREAL, page 6

and fishnet stockings, a bizarre hat complete with faux feathers and a massive gown. One of the night’s highlights was a giant lobster claw, a nod to their current music video, where the same prop is used.

The opening act, Swedish indie band Loney, Dear was probably the biggest surprise of the night – their low key style, and the lead singer’s unique vocalization were a great lead-in to Of Montreal. Or they would have been if there wasn’t an almost hour-long gap between sets. The gap probably had to do with the disappearance of the other opening act, rapper Pigeon John, who was nowhere to be seen.

In the end, the night was enjoyable, despite Studio A trying its hardest to make it otherwise. Their overselling of tickets turned what could have been a perfect evening into simply a great one.

But if you get a chance to see Of Montreal for yourself, take it – just make sure the venue is big enough for you to scratch your nose.

Senility seemingly best option

HOW-TO, page 6

have no choice but to move forward. The proverbial fire under your butt, once you ignite it, will kick you out of your slump and into action.

So maybe this semester wasn’t your semester, and neither was the Fall. Come to think of it, last time you made good grades was pre-Dubya. Nevertheless, your education is one of the only things that are going to ensure you won’t be struggling after you break out of this place. Buckle down and get out of school before inflation, real estate and the cost of living gets any higher. The last thing you want is two loan payments – yours and junior’s.

The common misconception is that growing old means growing up. I plan on going straight from my quarter-life crisis into senility. Aside from deep breathing and acupuncture, there’s nothing you can really do except wait for the next crisis to come. Therefore, I think a constant state of senility will keep me grounded – even if it’s in 18 pounds of rhubarb preserves. Hey, the cats need to eat too. Good Luck.

Silence movement to culminate with parade in Graham Center Pit

DAY OF SILENCE, page 6

last chance to do so April 10 at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the MPAS conference room. The Day of Silence officially begins at noon. During the two short seminars, volunteers will be given strategies for remaining silent while still getting their message across. On display throughout the day will be a public journal. In the journal, volunteers and spectators will be able to write down their thoughts and feelings. This journal will from therein be on display at every FIU Day of Silence until it is filled.

“I think [April 10] is our biggest event of the year followed by the Coming Out Day,” Bauta said. “[The Day of Silence is] crucial.”

According to Bauta, there would be a larger event planned for the national Coming Out Day, but because it takes place in June, the campus would be virtually empty. The Day of Silence will culminate with a 6 p.m. parade from the GC pit to the housing quad. Afterwards, there will be the breaking the silence ceremony. At that point, volunteers who pledged to remain silent will be able to speak out about their experience.

Students with questions or concerns about LGBT issues can speak to A.J. Costa, the director of the LGBTQIA MPAS office, privately or via e-mail at lgbt@fiu.edu or Bauta at FIU.DOS@gmail.com. For more information on the National Day of Silence, see www.dayofsilence.org.
$49 to $179

ONE-WAY WITH 14-DAY ADVANCE PURCHASE
Fares do not include a federal excise tax of $3.40 per takeoff and landing.
WHEN YOU PURCHASE AT SOUTHWEST.COM®

Wanna get away? Now you can. Fly Southwest Airlines for just $49–$179 one-way when you purchase at southwest.com. Be sure to purchase your ticket at least 14 days in advance and by April 12, 2007. Seats are limited. Fares may vary by destination and day of travel and won’t be available on some flights that operate during very busy travel times.
ANGIE ESPOSITO  
Staff Writer

FIU Theater has taken an interesting – some religious zealots might call it blasphemous – route during this Easter weekend. The play Silence by Moira Buffini, this production directed by Tracey Moore, deals with many controversial issues both political and personal.

Taboo topics are touched upon, all with Catholic jargon and beliefs constantly being intertwined.

On the cusp of what seems to be the first millennium, the story takes place, introducing us to the discrimination of pagans and the need for reconciling with God in order to be saved from the fiery pit of hell.

The constant religious conversation offers an outside view of Catholicism while poking fun at things such as celibacy and their view of the male genitalia and how it works.

The characters include: Roger, a priest who deals with his own internal battle with religion; Silence, Lord of Cumbria and a pagan; Ymma, the daughter of a saint who is forced to marry Silence; King Ethelred, who arranges Silence and Ymma’s marriage; Eadric, knight to King Ethelred, and Agnes, handmaid to Ymma.

The conflict begins on Silence and Ymma’s wedding night, aptly justifying the play’s mature audience disclaimer.

As for the performance, I was wowed. The advertisements for the show do it no justice. Walking in, I was expecting a completely dark, heavy and possibly disturbing piece – the kind that leaves you dumbfounded and unsure how to react.

Granted, it was dark and disturbing, but there was also humor amid it, which allows the audience a breather when feeling suffocated by its negativity.

This is partly done by the actors’ timing, with sight gags and puns underlining the intense situation. They were on the mark – even on jokes that went over a majority of the audience’s head.

The set and costumes were accurate for the piece and added to the performance nicely.

What I’m waiting to see is how they’ll transform the dark-age setting it into something suitable for the modern day performance of Proof – the other play which is working together with Silence to act as rotating repertoire.

The highlight of the show had to be B. Leal’s portrayal of Silence.

While everyone else in the cast did a fine job, Leal generally had me convinced at all times of the authenticity of the character Silence.

And while I don’t want to give away anything for those of you who are interested in seeing it, Leal’s characterization – for such a small space – was just right.

The tale of Silence alone is incentive to see this play regardless of the plot twists and revelations may shock you.

Silence and Proof will be playing alternatingly until April 15.

For show times and ticket information contact the box office at: (305) 348-3789. Check out Thursday’s issue for the corresponding play, Proof, review.
**BATTING**

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Oliveira is hoping that come graduation, Lidija will be calling to celebrate her daughter’s degree in physical therapy as well as her own triumph over cancer.

Applications for the tournament can be found online on the Athletic Department’s website.

“Come for a day, have fun, play for a cause,” Tomic said.

As for how Keila’s mom feels about all of this, Oliveira said that she’s very excited about it.

“I wish I could bring her here so everyone could meet her.”

Oliveira is very proud of her."
Athletics department enthusiastic over new changes

NAHORE GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

New athletic director Pete Garcia means business. On Oct. 16, his first day on the job, he announced that 16 football players would be indefinitely suspended and two would be dismissed from the team following the FIU defeat. University of Miami bristles — a harsher punishment than what the Sun Belt Conference had recommended.

“We have a vision that starts with [President Modesto A. Maidique],” Garcia said. “He wants to get better, not necessarily bigger anymore. It’s now a matter of quality, and it’s going to take hard work, energy, and the right people — people who share that vision.”

Getting the right people on board has meant the departure of some familiar faces in athletics, both student-athletes and coaches.

On Nov. 15, founding head football coach Don Strock announced his resignation. Former University of Miami assistant coach Mario Cristobal replaced Strock in December.

On Feb. 10, just three months later, Garcia announced that Thomas Chestnutt Jr., a former assistant coach at Fresno State University, would replace Everton Edwards, who had acted as head women’s soccer coach for 22 seasons.

When asked about his decision to fire Edwards, Garcia replied:

“The level of expectations and the bar are being raised. It’s my job as athletic director to evaluate the people we have here. We want to win and we want to win the right way,” he said. “No shortcuts.”

Edwards amassed a 165-179-33 record while serving as head coach of the women’s soccer program. Since 2003, the women’s soccer team compiled an 18-43-7 record.

Sergio Rouco, who has been head coach of the men’s basketball team for three seasons, recognized that Garcia has a different style of leadership. “I welcome [Garcia’s] aggressiveness...He’s taking us to another level.”

When asked if Garcia’s firm approach worried him, Rouco said he preferred to focus on his and his team’s performance.

“I can only control what I can control,” he said. “Winning a lot of ball games and making sure my kids represent this institution with a lot of class and with good academics.”

So far, things look good for Garcia. On Jan. 25, the Florida Board of Governors approved the financing of the multi-phase stadium expansion project.

“This will be the crown jewel of the athletic depart-
Hurricanes walk away with baseball victory

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Editor

There was no fight or bench-clearing brawl and there definitely were no helmets or crutches used as weapons April 4 at Mark Light Field.

However, there was an extra-inning thriller, which included hit batters, blown leads and a 10-9 extra innings loss for the baseball team (16-16) to the University of Miami (18-13).

“I told [the pitchers] you just need to go after them,” coach Danny Price said.

“They’re a good club, but I told them it’s our stuff versus their stuff. The Hurricanes made it a priority to tap into the Golden Panthers’ bullpen, which has suffered from inconsistency and instability all season.

Starting pitcher Ryan Bernal (3-0) was pulled after allowing three runs in a mere two innings.

“We used a lot of our pitchers this past weekend, so we know we were going to be in a bad situation,” senior catcher Luis Bautista said.

An error by right fielder Rainmy Fuentes and an RBI single by first baseman Yonder Alonso, who went 3-for-4 with three RBIs, gave the Hurricanes a 1-0 lead in the first inning.

The Hurricanes tacked on two runs in the following inning. In Bernal’s two innings of work, he threw a total 58 pitches, which prompted Price to bring in reliever Brian Santana to stop the bleeding temporarily.

Santana handed the Hurricanes their first scoreless innings of the game until allowing three runs in the bottom of the fifth to put them in a 6-1 hole.

“We were down 8-1 Sunday [against Louisiana Lafayette] and climbed back in it,” Price said.

Despite having the second ranked offense in the Sun Belt Conference, the Golden Panthers could only produce two hits and one run through six innings of play.

Although Hurricanes starting pitcher Manny Miguelez gave up one run to center fielder Cody Jacobs, the Golden Panthers were hitting the ball well, recording several hard line drive outs.

Miguelez’s control was not an issue as he allowed no walks in the game, but he hit left fielder James McOwen on the shoulder in the top of the fourth inning. McOwen did not charge the mound, but he did take a long look at Miguelez as he walked towards first.

McOwen led off the top of the seventh inning with his team still trailing by five runs.

Facing Miguelez once again, he lost control of a pitch and nearly hit McOwen in the head. On the next pitch, he drove a double down the first baseline.

The double would be the catalyst to a six-run seventh inning as a series of singles and doubles, mixed with an errant throw from the catcher.

While most students receive phone calls of congratulations and encouragement prior to receiving their degree, Keila Oliveira received a phone call that was far worse.

The junior setter was completing her associates in arts degree at Miami-Dade College so that she could transfer to a division at Miami-Dade College as assistant volleyball coach, when she received the news that her mother, Lidia Oliveira, who had overcome breast cancer earlier that year, had a new battle to fight.

Doctors in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where her mother resides, had found a tumor only an inch from her brain.

“I was freaked out,” Oliveira said.

“I wanted to go back home, but I had to stay here because I didn’t have money to go.”

After finally being able to visit her mother, she decided that coming back to the United States would be the best idea.

She realized that supporting her mother financially would be the best way that she could help her.

“Over there, I was just another person. The treatment is really expensive over there,” she said.

“In case anything happened [to her], I had to know that I did everything that I could [to help her].”

As hard as it is for Oliveira to maintain her volleyball career, her classes on two different campuses and her part-time job at Miami-Dade College as assistant volleyball coach, she still managed to overcome everything that has been thrown her way despite the continuous fear and doubts that permeate her thoughts each day.

“I get really tired,” she said of her daily routine. “But my coach and teammates have been so supportive. It feels like God’s hands have been carrying me through.”

Despite having the second ranked offense in the Sun Belt Conference, the Golden Panthers could only produce two hits and one run through six innings of play.

“STRIKE: Left fielder James McOwen swings late at a pitch in the Golden Panthers’ 10-9 loss to the Hurricanes. The Panthers lead in the bottom of the 10th inning dissolved after pitcher Walker Whitley gave up the game-winning single.”

As a person, not only as an athlete or how you perform. She cares about your personal life,” Oliveira said.

Tomic’s and the rest of the team’s concern for Oliveira and her mother is clearly evident in the effort they have put into planning a volleyball fund-raiser in which all proceeds will be donated to Lidia.

The Play for a Cause Volleyball Tournament was thought of and organized by Tomic and a number of eager volunteers, including business professor Chris Ellis, who has encouraged many of his students to participate or volunteer in the fund-raiser.

Besides appreciating the role she plays on the court, Tomic is also very fond of her junior setter as a person.

“She is the height of our team, the player she plays,” Oliveira said.

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