Ramirez, Battle elected SGC presidents

JASMYN ELLIOTT
PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Beacon Staff

After campaigning for students’ votes and addressing their platform, the dust of the election settled to reveal the future leaders of Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus on March 31.

Helena Ramirez, Cristin “Cici” Battle, Nick Autiello and Denise Halpin are president and vice president elects of SGC-MMC and SGC-BBC, respectively.

After thanking students for participating in this year’s elections, Larry Lansford, associate vice president of Student Affairs, announced the winners of the senatorial and uncontested presidential races at MMC.

Ramirez, the current speaker of the SGC-MMC senate, received 1,285 votes. She said in an interview with Student Media after the results were announced that she’s ready to get to work.

“We’re going to be putting out cabinet applications early next week,” Ramirez said.

Autiello, the current chief of staff under current SGC-MMC president Anthony Rionda, said in an e-mail interview with Student Media that he and Ramirez have already started preparing. He also said he will start working with the senate starting next week.

“I will be coordinating with the senate to have a successful transition in the legislative branch and to prepare the senate for leadership elections,” Autiello said.

Ramirez said despite there still being “room for improvement,” this year’s elections went well overall.

“Considering this is the first year we used Votenet and so many races being uncontested, I think it was successful,” Ramirez said.

Ramirez said both the experience and the announcement humbled her. Autiello said he’s extremely excited about the results.

“I couldn’t be any prouder to represent our Golden Panther community and I want to thank everyone who helped me along the way,” Autiello said.

The BBC winners were announced in Panther Square.

With 331 votes, Battle won the support of her peers to serve as next year’s SGC-BBC president.

“I am so grateful,” said Battle. “I would like to thank the students, the administration – and my mama. I’m so excited!”

Denise Halpin, pre-events coordinator for Relay for Life, was given the honor of serving as SGC-BBC vice president with 253 votes.

“It was an incredible process,” said Halpin. “I am looking forward to having the students come out and really enjoy the campus. I would like to thank all the students for their support.”

Katherine Capeluto, a junior in hospitality and a member of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, was one of many members present to support Halpin, her sister.

“This is an incredible accomplishment,” said Capeluto. “This is going to be a great experience.”

ELECTIONS, page 3

SGC-MMC

President
Helena Ramirez

Vice President
Nick Autiello

Lower Division Senators
Rashan Gomez, Macarena Jimenez, Amanda Jimenez, Patrick O’Keefe

Senators at-large
Daniela Gonzalez, Cristina Loretto, Janese Rubio

Arts & Sciences Senators
Moses Alcuño, Jesse Barreno, Chris Cabral, Donovan Dawson, Daniel Gonzalez

Engineering Senators
William Jose Veliz, Tara Jatamadar, Business Senator, Kevin Gonzalez, Hector Nogica

Education Senator
Adam de Amaral

Honors Senator
Joanne Myler

Housing Senator
—

SGC-BBC

President
Christin “Cici” Battle

Vice President
Denise Halpin

School of Mass Communications and Journalism
Ana Isabel Garcia, Robert Sasso, Onthony Hippings

Honors College
Andrea Cruz

School of Business
Manou Francois

Graduate Senator
Damieterro Vincent

Lower Division Senator
Lea Meir

Upper Division Senators
Victoria Aguila, Emmanuel Ouermata

With only a day remaining in Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus elections, Tanha Dil, vice president candidate, was advised via e-mail about her candidacy removal from the ballot.

“I was notified in an e-mail at 6 p.m. on Monday. I did not get a fair chance to have a full campaign,” said Dil, current SGC-BBC justice. “I do not even know how many votes I received; they will not tell me.”

Dil’s disqualification was due to SGA’s Constitution Article VI, Section 3, subsection E, which states, “No justice may hold or be candidate for any SGC office until the passage of at least one full semester after he/she has ceased to serve on the student Judiciary.”

“This clause is handicap- ping the justices and I want to remove it,” said Dil. “I need to understand why the clause is even there.”

According to Dil, she spoke with various members of the administration, who responded abruptly, “It is what it is,” an answer Dil was not content with.

“It is unfortunate but nothing can be done; it is written in the constitution,” said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC adviser and assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation. “A justice should know the constitution, but it does not take away from the fact that we should all know.”

According to Zapata, the SGC-BBC constitution was revised within the last year, including the addition of the new clause responsible for Dil’s removal from the ballot.

“It is not a matter of whether this exemption is fair or not, it is in the constitution which was voted by the students and the members vowed to follow,” he said.

However, Dil said she was unaware of the clause due to the lack of communication and involvement within the
The University-wide Council approved changes to the new constitution that will impact not only the incoming administrations but also next year’s elections. At the March 27 meeting, the UWC approved changes regarding candidate qualifications for Student Government Association presidents and vice presidents, Biscayne Bay Campus having a single ticket for president and vice president and salaries of specific SGC positions.

Prior to the change, student government presidents and vice presidents must have held a position within SGA for at least two semesters or 154 consecutive days. The vice president does not have to hold a position within student government to be qualified.

Christin “Cici” Battle, SGC-BCC vice president, suggested the qualifications for president and vice president be increased to four semesters for president and two semesters for vice presidents.

She said every year people have decided to run for vice president without having held any position.

“You have people who pop up and want to be president or vice president. I don’t think that’s cool,” Battle said.

Battle said this would force everyone to go after freshmen and sophomores and in turn create a continual cycle of leadership.

Anthony Rionda, SGC-Modesto Maidique Campus president, agreed with Battle on requirements for president, however, he disagreed on vice presidential requirements. He felt that decision would limit outside ideas.

Rafael Zapata, SGC-BCC adviser, agreed with Rionda saying that if the amount of time someone had to be in SGA increased, it would decrease the number of candidates.

“I wouldn’t want to be so elitist that the only (SGA president and vice president) come from inside SGA,” Zapata said.

Jose Toscano, SGC-MMC adviser said some sort of qualifications should be placed for vice president, otherwise it would boil down to a popularity contest.

“If some celebrity was a student at FIU and running for president of SGA, then I don’t think we at this campus will be able to sustain having a ticket,” Zapata said.

Battle said this was not a problem.

“[Toscano] and I have talked about this before. I don’t think we should have a person running who doesn’t have qualifications,” Battle said.

Battle said Zapata isn’t qualified to run for presidency.

“I don’t think we at this college are going to let a celebrity be a student, and as a student she feels BBC should have a ticket,” Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC president, was on the side of not having a ticket.

“Students approached me and [Zapata] saying they don’t think we should have a ticket,” Neistein said. “It doesn’t matter if it was three or 100 students, students were世界一流.
**Weekends with Paradise**

Wine, sushi bar great spots to break dry spell

Let me start by saying that I am not an alcoholic.

Now that I’ve cleared that up, I must say that I really need a drink this week. In fact, I have been craving one since spring break began two weeks ago because, somehow, I seemed to be the only person of age who didn’t even have a drink on St. Patrick’s Day. I know, it’s pathetic. So this weekend, I decided I would fix my little problem and go to Libation for the Love of Wine, located in the Weston Town Center, 1724 Main St., Weston.

Libation is one of those swanky wine bars where you put money on a pre-paid card and sample wines from all over the world with a staff that actually knows what they are talking about to guide you.

The price per glass can range from $4 to $10, based on the bottle. To get a real taste of wine with this delicious cheese and fruit platter that featured brie, cheddar, blue cheese, gouda, manchego and crackers with grapes for $11.

This place may be pricey, but if you want to sit down and have a relaxing drink, it’s totally worth it.

I have to warn you, and I wish someone told me, for some reason this places attracts a 35 plus crowd. So, be on a lookout for creeps.

Of course, I have this little fat kid in me who needs to eat more than crackers and cheese to be happy when I am drinking. Wanting to be healthy, I headed over to RA Sushi Bar Restaurant, 201 SW 145th Terrace, Pembroke Pines. Since this place is a bit expensive if you eat alone, go with a group and make it worthwhile.

Also, I make sure to sit outside on the sofas. Nothing personal, but I just hate the conventional bar stools when I know there is a more comfy alternative.

I usually have the tuna salad for $9 and order a tuna roll for $4 and a green salad for $5 along with edamame pods that cost $4. So why am I sending you to this overpriced place? Two words: happy hour!

This magical time of day happens between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The hot sake is only $1, domestic beer for $3 and certain mixed drinks for $5. I love places that I can enjoy a beer without breaking the bank.

My friend, Bia, and I spent at least two hours going through the menu and kept ordering more and more along the way. Just to be clear, I didn’t have more than two drinks at either of these places. Drinking for fun is not recommended, get hammered anywhere in Miami. Drinking for fun is fine, but getting so trashed you can’t move? Well, if you’re doing that, I have a bottle of Ed Hardy wine you should try.

**Parade Ajsavah**

**Elections, page 1**

Toscano said the elections commission is looking into a complaint that was filed. He said by Friday they should make a decision.

**SGC-BBC announces new senators**

President elect Denise Halpin celebrates with her fellow students on March 31 in Panther Square after receiving news of their victory.

**Dil petitioning for justice**

Dil feels it was the responsibility of the elections commissioner and adviser to know. “If this [clause] was so important, why did our advisers not know?” she said. “Administration is trying to evade re-elections because it will cause more harm.”

Appreciative toward her peers’ support and concern about students votes, Dil decided to take action and began a petition encouraging re-elections at SGC. According to Dil, her goal is to receive 600 signatures from students. Students who are interested in supporting her cause can locate the petition on Dil’s Facebook page or at the Campus Life office, located in Room 141 of the Wolfe University Center. She has also recruited several students to circulate this petition around the campus.

“Am I fighting for my voice,” Dil said. “They are making it out as if nothing happened, but they shut down students’ votes and voices.”

**Cleary’s actions were not taken lightly by the SGA administration. According to**

**SGC-BBC Advisor and Campus Life and Orientation Advisor Rafael Zapata, the council was set to meet on March 31 and April 1 to discuss the possibility of impeachment.**

“It was in his best interests to resign,” said Zapata about Chikishev.

According to Zapata there is no procedure for absentee ballot voting, which is why Chikishev’s actions warranted disciplinary action.

Zahra Arbabi, SGC-BBC lower division senator, believes that Chikishev “made the right choice.”

Despite the scandal surrounding his resignation, SGC-BBC Honors College Senator Andrey Toscano said the council was set to meet on March 31 and April 1 to discuss the possibility of impeachment.

“The whole situation is regrettable, however, we do have to take into account the work that Nick (Chikishev) did. He was always very responsible individual and did what he needed to do. With this situation, he recognizes he made a mistake and I think he took the decision was the best decision,” she said.

**Contact Us**

Joann Elliott

BBC Managing Editor
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**Advertisement**

**Will you be my big sister?**

To find your nickname, go to the top of Blue Arraras.
Health care reform still rough around the edges

“The most sweeping social legislation enacted in decades,” is how The New York Times framed the signing of House Resolution (HR) 3995, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The recent passing of the health care overhaul bill is indeed a historical event, as this bill, coupled with entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicaid, constitute a movement in a socialist direction.

A 219-212 vote on HR 4872, the Health Care and Education Affordability Act of 2010, enabled PPACA, a series of changes to HCEAA, to become law.

An update on The New York Times' Web site on March 22 detailed that the legislation would require the purchase of health insurance and add 16 million people to Medicaid, not going into account the chance that it may fail.

While many liberals maintain the reform will reduce the deficit, conservatives assert that it will cost more than it will save. For the latter, such a reform will take eight years for the federal government to again cooperate to $938 billion in subsidies, not going into account the chance that it may fail.

The addition of subsidies and 16 million Americans to Medicaid will do nothing to reduce the deficit. Looking at how such a reform was enacted, it would be better to call it a health insurance reform rather than health care reform. A health care reform would tackle the primary offender, which is cost.

It is now the responsibility of GOP Senate members to press for a true health care reform that will preserve the ideals of capitalism. There should be controls on the cost of health care and prescription drugs, mandate for health insurance providers to offer price points to all Americans relative to their income, physical fitness and pre-existing conditions, and most importantly, the selling of Medicaid to assist the federal government in controlling the deficit.

For those who hail this sweeping social legislation as a success, recall that the state legislature recently tabled a bill requiring all students within the State University System to purchase insurance. HCEAA and PPACA do nothing to control health care costs and the cost of health insurance is still unregulated.

If the state of Florida and/or Senate Republicans are not successful in repealing this legislation, it is indisputable that students and parents will be burdened with increased premiums, $3,000-$5,000 insurance policies, or worse yet, regulations to government run insurance for enrollment in FIU the next academic year.

Costa Rican rainforest trip promotes global citizenry

LARRY LUNSFORD
Special to The Beacon

Would I, someone eligible for senior citizen discount at most places, go on a week-long excursion with 10 college students working in a Costa Rican rain forest? This question was posed to me around this time last year when I was invited to join a group of students and an administrator on an Alternative Breaks (AB) trip.

Every year I hear the wonderful stories when students and staff return from AB trips throughout the United States and world. I am impressed with FIU students who went up to Costa Rica – site leaders Robert Tasso and Ayman Elyasin, and participants Andres Agudelo, Kevin Ceballos, Amity Cordero, Frank Loori Tori Lichtenberg, Andrea Parker, Natalia Rivas and administrator Cristy Calderon-Coto, have a nickname for themselves, CRABs (Costa Rica Alternative Break).

Calderon-Coto is a native of Costa Rica and her husband, Julio Coto, was already in Costa Rica and joined us upon arrival in San Jose. Prior to the trip, the CRABs met for months, conducted fund raisers to pay for the trip, and attended sessions with members of the other 18 Spring AB site groups.

This was the third AB trip to Costa Rica and the second to this particular site, the Volcano National Park.

Hard work is not the only aspect of AB. I learned that it is important that participants sightsee in the area, meet the residents, and eat in the establishments to gain a better appreciation of the country and environment. It also doesn’t hurt to mix fun with the hard work, particularly for a group of young college students.

Our trip included an afternoon at the San Luis Canopy where we went zip lining, followed by relaxing in natural hot springs at the Baldis Hot Springs. We visited the Hospital de Las Plumas, where injured animals are housed, and toured the National Theater and National Museum.

The Volcano Tenorio National Park, part of the Guanacaste Province in an area called Bijagua, is densely forested and features the Río Celeste and its magnificent waterfall, whose current flow in various directions.

The light blue waters originate from the volcano and are caused by the emanation of sulfur and the precipitation of calcium carbonates. It is amazingly beautiful and unbelieveable that nothing so invigorating is also quite harmful.

The first day we arrived, we undertook a four-hour hike through the rainforest. It was a challenging ordeal that prepared us for the work days ahead.

Along the way, our guide took us down a newly-carved, muddy path along a steep mountainside which led to the waterfall. We held onto roots, trees and rocks to keep from falling, although some fell anyway. It served as a means to teach us that this path needed to be improved for visitors to safely traverse.

We learned the next day that our AB project would be to build steps on this slippery path. Building the steps was a daunting task. Gravel and rocks had to be carried first into the rain forest by wheel barrel until they could no longer get through the rugged terrain. The rocks and gravel were then transferred to saws, which were slung over shoulders and hand-carried to the next destination.

Heavy river rocks were also gathered from the volcano and were caused by the emanation of sulfur and the precipitation of calcium carbonates. It is amazingly beautiful and unbelieveable that nothing so invigorating is also quite harmful.

None of us alive have seen the floodings that we are experiencing now or going to experience. This is unprecedented in our state’s history.

Governor Don Carcieri on devastation in Rhode Island

The Beacon – 4
www.fiuam.com Friday, April 2, 2010
This year’s SPC concert to feature Pitbull, Kid Cudi

MARIA MURRELL
Staff Writer

As finals week nears and it seems like spring break was just a bit too short, the folks at the Student Program-ming Council work hard to execute the big event they’ve been working for all year. UpRoar at the Modesto Maidique Campus is a week-long celebration of the end of the school year, as well as a breather for students swimming in term papers and presentations.

Ana Casas, public relations major and SPC vice president of external relations, explained, “It’s pretty much an event to get as many students as possible to enjoy something out of their routine close to finals.” The affair is free for students, as the funding for SPC programs is covered by tuition costs. As a whole, it’s comprised of a concert, a comedy show and a “large Pit event” in the Graham Center Pit early in the week. The Pit functions serve to promote the comedy special and, more specifically, the concert, which is the highlight of UpRoar week. To finish off the merri-mant, SPC organizes a movie night, preferred by on-campus residents.

Starting April 6, FIU Panthers will have the opportunity to participate. Pit events include a CD-making booth in which students can record their own album and take it home with them, a photo memorabilia booth with a special UpRoar magazine backdrop, and a candy bar, all free of charge. Later that night, comedian Jo Koy, popularized by his appearances on comedy tours and cable network Comedy Central, will take the stage at the GC Ballrooms.

On April 9, two showings of the recent film Sherlock Holmes will air in GC 140 for students’ viewing pleasure. In the past, SPC has brought to the University the calder of Ludacris, Grammy-nominated Latin band Locos por Juana, Fabolous, One Republic and Jack’s Mannequin. Following the tradition of booking big names, SPC managed to reel in rappers Pitbull and Kid Cudi. On April 7, at 8 p.m. in the U.S. Century Bank Arena, students will enjoy a free concert featuring these crowd favorites.

Two of the best known popular music stars of the day, these musicians represent the opinions of thousands of FIU students who answered surveys provided by SPC. The council collects data at events year-round: students’ gender, ethnicity, age, preference in genre and frequency of attendance to FIU events, among other factors.

“I guess [they] worked, because we sold out within 4 days. We try to get artists that are similar, yet different, so we can attract as many people as possible,” Casas said, regarding the effectiveness of the SPC surveys.

Keeping the student body’s preferences and best interests in mind, SPC was not only concerned with the kind of acts present at UpRoar, but also the number of students aware of the nature of the show. The members of SPC made it a point to stress that this hootenanny is free for FIU students because in the past years students did not attend UpRoar events thinking there were a cost.

“This year we focused on branding and keeping the students aware,” Casas said.

UPROAR 2010 LINEUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>Who: Jo Koy</td>
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<td>When: 6 p.m.</td>
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<td>Where: GC 2240</td>
<td>Where: U.S. Century Bank Arena</td>
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Google needs to tighten open source platform on Android OS

Google has developed a robust and open mobile platform with Android OS, but the way things are going, they don’t want you to know about it.

The search giant’s approach to marketing and distributing their operating system is puzzling and will no doubt lead to a fragmented user experience, something that customers, nerds and mainstreamers alike will not like.

Currently, there are enough Android devices out there to shake a stick at. Seriously, I have attempted to shake a stick at them and failed miserably … the numbers were overwhelming – cell phones, smart phones and even tablets like the upcoming Dell Mini 5, and eBook readers like SpringDesign Alex. However, where Google is going astray is in its implementation of Android in the smartphone domain.

The idea of a platform that is open is enticing even to me, a rabid iPhone loyalist that uses a laundry list of Google services. I’d be lying if I didn’t say that my cursor has hovered over the buy now button for the AT&T compatible version of the Google Nexus One, its flagship device. It syncs with all Google services flawlessly and gives me a more open platform for my phone, including multitasking – something the iPhone can’t do.

But, Google is failing where Apple has succeeded: creating a single user experience. The iPhone lives in a bubble, its hardware is built to complement its software and vice-versa. With Android however, this is not the case. Android’s open-source nature lends the OS to be manipulated and, in some cases, improved by companies that use it such as Motorola with the catastrophic MOTOBLUR, and HTC’s version of Android with Sense UI.

The downside of all this is that Google does not maintain these devices directly. So, for example, when Android 2.1 was released, users were at the mercy of the manufacturers, not Google, for their updates. This fragmentation has already begun. You have devices out there ranging in power, screen size and memory and all of this needs to be taken into account when writing and designing an OS. You can’t update them all, because they can’t all support the update.

Google’s answer to Android uniformity is the Nexus One. But, as with the other devices, Google’s strategy for getting this device in your hands is a bit odd.

When the Nexus One was released in January, there was no major marketing blitz, and the only way you could buy it was online through Google.

That meant that you couldn’t swing by T-Mobile, who offers the N1 on the cheap with service, to check it out and you didn’t even hear about it until you saw it pop-up on the Google homepage – all the way at the bottom.

Flurry Analytics released a 74-day sales comparison of...
Android’s survival depends on creating a single experience for users

Google’s Nexus One, the Motorola Droid and the first-generation iPhone. The Motorola Droid, backed by its massive ad campaign with Verizon Wireless, sold a whopping 1.05 million devices and the iPhone sold 1 million. The N1 sold an embarrassing 130,000 units.

To make these numbers even more appalling, keep in mind when the iPhone was first released, customers had to part with $600 to buy one, that’s $170 more than the unlocked N1.

Not surprisingly, Google really doesn’t care about the low sales figures of its flagship device, citing the crazy number of Android devices out there. "The Nexus One is one of a fast-growing number of Android handsets which have been brought to market through the open Android ecosystem," Google said in a written statement responding to those figures.

If Google wants to snatch away the Apple faithful, they need to close up the open source just a bit. Google needs to establish a set of minimum hardware requirements for an Android device, much like Microsoft has with its terribly named mobile OS, Windows Phone 7 Series. This would go a long way to not only make it easier to role out updates, but also in giving the user a quality experience by making sure their hardware is not underpowered. They also need to make sure that companies like Motorola and HTC are pushing updates to users in a timely fashion both for devices that have the pure Android experience, like the Droid, and those with altered versions, like HTC devices with Sense.

Creating a single experience for users is vital if Google wants to go to war with the iPhone, they need to mobilize their troops and make sure they are all wearing the same uniform.

Fistfuls of Tech is a weekly tech column. Look for it every Friday.
FIU set to resume conference play

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team has a test this weekend.

FIU will attempt to hold their second place position in the Sun Belt Conference standings.

Their weekend opponent, North Texas, will not be far behind in the standings when they play April 2-3 at FIU.

“We know that we can’t take any team lightly at this point,” sophomore pitcher Jennifer Gniadek said. “North Texas is our main focus right now.”

The Mean Green (13-11, 3-3 SBC) is coming off two consecutive losses to Florida Atlantic while FIU (21-11, 4-2 SBC) took two of three games from Stetson last weekend.

“Last week was more of a focus on getting back to fundamentals,” freshman Kayla Burri said. “This week we’re working more on coming back and working together as a team.”

Although senior Paige Cassidy (3-1) struggled in the pitching circle last week, Gniadek (9-3) and senior Kasey Barrett (9-6) picked up the slack for FIU as they have all season long.

Barrett, however, has been consistent throughout the year, while Gniadek has been a work in progress.

“I think she’s worked all year long on having more than one pitch,” FIU head coach Beth McClendon said in reference to Gniadek. “She’s been able to use a lot of different options in games as opposed to relying on one thing as she’s done in the past. She put a lot of time into that during the Fall and I think it’s finally starting to show up now.”

Gniadek has an ERA of 2.66 through 76.1 innings and ranks second on the team with 64 strikeouts. Gniadek has a team-high 36 RBI. Like the Golden Panthers, the Mean Green also boasts some big hitters.

Senior Kasey Barrett has an earned run average of 1.38 and ranks second on the team with 64 strikeouts. Barrett has a team-leading .358 average and seven home runs.

“Last year I was mostly a one-pitch pitcher,” Gniadek said. “This year I’ve worked a lot with Coach on using different pitches (curve and rise) so that people can’t guess what I’m going to throw.”

Meanwhile, FIU’s offense continues to roll as they rank second in the SBC, as of March 25, for team batting with a .296 average.

Leading the young but explosive lineup is freshman Brie Rojas with six home runs and a .433 percent batting average.

Sophomore Ashley McClain has also shown her power at the plate. She has a team-high 36 RBIs.

“We hope that his loss wasn’t in vain and that all of these kids can learn something from that,” McClendon said. “We want to go out everyday and do something in his honor and make sure we appreciate every opportunity we get to take the field.”

**Fondon gets nod; Arrojo a question mark for Friday**

Baseball Stadium, page 8

**FONDON IN**
R.J. Fondon will start in the second game of the series in place of No. 2 starter Corey Polizzano.

Polizzano struggled in his last start on March 27 against UALR, where he surren-

dered six runs, five of them earned, before being pulled in the second inning. On the season, Polizzano is 2-2 with a 7.76 ERA.

Fondon has made eight appearances on the mound for FIU and is 1-1 with a 4.18 ERA, the lowest among regular pitchers.

“It’s not anything that Corey Polizzano has done,” Thomas said. “They’re equal as far as pitchers are concerned, but I think [Fondon] can go deeper in the game which might relieve us from using much of the bullpen.”

**JUNIOR QUESTIONABLE**
Starting shortstop and team captain Junior Arrojo suffered a bruised index finger over the weekend against UALR and now the team is deciding whether he will be able to be a part of the starting lineup Friday night.

Arrojo played in an intra-squad scrimmage on March 31, but Thomas says that Arrojo will be a “game-time decision.”

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**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.

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**JOIN OUR STAFF!**

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

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**SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDINGS**

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*All records up to date as of March 31.*
FIU seniors shine in last home game

SPENCER MANLEY
Staff Writer

Facing a tough foe in their last home match of the season, the Golden Panthers’ outgoing seniors stepped up to lead FIU to a 4-3 win over No. 66 ranked Brown on March 31.

Martana Muci Torres, a sophomore, was the clincher for the match. She defeated her opponent in three sets (2-6, 7-5, 6-4) after being down 4-1 in the final set.

“I had to win it,” said Torres following her clincher. “I had to pull it off for the team.”

Torres’ clutch victory came following Liset Brito’s 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (9-7 in tiebreak) much needed win in singles competition.

“I’m exhausted,” said Melissa Applebaum, who celebrated her 30th career victory in her second year as FIU head coach. “This match was huge for the girls.”

The Golden Panthers had just lost a disappointing match to No. 25 DePaul on March 26, just a day after the murder of FIU running back Kendall Berry.

“The circumstances going into that match were very abnormal,” Applebaum spoke of Kendall Berry.

Pazo, Priscilla Castillo, and Maria Jose Vallasciani were honored by their teammates and coach.

The seniors on the team, Maria Dolores Pazo, Priscilla Castillo, and Maria Jose Vallasciani were honored by their teammates and coach.

The Golden Panthers will look to rebound against UL after losing a series to UALR last week.

Golden Panthers put their offense to the test vs. UL

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

FIU (15-9, 3-3 SBC), the conference’s leading offensive unit, takes on the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin’ Cajuns (12-12, 3-6 SBC), the conference’s most potent pitching staff, as both teams look to improve their conference standing in the conference with the Sun Belt schedule in full swing.

“Every one of 30 conference games is equal to the next,” head coach Turtle Thomas said. “They beat us pretty soundly last season and in the Sun Belt Tournament.”

The Louisiana-Lafayette pitching staff has proven to be the most efficient unit in the conference with a team ERA of 3.54, the lowest in the Sun Belt, while opposing teams have only been able to hit a meager .247 against them.

Zach Osborne is the Cajuns’ ace, compiling a 3-1 record with a 2.05 ERA in six starts coming into this weekend and will provide the Golden Panthers with one of the biggest tests of the season.

The series begins April 2 at 7 p.m. at FIU

He’s a quality Sun Belt Friday night starter,” Thomas said of Osborne.

FIU enters the weekend with a conference-high batting average of .346, bolstered by three hitters who are among the top of the conference: Garrett Wittels, Mike Martinez and Pablo Bermudez.

But Thomas has stressed that both the offense and the pitching need to show up every game if the team is to remain competitive.

“We’ve got to hit on days when we pitch and pitch on days when we hit,” Thomas said. “We’ve got to put those things together on a more consistent basis.”

The series begins April 2 at 7 p.m. at FIU

FIU Head Coach Turtle Thomas relays a sign to one of his players earlier this season. The Golden Panthers will look to rebound against UL after losing a series to UALR last week.