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The Beacon, March 31, 2010

Florida International University

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The Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free campaign held its first open forum for students, faculty and staff to ask questions about the initiative to ban the use of tobacco products on campus. A panel of University health professors and directors of the campaign were present with the goal of addressing concerns and listening to feedback about the proposed policy, which is currently set to begin July 1, 2010.

“We need to try and create a community dialogue,” said Dr. Richard Botelho, chair of the campaign committee and assistant dean at the College of Medicine who was the moderator of the forum.

“It’s only through engaging both sides of the constituency that one can really decide how to move forward,” he said.

Over 100 University members attended the event in the East Graham Center Ballroom, along with individuals in the Biscayne Bay Campus who were able to view and contribute to the discussion through a live Web cast.

**SMOKE-FREE, page 2**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**AT THE BAY PAGE 7**

After almost 25 years, the Biscayne Bay Campus Library is set to re-open and present an extensive remediation process.

**OPINION PAGE 4**

Getting Schooled: An op-ed tribute to Kendall Berry and discovering her thoughts on the University’s safety in the aftermath of last week’s tragedy.

**LIFE PAGE 5**

The Hollis-Nearl FIU’s newest exhibit about the evolution of grapevines and its corresponding wines, and a lecture discussing some of the best known brand of fine wine.

**LIFE PAGE 5**

SGA: SGA elections have come and gone. Uncontested elections in SGC-BBC have eliminated all concerns of fraud for students.

**LIFE PAGE 5**

The Miamian’s FIU’s newest exhibit about the evolution of grapevines and its corresponding wines, and a lecture discussing some of the best known brand of fine wine.

**SPORTS PAGE 7**

FIU continues to mourn the loss of Kendall Berry who showcased special qualities on and off the field.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Engineering and Computing Town Hall Meeting (March 25) 12-3 p.m.**

**Panel Forum: DC Structures & Interior Design in the South Florida Region (March 25) 6 p.m.**

**SEMINARS**

**Asian Studies seminar and Film Screening - Red Sonja**

**ARTS**

**Music recital by University of Miami CCM**

**WEATHER**

WEDNESDAY

Partly Cloudy

LOW: 58

HIGH: 81

THURSDAY

Mostly Cloudy

LOW: 58

HIGH: 81

FRIDAY

Sunny

LOW: 61

HIGH: 82

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**TEARFUL TRIBUTE**

President Mark Rosenberg asked the audience to join hands in solidarity against senseless violence during Kendall Berry’s Celebration of Life ceremony on March 29.

**Capacity crowd gathers to celebrate life of slain student**

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**

Asst. Sports Director

Family, friends and teammates gathered to honor the life of FIU football player Kendall Berry on March 29 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

More than 1,000 chairs were set up, but it was not enough to accommodate the number of people who filled the arena to pay their respects to Berry, who was stabbed to death at the Modesto Maidique Campus on March 25. The memorial was designed to celebrate the successes of Berry’s life rather than focus on the brutal way he was murdered. However, as songs, such as Amazing Grace, played throughout the arena, the anger and sadness was evident.

“When you see the power, the emotion that’s in this room today, you see what you’re dealing with,” said FIU coach Mario Cristobal. “It’s a guy who was a difference-maker in all our lives.”

Cristobal went on to tell the story of when he first met Berry and his parents, in Haines City, Fla., noting that the running back was very respectful and well mannered. Meanwhile, Berry’s former academic advisor, Marcus Bright, spoke of Berry’s dedication to school and football, also adding that Berry would tell his teammates that it’s OK to walk away from a fight.

“He had a sense of urgency,” Bright said, his voice rising. “He has to be saying with the same sense of urgency today to all of us not to let his death be in vain.”

Roommate, teammate, and friend Marquis Rolle fought back tears as he stood on podium BERRY, page 7

**SGC-BBC SENATE**

**Speaker accused of fraud**

**JASMYN ELIOTT**

BBC Managing Editor

Once known for his “by the book” approach to council proceedings, the speaker of the senate for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus may soon be known for tampering with election ballots.

Nickolay Chikishev, who currently serves as the third speaker of the senate for the current SGC-BBC administration under President Sholom Neistein, aimed to interfere with voting procedures at the SGC-BBC elections on March 29.

In a mass e-mail sent to students within his business course, Chikishev solicited their University e-mail addresses and Panther ID numbers in order to submit ballots in favor of SGC-BBC presidential candidate Zaha Arabi and SGC-BBC vice presidential candidate Tanitha Dil.

Within the e-mail, Chikishev accused SGA of wasteful spending and promised that if Arabi and Dil won the elections, he would work as treasurer to “actually provide students with tangible benefits.”

“I don’t think he realizes the severity of his actions,” said Kiria Samuel, SGC-BBC elections commissioner.

Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation, says that Chikishev’s actions came as a “big shock” to him, but that has not stopped him from taking action.

“I made it a point to set up a meeting with Nick as soon as possible so I could talk to him,” said Zapata. “I also alerted the judicial committee so they can decide how to handle it.”

**SGC-BBC, page 3**

Students spoke with former President Modesto Maidique and Nancy Maidique after the town-hall meeting.

**SMOKE-FREE, page 2**

**Brie Rojas has wowed crowds with her first-year success**

PAGE 8
On-campus smoking ban spreads mixed feelings throughout forum

By STEPHANIE GABRIEL, JOEL DELGADO

On-campus smoking ban spreads mixed feelings throughout forum

The uncontested presidential and vice presidential candidates, said to Student Media that although she knew the debates were postponed from their previous date of March 26 to a new date, she didn’t know when that would be until the day.

“I didn’t check my e-mail until this morning and by the time I was done setting up [for my campaigning] it was 11 a.m.,” Jimenez said.

Jimenez said she learned of the new date, time and place of the debates through an e-mail she received on Sunday morning.

Cristina Loreto, an Arts & Sciences senator running for an at-large seat, said she was working during that time and had class immediately after.

“I would have loved to be there but I took off from work on Friday and couldn’t take that time off again,” Loreto said.

He also brought up external factors, the weather and the memorial service for Golden Graham running back Kendall Berry.

“Young people might not be thinking about their health,” O’Keefe said. But to tell us that ‘civil liberties’ is a right, that’s not the right thing to be doing at a university. That’s not something we can support,” O’Keefe said.

Throughout the forum, numerous members of the audience, who were a part of the minority of smokers on campus, expressed their opinion toward the ban, with a large number of them reacting negatively.

“So you’re saying that either I successfully quit smoking or I lose my job?” said Patricia Pereira-Pujol, an information services librarian at FIU.

“There is already a policy, if it was enforced then there wouldn’t be a problem. But to tell us that we have to quit or leave? I know most of my colleagues do not agree with this.,” said Jannice Rice, a business manager.

“I recognize the difficulty that having a smoke-free environment places on those who are addicted to tobacco. We are going to be here to help for those who wish to quit and we are going to bring in the resources to do so,” said Jannice Rice.

Future town hall forums are being planned and will be announced by the Tobacco-free Campus Steering Committee of the Healthy University Task Force.

“I don’t think people should leave here thinking that this is the end of the story,” Botelho said “This is just the beginning of a debate.”

After the forum, the campaign stated that it was considering pushing back the July 1 deadline.

For more information, e-mail fiu.smoke.free@gmail.com.
New technology, dining part of library remodeling process

GISELE ROBLES
Contributing Writer

Since 1988, the Biscayne Bay Campus library has been home to thousands of books and a host of students looking for a quiet refuge to study.

Finally, the library is undergoing a much-deserved facelift with a series of reconstructions and remodeling projects.

The Biscayne Bay Campus library as well as the Modesto Maidique Campus library will be undergoing some remodeling in the next four years,” said Scott Kass, department head of Reader Services at BBC.

The library, according to Kass, will be remodeled to better accommodate the students including aesthetic changes with new lighting and cleaned carpets. Students will also have access to the new snack bar and a Starbucks coffee station.

Implementing a Starbucks coffee stand was one of our main goals,” said Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Sholom Neinstein.

“Fraud is when the information is taken,” he said.

The snack bar, complete with sandwiches, fruits, drinks, and an assortment of chips and candy is already completed and accessible to students.

“Was so happy to see it,” Neinstein said.

The information desk will also be changed to what Kass explains as “new information commons.”

“It is a computer center where students may work in groups and have access to multimedia, moveable workstations, and white boards,” said Sarah Hammill, distance learning librarian.

Additionally, students will have comfy sofa chairs and couches which will replace the current desk chairs. Flat screen plasmas and white boards will also be implemented so that students can rehearse their presentations and get together for group meetings.

Although the new changes seem to excite students, there are still some concerns about the modifications.

“The snack bar would be perfect because it is closer than the food court but the plasma TVs may undermine the main purpose of the library — reading,” said Dani Massaro, junior and journalism major.

Kass is optimistic about the changes.

“This place will look like a mixture of your living room, a lounge café, and a hotel lobby. We want students to feel comfortable and feel relaxed, maybe even to take a nap here,” he said.

Additional reporting by Maureen Nino.

Despite accusations, Chikishev maintains innocence

SGC-BBC, page 1

Concerned on how this may affect elections Zapata also contacted the students e-mailed by Chikishev.

“We do not know how many students votes may have been compromised,” Zapata said. “We do not have any numbers.”

However, at the end of Chikishev’s e-mail, he confirms receiving the information of student.

“It doesn’t matter what he does with the information,” said Arbabi aski. “He already has it.”

Both Dil and Arbabi aski denied having any prior knowledge of Chikishev’s plans and have expressed deep disappointment. Dil referred to Chikishev’s actions as “selfish.”

“It’s sad,” said Dil. “This pushes back our remodeling.”

In retrospect, Chikishev admits that he was so happy to see his actions.

“I am shocked about what has happened, but also by who it came from — our senate speaker,” said Arbabi aski. “I don’t see how anyone can see this as an option.”

Both Dil and Arbabi aski are concerned with how Chikishev’s actions will affect the outcome of elections and SGC-BBC overall.

“This could bring up the possibility of a one-council system again,” said Dil. “We should not get the blame due to one person.”

Graduate senator Dametrix Vincent, while sympathetic, still believes Chikishev should be disciplined.

“I get what he was trying to do,” said Vincent. “But, after being notified he kept trying to acquire student information, that is an impeachable offense.”

Neinstein finds Chikishev’s actions to be “more than a shame.”

“It is unacceptable and I will not tolerate it,” he said.

Neinstein has asked for Chikishev’s resignation, but the offer was refused unless a surprising request was met.

“[Chikishev] had the audacity to state that he would resign only if 1 and Cici [Chikishev ‘Cici’ Battle, SGC-BBC vice president] resign,” Neinstein said.

Although Neinstein has asked for Chikishev’s resignation, he sent a follow-up e-mail telling the students to refrain from sending them their information, as it would ultimately compromise the election.

According to Chikishev, there was “never any discussion about absentee ballots” and his ultimate intention was to boost voter turnout.

“My goal is to collect their information, I would be able to cast their vote if they wanted to vote for these candidates,” he said.

Chikishev also stated that the problems with the online voting system was further cause for his actions.

Zapata disagrees.

“These problems have nothing to do with circumventing the election in favor of one candidate,” he said.

After The Beacon spoke with Neinstein and reviewed the SGA constitution and election codes, it was noted that there are no procedures for absentee ballots stated in either document. According to Zapata, this is the case because absentee ballots are not used in any student election.

Dil states that Chikishev’s argument is neither “logical” nor “credible.”

“Our voting system is well promoted,” said Dil, also stating that the paper ballot option was available in case the online voting system was down. “If he wanted to [solve the absentee ballot issue], then he should have included every candidate’s information and platform. If he had the right intentions, he would have asked Kiela.”

In retrospect, Chikishev admits that he made a “poor decision” on his part.

“The intention was good, but I realize that it was misconstrued,” he said. “I apologize that their names [Dil and Arbabi aski] have been involved in this.”

Additional reporting by Sergio Montealegre and Maureen Nino.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
BBC - WUC 155 at 10:00am
MMC - GC West Ballrooms at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Student Health Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2010 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.
GETTING SCHOOLED

Baker’s murder case brings new realization to FIU

When I first received word about the stabbing and subsequent death of Kayla Baker, I didn’t know what to think. This was peculiar to me specifically because I had never personally known the Golden Panthers’ running back myself. I never met him, or exchanged words with him; I don’t even know if he was in the field at one of the home football games I attended last year.

But after watching the first breaking news report on Channel 7 last Thursday night, I felt an inexplicable sense of shock and an overwhelming sadness. A stranger – but more than that, a student – had been killed on my own campus, nearly half an hour after I had left it to go home.

I, along with the rest of the University, recognized Kendall Baker’s store as a safe space for kind campus. Hopefully, it will be the last. As President Mark Rosenberg assured in a video to the University community.

The week was punctuated with accounts of students suffering extreme acts of violence. A student at Southridge High School, 16-year-old Edward Collier, was shot and killed at a bus stop in front of his mother and brother on March 25 after finding his brother trying to fight off his bullies. The killer – Adrian Doron dos Elias, 20 – was the brother of one of the teens involved in the fight, according to FAMU Hite.

The week before, on March 17, 15-year-old Deerfield Beach Middle School student Josie Lou Ratley was punched and beaten at a bus stop with steel-toed boots.

She remained in critical condition while her family, her attacker, her community, and the public waited for answers.

And while I still believe that FIU is a safe school, I can no longer walk through Primera Casa and the Graham Center without wondering. “How could this happen, and of all places, here?" We must now remind ourselves that our campus is not isolated from reality. The mentality of “that would never happen” has been completely shattered.

This realization, for me, could not have hit harder after attending Berry’s memo- ry vigil – “a commemoration of his life” – on Monday afternoon. The U.S. Century Bank Arena was filled with 1,000 seats, and many people, including Berry’s parents, siblings, friends and others of Berry’s accomplishments. It was draped with black curtains and surrounded by a stage line, with peace lilies and bouquets, with a wreath sitting at its center.

Led by Master of Ceremonies Dr. Stephen M. Fain, University professor emeritus and a faculty representative from the NCAA, the service was high-lighted with memories of Berry from his friends and family. Its participants managed to convey an overwhelming sadness.

Yet the service could not escape the fact that Panthers and others had also gathered to mourn.

When the sobbing began, I did my best to keep my composure, but tears still managed to creep to the corners of my eyes. I could not imagine what was going through the minds of people who clung to others for support, sobbing, inconsolable.

As a university, we come to know the other side of tragedy, the side that no one wants to experi- ence or endure.

I still cannot believe the head-lines, the videos, the reports; I can’t help but do a double-take as I pass by where Berry collapsed to the ground. The spot that was once marked with a grisly neon “X” is now the site of flowers and scribbled “Rest in Peace” messages.

We do not live in a bubble and we can no longer not expect that things could be considered improbable or unlikely. We have to remember that we are not immune to sense- less tragedy and that yes, as the adage goes, life is precious and fleeting.

Getting Schooled is a recur- rent article that runs every other Wednesday.

DAVID BARRIOS
Opinion Editor

Uncontested SGA elections not fair to student body

During the last two editorial- ized publications in The Beacon, serious concerns were brought up in regards to one of the voting methods used by the SGC-MMC senate: voting by acclamation.

In these editorials, the way this voting method works is misunderstood.

First, when a senator motions to use this voting method, it does not happen just because someone seconds the motion.

If it is seconded, it then goes to a single vote by show of hands with the majority rule.

Roll call votes are not used voting on procedural motions, as this would literally make it impossible to get any business done due to the time constraints.

Second, voting by acclamation is in no way shape or form like an anonymous vote.

If this method is used, the vote must be unanimous in Section 7.3, which states the elections board can establish “temporo- rary, supplemental guidelines” that are only for the current election.

Molina’s second VP pick, Ken Castra, also withdrew from her position.

The elections board would not allow Molina to pick another candidate since any other candidate would have failed to attend “mandatory” candidate meetings, held on March 10 and 11.

What did student govern- ment gain from this? It’s only natural that more people would pay attention or vote in a contested election. During the last elections, voting at SGC- MMC dropped from over 3,000 voters to just over 1,400 votes.

Suppose to say SGA controls the allocation of Activities and Services fees, just over $11 million. It’s all student funds.

Student awareness is a must.

Certainly, one must ques- tion Molina’s judgement in picking candidates who seem to have no chance of winning a post, a candidate who can’t pick a decent VP either has a lot of bad luck or a lack of judgement.

Of course, you can’t deny the fact that Helen Ramirez and Nick Autillo bring intelligence and experience into their positions. They’re sure to do quite well in their respective positions.

Students should be allowed to have a choice for their elected leaders. Where’s the incentive to vote if there is just one person on the presi- dential ballot?

Or, maybe my grandmother could better sum up this issue: “What is this, Cuba 1959?”

In the end though, what’s up with a system that so heavily favors uncontested elections.

There is no specific person that you can accuse here. It is fault of the entire institution.

Well, there’s always next year.

BEN F. BADGER, JR.
Special to The Beacon

Senate voting misinterpreted

Disinterested voters show up to vote in uncontested SGC-MMC elections.

Ben F. Badger is a senior in liberal studies , and currently serves the FIU community as the SGC-MMC press secretary.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. Their views are opinionated from editorial and reflect indi- vidual properties of the author and/or members of the University community.

Send us your Letters

Get a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to a faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts to the group Winning Loser. Romm.com or drop by our offices at 1st floor, Student Center. Your letter can be to include your name, major and year.

Winner Loser

Republican National Com- mittee members are being charged with spending $520,000 on “extravagant” events including a party at a six million dollar villa in West Hollywood. The Guild thered during November in the- month’s BCAB reports.

Quotationation

“Sometimes it is not until they return home in flag-draped coffins that we become truly aware of all that we are asking of them.”

Prince Charles

on British troops in Afghanistan following visit.
Marketing techniques aim to disguise dangerous drugs

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Nextium’s “The Purple Pill” and Nasonex’s Antonio Banderas’ bee—some prescription drugs have succeeded at separating themselves from the competition and the pharmaceutical industry has turned into a business that’s seemingly more about making money than making people better.

With their new exhibit and the whole country abuzz with talk of health care, the Wolfsonian-FIU invited Scott Piegrossi and Neil Flanzraich on March 26 for “A Prescription for Good Branding” on a discussion on the process of branding pharmaceutical drugs from naming to advertising for Health Policy.

The lecture delved into the history of pharmaceuticals, patients have always had a preference for the more popular and advertised prescription drugs, said Flanzraich, former president of IV AX Corporation who is responsible for naming Aleve, and Piegrossi, vice president of the Miami-based Brand Institute.

Over 70 percent of the decision about what medicine a patient is prescribed is based on the patient’s push to get the drugs advertised on TV, news and radio.

Nasonex’s marketing campaign is centered on a bee voiced by Antonio Banderas. In the ads, the bee gives a happy connotation to what Piegrossi calls a very serious drug. Nasonex in a nasally-administered steroid that can have serious side effects on its users. The two men joked of the irony of the stinging bee being the medicine’s spokesman.

Piegrossi said the softening of dangerous drugs has become a trend in pharmaceuticals.

Nasonex, like many other leading drugs with strong branding behind them, uses a logo that is easily recognizable but not an exact reference to the drug.

“The visual doesn’t need to explain the product; it doesn’t even need to be directly connected, but there should be a story there,” Piegrossi said.

Piegrossi and Flanzraich talked about the process of getting a drug’s brand name approved. They made it seem like it was tougher to get a name approved than meeting the FDA’s approval. The name has to go through getting a trademark, analyzing linguistics of the name to make sure it doesn’t give the wrong idea about a drug, that there are no regulatory issues, and that it meets marketing standards.

The lecture had some funny moments, like when Piegrossi and Flanzraich discussed Cialis, the male enhancement drug. They called the side effect warning an endorsement for the drug.

The lecture coincided with the opening of the new gallery, Advertising for Health, located on the fifth floor of the museum.

The gallery is tiny, only a room with 20-25 works, if that. It displays advertisements for popular medicines as old as 125 years. Some were from Europe displaying popular politicians or social figures advertising the drug, like the Patissian ad for Supreme Pills, a cough drop.

The ad used a popular satirical political poster of the time that depicted South Africa President Paul Kruger offering Great Britain’s Queen Victoria pills to alleviate her cold.

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Series focuses on importance of living day to day

Daytripper, a 10-issue miniseries, has twin Brazilian brothers, Fabio Moon and Gabriel Bá, taking turns with the writing and drawing responsibilities. Comic fans may be familiar with Moon’s artwork on Image Comics’ Cassanova series and Bá’s work in the Eisner award winner, The Umbrella Academy, from Darkhorse Comics.

The comic takes – as the name would suggest – a “slice of life” approach to each issue, focusing on daily events that we often take for granted and showing how even the smallest decisions can impact the rest of our lives. The story begins with the life of Brás, a Brazilian native in his 30s who is examining the way his life is going and comparing it to the life he thought he would have. Every issue follows a day in his life and focuses on different aspects of it. The issues that follow are thoroughly examined as the series tries to point out that all the choices we make and, every decision he makes. His decisions are considered in the series entirely. There is some merit, however, to the concern of how Daytripper expects to keep its readers entertained when it appears that every issue is just going to end with the death of its main character, but if this series has proved nothing else, it’s that the outcome for everyone is the same. It’s the journey to the end that is more important.

Panuel PANEL is a weekly comics column written in tandem by Sean Gonzalez and Pablo Penton. Look for it every Wednesday.
Berry demonstrated special qualities off the field

Freshman surprised by early success

ROJAS, page 8

actually surprised by how well she has been hitting at the college level and says that it’s the part of her game that has improved the most since departing from Cooper City High School, where she won a 6A State Championship in 2009.

“I’ve always had a few home runs and I stayed pretty consistent [in high school],” Rojas said. “But I didn’t think I was going to hit this well in college. It’s actually kind of surprising.”

One of her former coaches, however, is not surprised by how well she is handling college ball. That coach would be her father.

“She was gifted all along; she was like a proven winner,” Nestor Rojas said. “Brie has always been at the top level.”

Nestor coached his daughter up until she was 14. The duo won seven state titles together in club ball leagues. He agrees that the way Rojas plays allows the team to feed off her.

“She’s very humble. She may come off cocky but really she’s just confident,” he said. “She plays very loose and the girls around her feed off that.”

Teammate and fellow classmate Kayla Burti is one that tries to feed off her friend’s energy, and a friend.

“Brie,” said Burri. “She’s the one I wish I could have had a chance to talk to him more. But I was blessed to have gotten that opportunity to talk to him just for a few minutes. Because in those short moments, I knew that she is a leader who had a desire to succeed, a desire to keep moving forward. It was apparent how special he really was.”

Despite his great performance on that cold November night, after having to fight for playing time on that field, he was still not satisfied.

“He would get back on that bus and look for ways to improve. Not only himself, but for his team.”

LESSIONS LEARNED

We forget how fragile life can truly be.

Tomorrow is never a guarantee, but it is a gift. Every single day that we are blessed with life is a gift.

And Berry used those gifts to become everything he could be. Many were who in his shoes — after missing an entire season thanks to a serious knee injury or adjusting to a new position — may have just called it quits or gone on to other things.

But Burti said that Rojas could make anyone feel better.

“She’s so fun. Sometimes she’ll pretend like she got something in her eye. Her signature is when she says, ‘ouch,’ and she’ll act like a little baby. We call her Baby Burti,” said Burri. “She’s the one that is always cheering people up.”

Aside from all of the good, Rojas likes people to be aware of that she is a leader.

“Just like to have fun wherever I am,” she said. “I’m a leader, don’t get me wrong, but I’m not the serious type so I lead by joking and making people laugh but when it comes down to the serious things, yea I get serious, but there’s always a smile on my face.”

Her style of leading is different, but it works.

“I know I’m a freshman but you can still learn from me,” said Rojas. “Just like anyone else.”

No one would have blamed him. But he persevered. And when the opportunity came, he seized it without hesitation and took the stage.

A testimony to the kind of athlete and person he was and an inspiration for all of us.

He made his mark on the field with more than just statistics; more than just touchdowns or yards or receptions.

He made it with determination, with patience and, most of all, with heart.

That is how he was able to come back and perform as he did last season.

That is how I was able to spend those several minutes with him.

That is how he was able to live the life he did.

As we keep the family, coaches, teammates and friends of Kendall Berry, we remember the great memories he left behind and celebrate all that his life stood for.

His legacy will always remain.

We will miss you, No. 19.

Cristobal: FIU will not forget Berry’s contributions

BERRY, page 1

alongside other FIU football players.

“KB was like a brother to me. I can’t believe he’s gone,” Rolle said. “No matter what the situation was, he had my back.”

To close out the memorial service, Berry’s father addressed the crowd alongside his wife and Berry’s mother. Derek Spillman, said that there’s no one to blame and that he holds no ill will toward anyone after the situation.

“As I said to the players before we came in, it’s God’s will,” Spillman said. “Nobody’s to blame.”

Spillman went on to say that his son had never been in a fight up until last Thursday when he was murdered.

“There’s never a winner in a fight. There’s no sense in losing two lives or three lives,” he said.

“That was his very first fight.”

Law enforcement authorities said Berry, 22, confronted Quentin Rashad Wyche around 9 p.m. Thursday outside the University’s Recreation Center after Wyche insulted his girlfriend and threw cookers in her face. Berry was stabbed once in the stomach, according to the warrant. At least eight people witnessed the incident. Wyche surrendered to authorities on March 26 after fleeing the crime scene the night before. He is charged with second-degree murder with a deadly weapon.

“We have to learn to live together as brothers and sisters or die together as fools,” said FIU Board of Trustees Chairman Albert E. Dotson, paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King. “God looked down the other day on his great field of flowers and he said, I want to pick a flower today. And he picked a beautiful flower in Kendall.”

Brie Rojas [above], a freshman from Cooper City, Fla., leads the FIU softball team in hits, walks, home runs and batting average.

Rojas leads Golden Panthers with lively personality

STEPHANIE GABRIEL Asst. Sports Director

When she walks up to the plate, you notice a difference.

She doesn’t have a serious face and there is no sign of nerves.

Instead, Brie Rojas usually cracks a smile or even lets out a giggle when approaching the box, as she bobs her head to her favorite jam.

She just might even throw up a few signals to her third base coach, saying that she’s going to move the runners up. It’s just who she is.

“She’s infectious personality and energy is far from a distraction. In fact, she’ll tell you that it actually helps her game. “I figure if I go out there and give it everything I have and go out there happy, then of course I’m going to do good,” Rojas said. “You set the tone and that’s just my mentality, to have a good time. It’s a game, I have to enjoy it and do as well as I can.”

The freshman has done more than well. Since her arrival to FIU, the five-foot-tall second baseman from Cooper City, Fla., has been swinging out of her shoes. Head coach Beth McClendon like to calls her “a little fireball” and “the team’s spark plug.”

“I’m the littlest person on the team but people know I swing the hardest,” Rojas said.

Through 21 games this season, she owns the top spot on the team in batting average (.433), hits (39), walks (17) and home runs (6). Just last weekend, Rojas had the lone hit for FIU in game one of a three-game series at Stetson and scored the winning run for 1-0 victory over the Hatters.

That wasn’t enough.

After dropping game two, Rojas was determined to lead her team to a win the next day and she did. With runners on first and third, the 3-2 pitch came. Rojas drilled it out of the park to give FIU a 3-0 lead in the first inning. The Panthers went on to win 3-1.

Not only has Rojas been getting it done, she does it with runners on base. Five of her six home runs have been three-run shots.

You can call her clutch but the way she sees it, she’s just trying to help out her team.

“I try to get everyone motivated,” she said. “When we were losing 8-0 to Troy and I came up with a three-run homer I was rounding third and I told coach, ‘All I’m trying to do is get them fired up,’” she said. “That’s all I want is for this team to come together, be excited and ready.”

Although the success, Rojas is.

SPORTS REPLAY

Track and field competes; tennis hosts Brown

TRACK

The FIU track and field team had mixed results at the UCF Invitational on March 26 and 27.

The Golden Panthers were led by freshmen Marissa McElveen and Jesterre Annichiarico, who both had first place performances in their respective competitions.

McElveen won the long jump event and posted a 18’11.75 score, which is the third best performance in the Sun Belt Conference this season. Annichiarico won the 300m steeplechase with an impressive 10:37.20 clip.

“We had several personal and lifetime bests made this weekend,” FIU head coach Eric Campbell told fiusports.com. “We need to continue to work hard in the upcoming weeks so we can be ready to perform at our absolute best come the SBC Conference Championships.”

Other notable performances include Christina Raphael, who produced the sixth best discuss throw in the event at 132’6 and Josh Castaldo finished runner up in the discuss with a score of 125’03. Sprinter Victor Chin ran the 100m and 200m and finished third and seventh at the event, respectively.

The University of Florida finished first in the men’s bracket of the invitational while Harvard won the women’s side.

TEENNS

The Golden Panthers (10-7) dropped a match, 4-2, to No. 25 Depaul on March 26.

FIU’s dynamic doubles pair, Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo, lost the doubles point to the Blue Demons duo of Anna Redesci and Selma Salkovic (No. 13), in blowout fashion, 8-1.

FIU (No. 42) won singles matches to gain a few points with Brito and Maria Jose Vallasciani, but the Golden Panthers lost the remaining three singles points to drop the match.

Due to the Kendall Berry memorial service on March 29, the Golden Panthers final home match of the season against Brown will be played today at 11 a.m.

The team’s seniors (Brito, Vallasciani and Maria Delores Pazo) will be honored before the contest.

ROJAS, page 7

SOFTBALL

The Golden Panthers’ double header against Florida Gulf Coast that was scheduled for March 30 has been postponed for April 6.

FIU’s next series will feature a conference home opener against North Texas, starting April 2 at 5 p.m.

UNT is third in the SBC standings with a 12-9 record, including a 2-1 conference clip.

The Golden Panthers (19-10, 4-2 SBC) are currently ranked second in the SBC, behind Troy.

Compiled by Jonathan Ramos.