The Beacon, April 13, 2009

Florida International University
The Student Government Association allocates money to students' resources and organizations every fiscal year. Their budget comes from the Activities and Services fee, which is paid by every student and is currently at $30.52 per credit hour.

During the Spring term of every school year, University-wide and campus-specific budget hearings are held, in which student government determines how to fund student organizations and clubs during the upcoming fiscal year.

Student Media analyzed SGA’s budget; this is part of one of a running series on how SGA has spent student fee money over the past three years. SGC at University Park budget and expenditures this year have been somewhat curtailed since 2006.

In the 2008-2009 fiscal year, SGC-UP had an expenditure budget of $220,199.45. As of April 8, $87,363, or 40 percent, had been spent.

In the previous year, SGC-UP had $290,403.00 and spent about 69 percent of it.

In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the expenditure budget was $303,437.40 and $200,198.29 or 55 percent was spent.

Money that is not spent during each fiscal year goes to an SGA reserve account that is controlled by Student Affairs President Rosa Jones. In order for SGC to use money from the reserve, it must be authorized by Jones.

If we don’t spend the dollars this year, they get rolled over next year, but we don’t see them. We have the opportunity to then put in a request and, if the request is heard, we may use some of those dollars for a project that comes up throughout the year,” said SGC-UP outgoing president, Arthur "A.J." Meyer. "So we try to make sure that we are very efficient throughout the year, especially in the Summer and Fall."

Director for Budget and Personnel Matilde Granting said that her office is responsible for reviewing all of the accounts in Student Affairs but doesn’t approve every transaction made by clubs and organization. That responsibility falls under each club or organization’s advisor.

In SGC-UP, that responsibility would fall to advisor Jose Toscano and SGC-UP comptroller Robert Chung.

Most SGA expenditures that are authorized get signed by myself and Jose [Toscano], SGA advisor,” Chung said.

Student government expenditures are documented through Expense Authorization Forms, filled by the members making the requests. These expenses are then signed and approved by Toscano and Chung. Office Manager Liliana Alfonso makes a record of the transaction by inputting it into the account history.

During the past three years, Granting said her department has worked hard to teach SGA not to spend money merely for the sake of spending because it will get rolled into the reserve account; any expenditures, she said, should line up with the strategic goals of the university.

Garcia concedes to allegations of profanity

University President Modesto A. Maidique reimposed Athletic Director Pete Garcia after a University investigation revealed Garcia used profanity, intimidated staff, lost his temper and misused state resources, according to a University report dated April 6.

Garcia apologized to Athletics, was verbally reprimanded by Maidique and must attend weekly internal counseling sessions for an undefined amount of time.

Several employees filed complaints to Human Resources against Garcia on Feb. 23. The grievances prompted Human Resources to interview coaches, staff and administrative employees to confirm the allegations.

The following allegations were substantiated by the report:

• Garcia lost his temper and used profanity when talking to staff,
• Garcia misused state resources,

In the report, Garcia admitted to all the substantiated allegations. He noted his passion for his job leads him to be tough at times, but he is committed to improving his behavior, according to the report.

Leaf through it: Tree brochure released

Hoping to spark an interest in natural preservation, University professors have released the FIU Campus Tire Guide. The brochure, written by the Wurtzheim Conservatory Glasshouse Green House curator Scott Zona and Brad Bennett, an associate professor of biology, was released on Jan. 8 and includes a key to identify trees on both campuses by major characters like leaf shape, leaf color and fruit, as well as where they can be found and whether they are native or exotic.

These guides are common in most universities that are surrounded by vast green spaces like the University of Florida and Michigan State University. "If you've ever been to other campuses in the country, they have a map or guide available of the trees," Zona said. "It's fundamental for a university's landscape, architecture or biology programs."

Zona said she always wanted to do something like it. Then, University President Modesto A. Maidique's wife, Nancy Maidique, asked him for a tour guide of the trees on campus. As a result, Zona received the authorization for the brochure, thereby increasing
The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring Semesters, and on Mondays and Wednesdays during the Summer. The Beacon is the voice of the University of Miami students, and its policies are determined by its Editorial Board. The Beacon welcomes all points of view, but reserves the right to delete spam. All original artwork © 2007 The Beacon.

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated April 10, Sergio Monteleone’s name was misspelled on page 2. Found an error? Please email any corrections to tips@thbeacon.com.

Eco-friendly fest promotes Earth Day

Music, earth balls and the smell of veggie burgers filled the air at the FIU Preserve during the Earth Day Fest.

Students for Environmental Action, the group that was in charge of the Earth Day Fest, made signs and put up earth balloons all around the University to show students the path toward a greener, and called them to participate in the event they hold every year. The preserve is the grassy land located right across the Recreation Center and next to the U.S. Century Bank Arena atUniversity Park.

“It’s an annual thing that we do in the Preserve and this year, in order to show students and fellow neighbors the issues and what we can do to try to lessen our impact on the Earth,” said Carla Cooper, SEA treasurer, who was in charge of the fest.

SEA provided games, such as Jeopardy Trivia and sack races, and raffled items such as Wow Green cleaning products, a bag made out of shirts, bowls made out of old records and green products, as well as the food.

“We just want people out here, people drive by it and they don’t even know the preserve exists. They think that it’s just a bunch of trees that will be knocked down and that there’s nothing back here,” said Jessica Okaty, a member of SEA and co-director of Earth Day Fest.

Student bands like Jacob Jeffries Band, Halfway to Mosh Halifax, Nukedown and the Eביץ (“Evez”) from Emez Accoutameni and the FIU Student Research Society all played during the event.

SEA also provided free food for all students present, consisting of veggie burgers with organic vegetables for toppings, veggie hot dogs, natural food and a variety of fruits and vegetables donated by Three Sisters Farm.

SEA also brought organizations that deal and care for the environment to provide information to students who attended the event.

There were many profit and non-profit organizations at the event informing students about what they do and giving tips about how to save the environment.


“We are here here for is to provide environmental awareness and the action to the FIU community. We want other students to be aware and learn about the environment,” said SEA President Stephany Alvarez.

FIU’s Green representatives were there as well to encourage students participate in the recycling system in order to help contain pollution in the environment.

The fest attracted around 100 students at the fest and 20 volunteers that helped with the event.

“The best I liked about the event is that they are making saving the environment more fun than it really is,” said senior Curtis Bryant.

Earth Day Fest was held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the FIU Preserve during Earth Week, from April 6-10.
**Exotic trees labeled, but not for hugging**

NURSATH, a graduate student in nutrition, authored the text for the FIU Campus Tree Guide. The guide, which is available on the Department of Biological Sciences’ website and in the Wolfe University Center, identifies both native and exotic trees on the campus.

**Health seminar examines dangers of dehydration**

NURSATH, a graduate student in nutrition, presented a seminar on the importance of hydration. She discussed the symptoms of dehydration and how to prevent it.

**Plaques of origin: No longer unnoticed**

Exotic trees on the FIU campus are now identifiable by metallic plaques. These plaques provide information about the trees’ origin and significance.

**Don't miss these weekly deals on Tasti D-Lite!**

Tasti D-Lite offers discounts on their frozen yogurt and ice cream flavors. Visit their website for more information.

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**Contact Us**

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pamela.duque@fiusm.edu

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**AT THE BAY**

Monday, April 13, 2009

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**Health seminar examines dangers of dehydration**

* Ivan Flores

The average human adult body is composed of 50 to 60 percent of water and experts say that you lose 2.5 liters of water per day. Keeping your body hydrated is an essential part of healthy living and was the topic of “Think Before You Drink.”

For Bennett, the guide was about environmental conservation. According to him, tree planting has been ongoing since the University opened its doors, but after several powerful storms like Hurricane Andrew, landscape has been severely damaged. Logging didn’t help matters either.

Many trees are not properly cared for. They are removed, relocated or cut down for landscaping,” Bennett said. “We need to continue to plant.”

Because the University is mostly a commuter campus, students have a bigger carbon footprint than on other campuses, Bennett said. For him, there aren’t enough trees on campus to offset all of the fossil fuels being released into the atmosphere.

There should be a designated area that’s an open space for trees, which won’t be destroyed because of the next building,” he said.

However, there is a way that trees have been getting cared for in the University. David Lee, chair and professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, said that because of National Arbor Day, which is celebrated the last Friday of every April, trees have been planted for 25 years now. Despite that, Lee said more could have been done.

There have been times in the past where there could have been more responsibility in the administration,” Lee said.

Even through the efforts put forth by the University during National Arbor Day and Earth Week, which was from April 6-10, Lee said more needs to be done.

“We need to do a better job at educating them about that. Now is the time to start,” Lee said.

The FIU Campus Tree Guide can be found at the Information Desk in the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center or in the University Park campus at the Department of Biological Sciences main office in OR 167. It is also available on the Department of Biological Sciences Web site at http://www.fiu.edu/~biology/html/outreach/campustreeguide.pdf.
In light of the recent development, the university reprimanded Athletic Director Pete Garcia. The Beacon has been compelled to respond with an opinion on the incident and the following judgments should be handled. While Garcia has apologized to his immediate staff, we feel that the administrative student body and the University community at-large are also due an apology.

Garcia has been accused of overall unprofessional management and poor leadership style, misuse of state funds, hostile work environment, and improper attendance reporting. According to a report filed with the Employee and Labor Relations Department of Human Resources Division April 6. In the past, FIU athletics has come under scrutiny for misconduct, but Garcia has the greatest public visibility than any university administrator with arguably the least investment in building a quality athletic program.

This represents the poor judgment of one individual; a university administrator with arguably greater visibility than any other on campus.

The Beacon feels that the employment of an individual is among the most sensitive of matters, and should be handled and addressed by the university administration. Consider however, having a direct supervisor of your raising his or her voice at you, while using profanity, in a manner that you, the employee, would describe as intimidating.

Considering working in a professional environment and being required to take care of your business for a direct supervisor, such as collecting his or her dry cleaning.

Finally, consider the organization you work for converting a five day four-hour work week to four days, but that supervisor continuing the old five day practice.

Garcia described his “intimating” actions as those of a passionate leader who cannot lower expectations, with the goal of making FIU a top notch athletics program, and that he was unaware that personal business was not to be conducted that way within the office, as it was permissible with his previous employer, the University of Miami.

Those who are of the highest University standing should be held to the highest standard. While their missteps may be magnified, this is not without due cause.

Garcia has issued an apology to the department he leads, but the question for the students, as the largest financial supporter of athletics, is has this been sufficient for you? If so, misdeemors like sending a staffer to pick up some clean shirts are no big deal, and intensity must be tolerable in building a quality athletic department.

If not, how then should an administrator, who twice declined to comment on the story, be welcomed back into the fold of the University? Garcia can begin making amends by talking to the community and coming clean to more than just his immediate staff. Garcia, at the very least, owes the student body and University community an apology.

Money Talks
Colleges favor wealthier students

OLGA VICENS Staff Writer

Colleges across the United States have been faced with severe budget cuts this past year. In order to make up for these budget cuts, many colleges have turned to accepting more students who do not require need-based financial aid.

While I understand that financial problems mean colleges have to try to avoid budget cuts, I believe this decision to accept less students who are qualified, but don’t have the money to attend that particular university will hurt these colleges in the long run or when the economy improves.

Brandeis University, which is need-blind except for international, wait-listed and transfer students, accepted 10 percent more international students than it normally would this year.

However, with the recession more students are applying for financial aid for college and these colleges say that they can only afford to give so many need-based scholarships. Not only that, but some students already receiving financial aid in these schools are also starting to require more in order to stay enrolled.

Rodney M. Ono, the director of student financial services at Carleton College, stated to the Times that even families that make $200,000 a year are applying for aid this year. This is even more common among families earning this much who have more than one child going to college.

Accepting students who are less qualified only because they can pay tuition will lead to a lower standard for these universities.

This lower standard will eventually make them less prestigious and make it more difficult for them to compete with other universities both in sports and academics.

“There’s going to be a cascading of talented lower-income kids down the social hierarchy leaving American higher education, and some country that needs a cure – a safe, uncontaminated one.

To women matters, the Miami Veterans Hospital ran two different inspections of its equipment before discovering the contamination. On Dec. 22, 2008, the DVA warned affiliated hospitals throughout the country of the problem after being informed of the contamination in Tennessee and Georgia. The Miami Veterans Hospital ran its tests and claimed they were clean. More thorough inspections in March revealed the opposite.

So whom can we trust when the hospitals are making such dangerous mistakes so regularly? Of course there is human error to take into account, but does that really apply in this situation?

We can trust not one isolated case where one individual forgot to clean an instrument and a patient was infected (although that is not acceptable either). This is an epidemic, a wave of carelessness spreading throughout the country that needs a cure – a safe, uncontaminated one.

In a notice posted on its Web site urging patients to seek testing, the Department of Veterans Affairs explains that between May 2004 and March 12, 2009, a tube that attaches to the endoscope equipment was not to be conducted that way within the office, as it was permissible with his previous employer, the University of Miami.

If not, how then should an administrator, who twice declined to comment on the story, be welcomed back into the fold of the University? Garcia can begin making amends by talking to the community and coming clean to more than just his immediate staff. Garcia, at the very least, owes the student body and University community an apology.

More attention needed to avoid tragic medical errors

ANA MARIA AROCHA Contributing Writer

A few years ago I learned that my uncle died of AIDS – and not of cancer, as I had been told. I was scared for my life. This is not a group of students who are going to be better because they will have the more academic, competitive students and the better sports teams.

Not only that but it is also unfair to the students who work hard because they are told that is what it takes to get into a decent school when in reality all that is necessary is to have well-off parents.

“I think that is horrible,” said sophomore Karin Vallega, a chemistry major. “They should accept students based on intelligence and talent instead of how much money they have.”

It also sends the wrong message to students who can afford to pay tuition. It’s telling them that even though they might not have the grades, they can still have the advantage over a hard-working, low-income student.

“If you are a student of means or ability, or both, there has never been a better year,” Robert A. Sevier, an enrollment consultant to colleges, told the Times.

This country will move out of its recession and when it does, these colleges are going to feel the loss of potential students – students declined solely because of financial aid reasons. So when looking at applicants for the following semester, these colleges need to seriously consider the cost of cutting such students from their roster.
New remasters not so Fab for die-hard fans

Sept. 9, 2009 will represent the biggest day for Beatles fanatics in quite some time. This is the day the long-awaited digital remastering of the Beatles’ original discography will be released, along with a special Beatles-only Rock Band.

The remastering of the tracks is something that Beatles fans have been asking for since the day after the subpar quality ’60s CD transfers were released.

The idea of hearing the original albums, in all of the hi-fi glory the Fab Four originally intended (in mono!) is enough to get any Beatlemaniac salivating, and I count myself among them. The Beatles were meticulous in the preparation of their albums, being one of the first bands to really take a direct hand in the production and mixing of their albums, especially Paul McCartney, the perfectionist and driving force behind the first Beatles re-release of the millennium, Let It Be ... Naked.

When the original CDs were released, it was a shoddy job at best. The bottom end was removed almost entirely, burying McCartney’s groundbreaking work for lead by example, how to lead with integrity and how to be quick to listen and slow to speak,” De Rojas said.

The sorority held its Founder’s Day brunch on April 5 in which Tomaselli attended with her daughter and niece.

“I wanted them to see how proud I am, that I had the opportunity to be a part of FIU’s history by starting the first national sorority,” Tomaselli said. “I don’t think in my wildest dreams could I have hoped for what we have today. I wanted our chapter to survive the test of time but we have more than survived – we have thrived.”

To learn more about Phi Sigma Sigma, visit the Campus Life Office in GC 2140.
April brings drought in hip-hop music, releases.

It’s really hard to write this right now. Please, somebody give me something to say. This month may be the hardest month in hip-hop I can remember. I’m sure everybody is thinking the same thing. I’m sure all 11 Mims fans in the nation are satisfied. But there are other fans that will be satisfied in the coming weeks.

So let’s move into May, where there are some promising projects on the horizon. Though even May is mostly tough to like. The first is Philadelphia Freeway 2. Freeway get’s his second solo album coming for some time, and the fact that he is Marshall, and Moby is Moby. Eminem can still take a beat, eat it, let it out and eat it again just to make sure it’s dead, and he is definitely better off coming back than resting on four albums. The first single, “We made you” is what we’re used to seeing out of a first hit, but it’s interesting to see how the whole album takes shape. You know how I feel about the overall quality of an album (see last column). Unless somebody surprises the landscape, those two records are all I have. 

Dear Summer: Please take us out of this even though we are college students, will be relieved to see the bass on the Beatles’ music is the most original, intended booming bottom end , despite the fact that it’s ultimately the same albums made to get the best music out to people as soon as possible, and not just to milk every penny they out of fans.

THE BEACON – Monday, April 13, 2009

This Week

Monday • April 13

WHAT: Bahamian Student Organization – Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Silverstar
WHERE: 7 p.m.
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Preksha Meditation Club
WHERE: GC 1223
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Classical Music Performance
WHERE: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Worth-heim Performing Arts Center
CONTACT: 305-348-0496

On Campus

Tuesday • April 14

WHAT: Truth for Life – Meeting
WHERE: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 340
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Praksha Meditation Club
WHERE: 12 p.m.
WHERE: GC 305
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Students for a free Tibet
WHERE: 3:30 p.m.
WHERE: GC 241
CONTACT: 305-348-2285

WHAT: Silverstar
WHERE: 7 p.m.
CONTACT: 954-727-0950

WHAT: Spa Week
WHERE: Call
WHERE: The Standard Hotel
CONTACT: 305-673-1717

- Compiled by Mariana Ochoa

Despite improved quality, price tempers excitement

TOWERS, page 5

fear of gaining distortion and losing the rest of the sound.

The remasters promise to return the original, intended booming bottom end, and this is great for me, as I’ve always felt the bass on the Beatles’ music is the most important element.

So, needless to say, the promise of high quality, digitally remastered CDs is enough to convince me to shell out for the box set, as I am a sucker for all things Beatles and have bought each release since I can remember.

However, I’ve invested so much in this band both financially and emotionally that I feel manipulated a bit. Apple Corps knows I’m going to spend the money on this even though I could very easily download it for free at high quality anyways.

Sure, they’ve added some fancy packaging, but that just serves to distract from the fact that it’s ultimately the same albums I’ve bought before.

And the whole run up to the release has been littered with pretty obvious attempts at drumming up free publicity for their release, from rumors of unreleased tracks seeing the light of day so far (to dice on that) to a one-off reunion between McCartney and Ringo Starr last weekend.

It would be nice to think that the surge of recent Beatles-related news was just a coincidence, but it can’t be brushed away. Everyone knew these remasters were coming for some time, and the fact that they’ve kept it a “secret” while allowing details to leak out about the development and process of the remastering bothers me.

The Beatles fan base is the most devoted fan base in the history of music, just above stoned Deadheads, and Apple knows that people will come out in droves to buy anything with the name on it, so to keep it under wraps for so long and make the fans wait is unfair to the people who will be out there Sept. 9 shelling out $18 per disc.

Musicians don’t really “owe” anything to their fans, but it would be nice to get the feeling that, just once, a decision was made to get the best music out to people as soon as possible, and not just to milk every penny they out of fans.

Pit Pong

JOEY KOSANKE/THE BEACON

Ball of Fury: Manuel Aranda, a junior industrial and system engineering major, plays a game of table tennis in the Graham Center Pit during the early afternoon on April 10.
Student goes from classroom to professional racing

CHRIS GREEN
Contributing Writer

At age 12, Andrew Carbonell decided to help his father fill a void.

His father, Alfredo, had not raced professionally for 10 years and found himself wanting to race once again. Bonding through racing go-karts, the father and son hobby evolved into a professional career that Carbonell never imagined possible.

“At all started out as just a father-son hobby and it has taken off very quickly,” the FIU freshman said. “In reality, it all started because my father wanted to get back into racing. He had done it in the past and we wanted to get back into it for fun.”

Now as a 19-year-old student, Andrew finds himself with a full-time ride participating in the full season for the 2009 KONI Challenge with Freedom Autosport in the Street Tuner class.

The KONI Challenge is a NASCAR-owned racing series that competes on road courses around the nation, using cars that include Porsche, Ferrari, Mini Cooper, Ford and Mazda.

Carbonell began his racing career in the Homestead-Miami Speedway and quickly won several championships, including the 2005 Florida 125cc title. While Carbonell was rising up the ranks, his family watched in awe.

“My mom doesn’t get too worried,” he said. “She will once in a while and ask how it’s all going, but she went through all of the hard times when my dad raced. I have two brothers and one sister and I’m the only one who has any interest in racing.”

In addition to all of this, Andrew was invited to Chihuca, Mexico for the Easykart 100cc race where he proceeded to set a new track record in 2005.

Andrew had quickly shown that he was competitive and had the drive, attracting the attention of the vice president of Operations at Homestead-Miami Speedway, Albert Garcia, whom Andrew’s father knew as well.

Next thing he knew, Andrew found himself with a summer job at the track, keeping him close to where he felt most at home. Being around racing is all it took for Carbonell to decide that this was what he wanted to do professionally.

In 2006, Andrew’s career took a fast track when he earned his racing license from the Skip Barber Racing School, and he began racing in the Spec Miata class of the Sports Car Club of America.

He set track records at Sebring International Raceway, Mosport Motorsports Park and Homestead, and finished seventh in the 2007 SCCA Mazda MX-5 Cup Championship.

In addition, he achieved another career milestone in his first professional race in 2007, when he participated in the SCCA Pro Racing Playboy Mazda MX-5 Cup. From there, Andrew started numerous Grand-Am KONI Challenge races, including the Fresh From Florida 200 at Daytona, where he co-drove with actor Patrick Dempsey.

He ran as high as second in the season opener at Daytona before exiting due to gearbox issues.

Pitching duels silence offenses

BASEBALL, page 8

but in the third and fourth inning they began to get on base against the Golden Panthers’ No. 1 starter. In the bottom of the third inning, the Blue Raiders broke the shutout with an unearned run.

However, he would get into trouble again in the fourth when he gave up a walk and two singles with two outs. This tied the game at 2-2.

The Blue Raiders would not cross the plate again as Rembisz shut down MTSU for the next 4 1/3 innings. It was a 2-2 game until the top of the eighth, when Mike Martinez led off the inning with a home run. Michael Vargas capped off the three-run inning with a solo blast of his own to go ahead by four runs.

FIU 3, MTSU 1

Pitcher Kasey Barrett couldn’t match Jennifer Giadrek’s no-hitter, but she came pretty close.

Barrett finished off the sweep with her 13th complete game of the season on Saturday as FIU defeated Middle Tennessee 3-1. Barrett (12-9) struck out nine and walked three over six innings and six runs, but half of the runs were unearned. The result was a 6-3 loss at the hands of the Blue Raiders who avoided the series loss on April 10.

The Golden Panthers got off to another early lead, 1-0, but the Blue Raiders snatched the lead away with a productive third inning. Four singles and an error led the three runs, two of which were unearned.

Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, Blue Raiders starter Kenneth Roberts did not allow them any big innings. Instead he spread out three runs throughout seven innings of work. And the Blue Raiders pitching staff would not let another run score.

The Blue Raiders’ conference record improved to 12-5 and the Golden Panthers are right behind them in the standings at 9-5.

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

Want to work for FIU athletics Media Relations? If you have a federal work-study, this is your chance. Please contact John Angel. 305-348-1357

PROFESSIONAL RANKS: Andrew Carbonell, 19, signs autographs during the Homestead-Miami Speedway.

Panthers earn first sweep since 2007

SOFBALL, page 8

In the top of the sixth, MTSU scored their only run on a wild pitch. Bell’s home run came in the bottom of the sixth with a runner on base to go ahead by four runs, 5-1.

FIU 3, MTSU 1

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Athletic director to attend counseling

GARCIA, page 1

Garcia did not think asking his secretary to carry out such jobs would not be a problem because it was allowed in his previous employments. His secretary confirmed Garcia stopped asking her to conduct his personal business immediately after learning it was not permissible.

Athletics and Garcia declined to comment to The Beacon, despite several requests.

Maidaque said he will be working alongside Vice President of Human Resources Jaffus Hardrick to make sure Garcia receives the proper counseling. Hardrick also declined to comment.

The final allegation against Garcia was only partly substantiated.

During the four-day week schedule last summer, employees said they were told to work on Fridays. Athletics did not initially enforce a five-day work schedule.

Garcia stated he did not authorize for employees to work five times a week at first because it was not possible with other seasonal programs and such a heavy workload.

But three weeks into the summer schedule, most employees were able to work on Fridays.

The claim that employees were told to keep lights off on Friday work days was not proven and also denied by Garcia.

Maidaque hired Garcia on Oct. 10, 2006, when the football program was in its first year in the Football Bowl Subdivision. The athletic director reports directly to the president.

Maidaque and the FIU community do not condone Garcia’s behavior, but feel his managing skills will progress.

“We wanted to make it clear the addressing employees in a disrespectful manner is not the FIU way,” Maidaque told The Beacon. “I have great confidence that Mr. Garcia will improve his management style.”

POTENT PITCHING

Team allows two runs in three games

LELANI LAUREANO

Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers swept their first opponent since 2007 when they defeated the Sun Belt Conference for Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders on April 10-11 due to dominant pitching.

FIU’s pitching held MTSU to only two runs and eight hits over 23 innings including a Jennifer Gniadek no-hitter in the second game.

The Golden Panthers are riding their second five-game winning streak of the season.

FIU 1, MTSU 0

Junior Lauren Spiers singled in the bottom of the ninth to win the first game of the series 1-0 against Middle Tennessee on April 10.

Junior Kasey Barrett struck out a career-high 13 batters and compiled her second shutout of the season.

Barrett (11-9) threw her 12th complete game and allowed two hits in the entire game.

The Golden Panthers (22-22, 5-8 Sun Belt) had 13 hits. FIU also left a season-high 15 runners on base.

FIU struggled to get runners to score, especially in the bottom of the fourth. After three consecutive singles by Spiers, Ashley McClain and Jessica Landau, FIU had the bases loaded with no outs. Blue Raiders’ pitcher Lindsey Vander Lapt was able to get out of the jam and FIU stranded the runners.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Kim Rodriguez singled and became the Golden Panthers’ career leader in total bases with 341, the record previously held by assistant coach Jennifer Owens.

With bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth, Spiers singled to left to score Bell for the walk-off, game-winning run.

FIU 5, MTSU 1

Freshman pitcher Jennifer Gniadek just wanted to get a win.

In the process she recorded her first career no-hitter against the Blue Raiders. It is the sixth no-no in FIU history and the first since 2003.

“It felt great,” Gniadek said. “The win always comes first, but the no-hitter was in the back of my mind.”

Gniadek (9-9) struck out five batters and had one earned run on a wild pitch in seven innings.

FIU (23-22, 6-8) played a well-rounded game with great pitching, strong defense and timely hitting to sweep the double-header 5-1.

“Pitching has been our strength throughout the year, but we haven’t necessarily played the defense behind them,” said head coach Beth Cochran.

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Sun Belt foes split first two games

SERGIO BONILLA

Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers’ strong starting pitching gave their bullpen much needed rest against the No. 2 Sun Belt Conference team-Middle Tennessee State University.

Scott Rembisz pitched into the ninth to capture the first win of the series, but Tom Ebert could not overcome 14 hits and three unearned runs.

FIU 5, MTSU 2

After giving up a combined 24 runs in their last two games, starter Scott Rembisz decided to close the door vs. the Blue Raiders. The Golden Panthers (20-10, 9-4 Sun Belt) came away on top of a tight contest decided in the last two innings 5-2 on April 11 on the road.

Rembisz struck out a career-high 10 batters, allowed just two runs (one earned) and he is now 5-0 with a 2.84 ERA for the season.

With a 2-0 lead, Rembisz was mowing down Blue Raiders batters,