New law ties teacher pay to students’ test scores, progress

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

Gov. Charlie Crist says no other issue has put as much political pressure on him during his more than three years in office as a bill that would make it easier to fire Florida teachers and tie their pay to student test scores.

How much pressure?

"A ton. A ton," Crist said Friday while visiting a state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office in St. Petersburg, his hometown. Crist has backed off from his earlier support of the bill, and he now says he’s unsure whether he’ll sign or veto it.

Teachers are upset over the legislation (SB 6). They’ve been holding demonstrations across the state and flooding the Capitol with phone calls and e-mails urging Crist to veto the bill.

The Florida Education Association, the statewide teachers union, and local school officials also oppose the bill. It is supported by business interests and most Repub-

lican politicians including former Gov. Jeb Bush, still an influential force in Florida politics.

Crist also is getting lobbied from within his family.

"My dad used to be chairman of the school board," said Crist, who was once the state’s educa-

tion commissioner. "Two of my three sisters have been public school teachers here in Pinellas County. I am hearing a lot about it everywhere. They’re making very

strategic plan

Plan looks to set goals for next ten years

MELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

With the beginning of a new decade, it is time for the University to create a new version of what is known as the Strategic Plan.

In a forum held April 8, the commit-
	ees in charge of carrying out the new plan of action allowed University members to contribute ideas to the three main topics of focus: finance, infrastructure, and student success.

The community forums that we will be having this month and the one’s we will have in September will really identify and shape the validity of the plans and hopefully every-

ody’s enthusiastic support for the direction that the University is going to take,” said Dr. Douglas Wartezok, the interim provost, executive vice president and chief operating officer at FIU, who lead the forum.

Faculty and staff ranging from professors to college deans filled the majority of the room, located in College of Business.

Those at the Biscayne Bay Campus were able to attend the event and give their input to the discussions via webcast.

"The important point for us is that we’ll be focusing on the 5 year time-

table and less on the 10 ten year time-

table," said Wartezok. "The one thing that we don’t want to have is that everyone put forth so much effort

strategic plan

new garage to add classrooms, retail venues

ALEXANDRA CAMEJO
Staff Writer

With the development of new venues and improvements on campus, Panther Dining and Busi-

ness Services are aiming to create a new look at Modesto Maidique Campus that will not only target students’ needs for more choices but generally improve their expe-

rience at FIU.

"Come Fall, there are going to be lots of new things going on," states Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of Business Services.

Not only will students return to renovated areas of the Graham Center, and a brand new Chili’s Too, but FIU can also expect the opening of a new parking facility, named PGS Market Station.

The PGS Market Station, the name chosen after much deliber-

ation by both Business Services and University administration, is the first multi-use parking garage constructed on campus.

The $40 million facility is much more distinctive than the parking garages students are accustomed to.

The real objective is to make it a place to gather, a place to be able to spend time, and a place to be able to meet people.

Aside from containing 2,000 additional parking spaces, PGS Market Station will contain 29,000 square feet of classroom, retail and dining space on its first floor. Although the retail locations have yet to be determined, this garage will also be the new home to the University Police Department.

Equipped with the latest tech-
Don't have Panther Bucks? Need more Panther Bucks?

Get a 10% Bonus FREE* when you sign up for Panther Bucks at www.pantherdining.com or GC 114

*minimum deposit $100
Plan hopes to double enrollment

STRATEGY, page 1

into developing the plan, that then say ‘okay it’s a ten year plan, let’s take a break and then we’ll get back to it.’ By that point, [the plan] will all be irrelevant.” 

Wartzok also announced the chairpersons of the committees that would be presenting; Aime Martinez (Finance), who is the assistant vice president of the FIU Foundation, Professor Yong Tao (Infrastructure), from the College of Engineering, and Bill Beesting (Student Success), assistant dean of undergraduate studies.

Every ten years, FIU’s administration engages in “strategic planning,” a process that involves identifying the desired future for the institution as well as deciding what actions should be made to reach that goal. These initiatives, which are updated in order to fit the needs of the University for the coming decade, focus on key areas of University interests.

FIU’s last strategic plan was called the ‘2001-2010 Millennium Strategic Plan’ and centered on improving institutional infrastructure, State University System governing systems and graduate and undergraduate education.

“The appointment of President Mark Rosenberg in the Fall of 2009 coincided with the need to develop a new strategic plan,” Wartzok said in the presentation.

Many of the ideas brought up by the audience members revolved around progress in the area of student success. They felt that the University should invest time in the faculty connection to the students.

“I’m strongly in favor of doubling the size of FIU in terms of enrollment within the next ten years. I think that is going to give us the kind of resources we need to become a strong research University, which I think is essential,” said Brian Peterson, an associate professor in the history department.

Peterson went on to suggest that the committees invest in cohort programs, that would involve students consistently staying with the same group of classmates and professors throughout a period of their undergraduate education. In this experiment, he advised to involve a mixture of mainstream and at-risk students, such as University athletes.

“That with that we could significantly increase our graduation rates for that group of students,” Peterson said.

Dr. Connie Boronat, the director of assessment and evaluation of student affairs and undergraduate education, expressed concern over the effect of failure among students when it came to College Algebra.

Research has shown, according to Boronat, that a student’s outcome in College Algebra, in order to increase student success.

However, the issue of a united campus involvement within the Strategic Plan as a whole was brought up during the later half of the forum.

“I think it’s of up most importance to us that we don’t leave Biscayne Bay out of ‘health,’ ‘arts,’ or ‘global’ or any other topic,” said Stephen Moll, the interim provost of the Biscayne Bay Campus via webcast. “We need to be a part of what everything every committee thinks about and not just thinking about the Modesto Maidique Campus as being FIU. We are all FIU.

This would be the first of two forums that will draw ideas from the crowd; with the second taking place on April 14 which will target the remaining strategic themes; arts, environment, global, and health.

So far, the committees are still gathering information for their final draft of the plan and will continue during the second open forum on April 14 as well as those during September. The entire package will be presented to the FIU Board of Trustees by December 2010.

For more information on the Strategic Planning, visit stratplan.fiu.edu.
NASA shifts focus away from space

SETH BORSTEIN
Associated Press

NASA may not be going to the moon anytime soon and its space shuttles are about to be retired, but it could conceivably increase the number of agency jobs under a new reorganization, NASA's chief said Thursday.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden said that because NASA has more money overall, it should have more jobs compared to the previous administration's plans for a moon mission. But more of those jobs will be on research into airplanes and aircraft, sharing the same technology with other industries.

The Obama administration plans to divert the money to work on a national launch system to take giant parts beyond Earth's orbit. Johnson Space Center in Texas will be in charge of a new $6 billion lift spaceship to take giant parts beyond Earth's orbit. Johnson Space Center in Texas will be in charge of a new $6 billion lift spaceship to take giant parts beyond Earth's orbit.

“Those new space programs are fantastic,” Bolden said. “But as we shift to more technologically advanced jobs, we need to make sure we can attract high-skilled people.”

Because the shuttle fleet is being retired this year, the Obama administration is aiming to have the new launch system ready by 2017. Space Center in Texas has already offered $300 million to support development work.

NASA’s stated mission is to explore science, and aeronautics. The ultimate exploration goal is the moon, because the shuttle fleet is being retired this year.

The retirement of the space shuttle was announced in February with his 2011 budget.

That plan calls a return-to-the-moon mission, dubbed “Apollo on steroids” that his predecessor proposed in 2004.

To pay for that moon mission, then-President George W. Bush unveiled in February with his 2011 budget.

The plan is just based on employment and that the more-jobs claim is just based on correlation with spending.

Thursday’s press conference outlined how NASA would shift to a new reorganization for space exploration – NASA 1.0 – that has $1 billion for development work and $5 billion for operations.

That space plan kills a return-to-the-moon mission, dubbed “Apollo on steroids” that his predecessor proposed in 2004.

To pay for that moon mission, then-President George W. Bush unveiled in February with his 2011 budget.

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Students speak out for gay rights by staying silent

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

As the clock struck 1 p.m. on April 8, yells erupted in Panther Square. Although National Day of Silence is officially on April 16 this year, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus decided to go silent in an event that protests violence and bullying against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community.

The event was a part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Ally Pride Week. This marks the third time the event, sponsored by StonewallBBC, has been held.

Before the event officially began at 11 a.m., members of StonewallBBC handed out t-shirts, wristbands, and informational cards to those participating.

“Most people stay silent for the whole day,” Alvaro Rivas, a senior psychology major and StonewallBBC member, said, “but we are staying silent for a couple of hours.”

According to Daniel Anzueto, a senior psychology major and president of Stonewall BBC, participants were encouraged to remain silent between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. while wearing a t-shirt and/or a wristband with the event’s logo. They were also instructed to hand out the cards to those that did not know why they were being silent.

SILENCE, page 5

Survey reveals campus staff needs improving, training

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

One complaint often heard by students at the Biscayne Bay Campus is the lack of good customer service available to them.

“There is no accountability with the way students are treated,” said Christin “Cici” Battle, president-elect of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Last year, the Office of the Vice Provost began taking steps to improve upon these issues.

“This office continues to stress putting the student and other BBC community members first and offering the best service possible,” said Julissa Castellanos, director of operations at the Office of the Vice Provost at BBC.

The office also created an online survey to evaluate how students, faculty and staff perceive customer service at BBC.

The survey evaluates the quality of service experienced at various campus establishments, including the campus bookstore, the cafeteria, and the registration offices.

The rating scale ranges from one to five, or poor to excellent. A number space available to write additional comments underneath each question.

At the moment, ratings averaged between three and four, or good and very good.

Between January and March 2009, 294 people have taken the survey. Of those respondents, the majority were students but it was representative of just 3% of the BBC student population.

Next, respondents were asked, “In thinking about your last visit, what is your perception of the quality of service you received at each of the following locations?”

According to a results report issued by the Office of the Vice Provost, one comment claimed that disparities existed between the quality of service available at both campuses.

“Overall the BBC should have the same resources and abilities as [Modesto Madique Campus].”

The students at BBC have the same financial obligation but the amenities are less than appropriate,” wrote the commenter.

“The professionalism and attention received from University staff were suggestions to train all staff in customer service and being more helpful when it comes to registration and financial aid.”

“I think the attitude some students receive deters them from doing a lot,” said Battle, “There needs to be a way to monitor how students are being treated.”

During the Spring 2009 semester, over 100 faculty and staff went through a customer service training program sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost through Claudia Castillo, assistant director of academic support services at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

On average, the lowest rated departments included Financial Aid, Registration, the Cashier, Parking and Transportation, Dining Services/cafeteria and Human Resources.

The highest rated departments, on average, were the bookstore, the library, the Learning Center, the Office of the Vice Provost and several academic departments.

“Some times they forget that they’re here to help students, not give us a hard time,” she said.

Most feedback regarding the question of staff perception expressed concerns over the lack of communication between both campuses and the lack of more timely responses for their issues.

Among the comments dealing with the professionalism and attention received from University staff were suggestions to train all staff in customer service and being more helpful when it comes to registration and financial aid.

“The classes are free, but may require textbooks or other materials you would have to buy on your own,” Michael said. “Some courses allow for the student to get one-on-one time with the big people from Disney, such as the vice president of marketing, and allows for the student to network.”

Brianna Bellantoni, a senior majoring in broadcast journalism and Disney College alumni, described the experience as “amazing and life-changing.”

“At first, I was hesitant because I did not know if it fit in with my major, but once I did it, I found it amazing,” Bellantoni said. “It is just an amazing company and I am sure I want to work for Disney.”

Harold Clayton, associate director of Career Services, was proud to see that the Disney College program once again made a stop at the University.

“What keeps bringing [Disney] to our school is the professionalism and quality of students found [at FIU],” Clayton said.

The internship program lasts four and a half months. In order to apply, students must attend a mandatory information presentation.

If you missed the presentation held on April 8 at the Biscayne Bay Campus, you can still attend an e-presentation available now on their website. The deadline for applications is April 25.

For more information, contact BBC Career Services at 305-919-3607, Danette Michaels at Danette.L.Michaels@disney.com, or log on to disneycollegeprogram.com

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Day of silence shows support, educates others

“IT’S an important day because it helps people that would normally not know about it get a better idea of what it is,” Anzueto said.

According to Anzueto, there were a “mass number” of people walking around the campus and spreading awareness by wearing the shirt, wearing the wristband, and distributing the informational card.

At 1 p.m., the participants gathered in Panther Square and screamed together, symbolizing the silent attitude towards harassment of the LGBT community being broken.

Those that were present had various reasons for participating.

“I just want to let people know about us,” Rivas said.

“There is also an LGBT group on campus and I want to make this University a little more friendly,” Sarros said.

Stephanie Sarros, freshman nutrition major, had a similar motive.

“I appreciate the LGBT community,” Sarros said. “I want to support them.”

Athena Obregon, freshman hospitality major, participated to honor those closest to her.

“My mom is a lesbian,” Obregon said. “I’m here to support her and all of my gay friends.”

The National Day of Silence website states the day was established in 1996 and is considered the “largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all.”

According to Vicky Owles, the associate director of Campus Life and Orientation, the Day of Silence event at BBC has “only gotten bigger” since it began three years ago.

“Last year, there were only two people participating -- Daniel [Anzueto] and someone else,” Owles said. “Now, thanks to a grant, we were able to purchase t-shirts and wristbands and attract more people.”

Owles believes that this event is an effective way to show support for the LGBT community.

“People are around the world and in our community that won’t speak out and I feel that we are representative of that,” she said. “We speak on their behalf by not speaking.”

SIGNING IN

A line of students forms as they sign in and receive their t-shirts, flyers, and wristbands before the Day of Silence event begins in Panther Square on April 8. The National Day of Silence event gave students the opportunity to protest bullying and harassment against the LGBTQA community.

ITALIAN 101 HELPS STUDENT ORDER PIZZA AT RESTAURANT

What began as a typical dining-out experience quickly turned into a situation yesterday when sophomore Danny Rivas and his friends realized they didn’t know how to do something. The waiter came over and asked if they had any questions.

“Is this on the menu?” Ben exclaimed excitedly. “That looks like pizza! I love pizza!”

According to Owles, the Day of Silence event at BBC has “only gotten bigger” since it began three years ago.

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Day of silence shows support, educates others
Organic garden nominated for USDA award

ADRIAN ESPINOZA
Staff Writer

Tucked in between the wildlife preserve and the Baseball Stadium, the University’s organic garden, still relatively unknown to the student body, is up for review by the United States Department of Agriculture. Dr. Mahadev Bhat and Dr. Krish Jayachandran founded the garden that is now a contender for federal acknowledgment.

The People’s Garden Initiative is a federally funded program that pushes the development of gardens in local communities and nationwide USDA facilities. Employees at USDA facilities nominate local gardens that meet the requirements of the types of gardens the USDA wants to see propagate around the world.

The gardens can range in a variety of sizes and types but must meet certain requirements within three categories: They must benefit the community, be community based, and must incorporate sustainable practices.

Although the gardens aren’t expected to be the same, the terms that do uniform them define what a garden should include. Benefiting the community means that one or more of the following must be present: The garden should be located in a place of leisure or recreation, it must provide food for those in need and habitat for wildlife native to the area, or control storm water while improving water quality.

The next stipulation that will get a garden nominated is its incorporation of sustainable resources, which can include a number of arrangements: Introducing native plants, encouraging pest-repelling insects, collecting water in barrels, and composting and mulching, to name a few. Most importantly, it is a community endeavor and must utilize the efforts of neighbors, volunteers or students alike.

On April 9, the Garden Club, headed by Stephanie Alvarez, organized a carpentry workshop to build a picnic table and construct the market garden bed.

They wrapped up the carpentry portion of the day by preparing the spot where the new bulletin board would be placed.

Students also discussed the work they performed with their own gardens beds and what they have learned from their research.

“That is what is interesting about the garden, you use what you learn there and apply it to tackling bigger social problems,” said Alvarez, who is pursuing a master’s in agriculture.

Students are required to keep logs of their gardens, which must be maintained for a year and a half. They submit logs each month to the USDA employee giving FIU’s garden an edge in the competition where it is the only funded program that pushes the development of gardens in local communities and nationwide USDA facilities. Employee提名 for federal acknowledgment.

If this is the general consciousness of “Exploding Head” readers, I would like to state that the music that I write about in this column is not for some niche collective of “peers.” I wrote this column so that people would seek out new music, rather than hear someone’s opinion on music they’ve already heard. And if you’ve heard it already, well then come by the radio station and we’ll chat about it. Sure, I can just talk about the Trey Songz record or how O.G. Rich Ross is, but you’ve already formulated an opinion on the subject. You already know it’s good and you’ve already heard it. Why not listen to something you haven’t heard?

A good question to beg of if have any authority to even be writing about what’s good and what’s not. Well, I’ve been music director at the University radio station, Radiate FM (this is a plug), for about a year and a half. I get about 30 records coming in the mail each week. It’s one of the only times I can say that I get paid to listen to music, which I don’t think is a good thing. You don’t really get to enjoyable or fully consume the record you listen to. You’re more concerned about finishing the record so you can stack it onto a pile and move on to the next record.

Point is, I listen to my fair share of music and I feel like if I can set up a more than decent rotation for radio airplay, one that exhibits the picture of unknown gems that deserve to be heard, well then I feel I have just a bit of authority on what’s good and what’s not.

So, that’s a stamp of reassurance to not only myself, but to you. This is actually my last column, so feel like I’d want the few people that read it to know my intentions. Maybe that will embed my run into a hint of content. Now, I’ll leave you with some records to listen to while I’m gone.

TITUS ANDRONICUS - THE MONITOR

Great record from fellow Jersey kids who make some kind of weird allegory about life in the Garden State and the Civil War. I don’t know. It’s just awesome.

HARLEM - HIPPIES

This garage-rock band from Austin is just personified fun.
Mr. 305 and a few guests visited the University on April 7 as part of Student Programming Council’s signature event, the Up-Roar concert.

On that day the U.S. Century Bank Arena was reserved for the concert that lasted from 8 p.m. to almost the next day. The concert featured Cleveland, Ohio native Kid Cudi and Miami’s own Pitbull.

SPC-MMC started giving out tickets on March 24 and they were all gone by March 29, according to Joshua Brandfon, coordinator of Campus Life and SPC-MMC adviser.

They gave out over 1,900 tickets the first day and a total of 3,200 tickets. The concert cost $110,000 and was paid for with money from the Activities and Service fee collected through student tuition and distributed by student government. The money covered the artists themselves, sound, lights, the stage, security, marketing for the concert and the rental fee for the arena. SPC-MMC had to rent the arena from the Athletics Department.

This was meant to cover the Athletics staff on hand during the concert and the custodians who would clean up the arena after the concert.

The money also covered the fee of the agency used to book the artists, Concert Ideas. SPC-MMC has been working with Concert Ideas for as long as two years, which is as long as Brandfon has been working for the University. Brandfon estimated the University has been working with Concert Ideas for at least 10 years.

SPC-MMC did research for the concert during the Fall semester to find out what students wanted and worked with their agency to find out which artists perform at colleges in Miami and their prices.

“We tried to find who was hot,” Brandfon said.

Their research showed that what students wanted were hip-hop and Latin music. Pitbull and Kid Cudi were booked in January.

The concert was just one part of SPC-MMC’s Up-Roar Week. Comedian Jo Koy performed on April 6 in the Graham Center Ballrooms, with more than 750 attendees, according to Brandfon.

The week ended with a showing of Sherlock Holmes on April 9.

Plans for next year’s Up-Roar Week are still up in the air as they will be decided by the new SPC-MMC executive board.
Garden Club hopes Rosenberg recognizes garden’s importance

The Beacon is looking to recruit editorial positions for the 2010-2011 school year. Positions include:

- Opinion Editor
- Life! Editor
- Photo Editor
- Production Manager
- Copy Chief

If interested, come into The Beacon office at MMC and sign up, or email Jorge Valens at jorge.valens@fiusm.com. Deadline is Monday, April 16.

Other positions are also available for the 2010-2011 year.

Garden Club hopes Rosenberg recognizes garden’s importance

I’ve been looking for this record everywhere and I finally found it at Sweat Records (your local record store, sorta. It’s in Little Haiti, so not too local). If you like noise, then you might already know about it. But it’s just bassy and weird, and just one huge narcotic gaze. Love it.

Well, so long. I’ll see you around and I hope you take some initiative to seek all of this out. The internet is a friend and you should continue to ask it for stuff.

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all things music.

EXPLODING, page 7

Best electronic record of the year so far? J Dilla meets The Avalanches meets Dolemite.

Bun B, Black Dice worth a listen

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

THE LIFE OF THE MIND
Expert on global citizenship, Professor of philosophy Kwame Anthony Appiah from Princeton will speak about “World Citizenship.”

WHERE: GC 210
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: College of Law, RDB 1100
RSVP at :paw@fiu.edu

ON POINT POETRY
An open mic hosted by the On Point Poetry Club.

WHERE: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WUC Ballrooms, BRC

TANGO CLASSES

WHERE: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $10
WHERE: GC Pit

WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT
Presented by FIU Music.

WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $10 students, $15 general
WHERE: GC 150

FIU COLLEGE DEMOCRATS
Meeting with guests from Organizing for America.

WHERE: 7 - 8:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

REAL ESTATE ORGANIZATIONS
Presented by the FIU Real Estate Student Association. Various real estate companies will be speaking about their programs and how and why to join.

WHERE: 5:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Parking, 2nd Floor

CASA DE LA-HA
Indie band including performers Terrey Lee and Drew Spar. Live, organic food.

WHERE: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE:GC 150

FINALS OASIS
Come out and discuss "Grounding Religion: Meaning-Making Practices for a Planet in Crisis."

WHERE: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

FIU SOFTBALL
Cher on the Golden Panthers as they take on Bethune-Cookman.

WHERE: 6 - 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Softball Field

ORGANIC FARMERS MARKET
Local, organic food.

WHERE: 12 - 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Panther Suite

Pasta Thursdays at Perricone’s
Enjoy 3 pasta dishes all day.

WHERE: 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $10
WHERE: 15 SE 10th St.
Neglected for years, the timing is right for the increase of the Health fee

On April 7th, the University Health Fee committee announced their plans to increase the Student Health Fee by five percent, or $15.99. With this increase, the Student Health Fee will raise from its current total of $67.20 to $83.19.

According to the University Health committee, the increase will give them the funding they need to improve and expand their services, which includes plans to transition their records onto an electronic database and creating the new position of a case manager, who would be responsible for helping students manage the health care system to get what they need.

A large number of FIU students will see this University Health Fee raise as an inconvenience rather than a step forward. In their eyes, this is only yet another contribution to what they perceive to be an already-high tuition.

This is an understandable stance, especially when you consider the fact that the Student Health Fee has been raised for two consecutive years and has earned the title of being one the highest fees in the nation, let alone the state, and undergraduate tuition has increased on an almost yearly basis.

Even so, The Beacon believes that this health fee increase is long overdue. Since the University can take a five percent increase in Athletics, Activities and Services or Health Services once a year, and given that the last time health fees were raised was 2006, the timing is right.

As of now, the University’s Student Health Fee ranks number ten among the 11 state universities.

Even with the increase, provided that none of these other universities decide to raise their own Student Health Fees, FIU would only rank number eight. Furthermore, the Student Health Fee committee claims that only a few more amenities will be added to the basic services provided now.

Students may also argue that since they rarely if ever use the University Health Services individually, an increase in student health fees is unwarranted. However, attendance to home games of FIU athletic events has been notoriously low despite the high athletic fees.

The Men’s basketball team finished second last year in the Bell Conference in attendance, while the Football team finished dead last in the SBC with a home-attendance average of 10,204, a number that is seemingly inflated. So while the student body has not supported the support.

With the health fee, the money that you don’t use will ultimately help those that make regular use of the University Health services. Furthermore, in case of an emergency, a student can be sure that their University Health Fee will give them their money’s worth and an increase will only improve the quality of service.

In order to make sure students take advantage of all health services, the University should market it not only to freshmen, but to older students as well.

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education William Beesting said that a card will be made with information detailing the services. Faculty could also send communications to these students through email, while making sure that the cards are visible.

To conclude, the increase in health fees are appropriate, given that athletic fees are already largely inflated while the health fee has not been updated in years.

DEAN WILLIAMS

Commentary

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution reads: “A well regulated militia, composed of the free men of a state, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

Statutory interpretation is the process of interpreting and applying, for example, the second amendment, while strict constructionism affirms that the second amendment should be literally and strictly interpreted.

A strict constructionist would maintain that every American has the right to bear arms for his personal protection and safety, while a statutory interpreter would assert that gun control laws are for the collective good of society.

When is it permissible to deny one group of people their constitutional rights for the betterment of society? The Supreme Court now seemingly agrees with gun rights activists that the form of the two arguments accurately reflects the manner in which the second amendment should be viewed and applied.

An article published in the New York Times on March 2, 2010, “Supreme Court Still Divided Over Guns,” details that the Supreme Court may do justice in favor of gun rights activists. This would signify a required adherence to the constitution and extend a recent 2008 decision that first acknowledged individual’s right to bear arms.

In addition, it would act as the linchpin to repealing state laws that conflict with the possible ruling. There are several sources that gun rights activists can rightly utilize in defense of their right to bear arms.

While legal precedents in support of the second amendment predates late 17th century England, the English Bill of Rights of 1689 granted rights to arms for self-defense: “That the subjects may have arms for their defense suitable to their conditions as allowed by law.”

At bestplaces.com, Sperling’s Best Places, Americans can compare, amongst other things, crime rates in different cities through the U.S. The data used by Sperling’s Best Places reflects current FBI data. In comparison to the state of Florida, The District of Columbia (D.C.) and state of Illinois have tough gun laws. A quick comparison of crime rates in Miami and D.C. reveals, however, that crime rates in both cities are above the national average.

Moreover, Miami and D.C. have comparable property crime rates and violent crime rates in D.C. are slightly higher than they are in Miami.

When comparing Miami and Chicago, we find that both the violent and property crime rates are equal, and both are above the national average.

President Obama, a former University of Chicago Law School professor, should know that while enacting gun control laws that place the risk of crime is necessary, it should not be pursued at the risk of denying others their constitutional rights.

If people want to cling to their Bibles and their guns, then so be it. They are, after all, afforded such rights by the United States Constitution.

Jorge’s Picks for Up-And-Coming Green Cars:

- Ferrari 599 HY-KERS: A symbol of Ferrari’s commitment to develop green cars. With a Body-In-Stream. Keep an eye out for Ferrari’s hybrid technology, which will shift the paradigm in hybrid engine development.
- Mini E: BMW bought Mini in 2000, made it green. The Mini E is a test platform for BMW’s plug-in electric technology and is currently being leased to select customers as part of the company’s field-testing program.
- Toyota Prius: Accelerator problems or not, you can’t deny the impact Toyota has had in the hybrid car market. Future generations of the car will incorporate solar technology to power some of the cars lesser functions.

Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com.

DEAN WILLIAMS

Commentary

Auto Erotica

Amendment breaches citizen rights

For a while I feared that the hybrid engine was going to be the death of the fast car.

When the average person thinks of green cars, they think of fuel efficiency, electric engines, simplicity and practicality. Cars like the Toyota Prius springs to mind, and the Chevy Volt come to mind.

These cars are technological marvels all on their own, especially the Volt, which looks to be the first affordable plug-in electric car. However, they all have one thing in common: they are slow and dull.

I am all for the environment, I promise. I recycle, I conserve energy, everything that Al Gore told me to do I have tried to do. Seriously. But to the auto enthusiast, like me, the green car represents the death of an era. Fast cars, sleek designs and throaty engines were our bread and butter. In other words, what four-door micro sedans and hatchbacks with inclined four cylinder engines and hybrid engines were moving in.

But, hybrid cars aren’t beautiful; they aren’t iconic. They are a business decision to appease consumers’ change in taste resulting from a sharp climb in oil prices. They’re built to be minimalistic during a time when being minimalistic is the new black.

Even celebrities and other popular rich people dumped their Porsches for a Prius, giving birth to the first car that blurred the line between social classes. You knew someone in a Porsche made money, but in a Prius, you weren’t so sure. Were they normal like me or are they environmentally aware ventures capitalists?

Personally, I have always hated hybrid cars because there was no legacy behind them, no purpose other than to appease America’s rapidly developing environmental awareness.

But much like the auto industry itself, which changed its mind about the future of the hybrid engine, I am starting to change my mind as well.

Automobile companies are starting to realize that environmental awareness and awe-inspiring power and design are not mutually exclusive. A car can be good for the environment and be fun to drive.

In a previous piece I wrote, which inspired me to write this very column, I criticized Porsche for distracting itself by focusing on SUVs and sedans rather than sports cars, which is what they’re good at.

Well, I assume they read The Beacon because they recently dropped the complete vision and stunning technical feat that is the 918 Spyder.

First introduced in 2018 as the best-looking Porsche in a long time. The car draws its styling from the iconic 917 sports car that won its fair share of races back in the day.

Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com.
Riders beware: driver does not care

JAYSON TAYLOR Special to The Beacon

I would like to take a moment to express my discontent. I do this in response to the events that transpired on FIU south campus. It is proper to comment of maltreatment. So, with this, I digress!

Friday, March 26, I encountered unbecoming behavior verging of unprofessionalism. At 9:20 a.m. that morning I parked my vehicle in the area referred to as the “dust bowl.” Then I proceeded up the path to catch the shuttle.

Upon entering the shuttle, I expressed my intention to the driver that I would be exiting at the end of the block, or the second stop sign. With a confirming nod I settled in, for this was not the first time I rode with this driver. The exodus was smooth those times. This one time, I am afraid to say, it was not.

The reality is that I am alive. So, when we got closer to my stop, I began to get up, holding onto the back rail to steady my departure. Unfortunately, the large sunglasses wearing latino male did not come to a full stop, and run the stop sign California style.

So, for a brief moment my Kung Fu grip betrayed me. I was lucky that it was not for the strap on of my bag, I might be dead. Needless to say, my bag and I had been flipped into on-smoothing traffic roughly 20 feet -ripping my leather bag and damaging my computer. Not to mention the scrapes and bruises that assaulted my own body. Moreover, I was looked back upon and laughed at by a male driver of the bus, like I was in his fraternity (not), or a rival fraternity (not). After brushing myself off and examining my blood loss rate, I consid- ered assaulting this stumble driver. So, I took another breath and proceeded to my Botany test which was scheduled right then.

What would you do? What should I do? I need a Beacon of hope to remedy these issues! My apologies for the disgruntled behavior. The run around I have encoun- tered when talking to people about this has been extensive and humiliating; laughter hurts!

Jayson Taylor is a Junior and majoring in biomedical science.
RAGIN' THE CAJUNS

Barrett leads team with dominance in the circle

STEPHANIE GABRIEL Asst. Sports Director

It was an all around effort for the FIU softball team.

After struggling with pitching in the first week's match-ups, the Panthers showcased some remarkable defensive plays, timely hits, and dominance in the circle. In the end, the Panthers were able push past Louisiana-Lafayette in two on April 10. The singles effort's choice followed by a passed ball. Burri scored the fourth run after another single by the FIU offense, this time coming from Ashley McClain.

UL finally ended the inning on a double play but Pellicer was able to cross the plate before the end of the game and force extra innings. "Look at McClain, we wouldn't have gone extra innings and got the win without that bomb," FIU freshman Bri Rojas said. "It really got us rolling." In the eighth inning both teams put runners on base but neither team could score. Again, in the ninth, there were runners on base for both but it was FIU who prevailed. After Peller knocked a hit up the middle, Rojas stepped to the plate to drive her in for the walk-off win.

"I felt calm and I saw the ball," Rojas said. "[The pitcher] came at me and on the second pitch I hit it. I had nothing to lose."

Barrett pitched the two extra innings for FIU, giving up a single hit while striking out three of seven batters she faced for her 12th win of the season.

"I thought that was probably the best day we've had this year," FIU head coach Beth McClendon said. "I think [UL] is a great team, to come out and win two against them is a great day."}

SOFTBALL: FIU 6, UL 2; FIU 4, UL 3; FIU 5, UL 9

FIU 6, UL 2

Kasey Barrett was relieved to throw dominant game against the Ragin Cajuns. The senior pitched a complete game to earn the win, giving up just three hits and a pair of earned runs to go along with nine strikeouts in game one.

"It's a great feeling," she said. "Since I've been here at FIU I've struggled against them so it was an awesome feeling to finally beat them."

UL had a 2-1 lead heading into the fifth inning but the Panthers exploded with five runs in that inning to make the score 6-2.

Senior Lauren Spiers ignited the offense with a 2-for-3 effort.

Junior Arrojo stroked a single to left to drive her in for the walk-off win.

FIU will hit the home field again Wednesday to face conference rival Florida Atlantic at 6 p.m.

BASEBALL: MTSU 10, FIU 5; MTSU 4, FIU 3

Panthers drop a pair on the road to the Blue Raiders

JOEL DELGADO Asst. Sports Director

MTSU 4, FIU 3

Another Golden Panther comeback came up short as Middle Tennessee dealt FIU with another loss with a walk-off fielder's choice in the bottom of the ninth.

The Blue Raiders hit a pair of home runs off of FIU starter R.J. Fondon to build a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning. But the sophomore settled down, silencing the Blue Raider offense and keeping the Golden Panthers within striking distance throughout the game.

Fondon earned a no-decision after pitching 7 1/3 innings and allowed three runs on 10 hits.

FIU struggled offensively throughout the game, squandering several opportunities to get back in the game. The offense broke through in the seventh inning on a series of singles sparked by a lead-off base hit by Tim Jobe. Junior Arrojo stroked a single to left to drive in Jobe and put FIU on the board and then Pablo Bermudez hit another RBI single to make it a one-run game. A sacrifice fly by Jahari Henry drove in Arrojo to tie the game at 3-3.

Eric Berkowitz came in to relieve Fondon in the eighth inning and pitched into the ninth inning, where he ran into trouble late. After loading the bases with only one out, Blake McLeod ended it after hitting a pitch hard to Arrojo at shortstop, whose only play was at third base. The play allowed the winning run to cross the plate, dealing Berkowitz his second loss of the season.

MTSU 10, FIU 5

The road has not been a friendly one for the Golden Panthers (18-12, 5-5 SBC) as of late, dropping the first game of a weekend series against the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders (19-11, 8-5 SBC) on April 9. Despite Tim Jobe and Jahari Henry turning
BASEBALL: JABARI HENRY

Henry makes immediate impact for FIU

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

Jabari Henry seems to know how to make an entrance in a big way. It was the second game of the season against Maryland on Feb. 20, and his first collegiate start and at bat. Almost as quickly as he stepped into the batter’s box, Henry crushed a pitch over the left field wall for a three-run homer run.

His first impression was just a prelude to what he has been able to do since then. Henry has helped make the FIU offense a formidable one. As of April 10, Henry leads all Golden Panthers in home runs with eight and has a team-high 37 RBIs. After a week in which Henry exploded with five home runs, two of them being grand slams, and racking up 17 RBIs while batting .500 in that span, national honors came rushing in as the freshman struggled to keep track of them all.

“All of my fans back at home are texting me, telling me I’ve won another award. Sometimes I don’t find out until some of my friends tell me,” Henry said. In addition to winning the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week for his breakout performance, he was named Louisville Slugger’s National Player of the Week, earned a spot on the College Baseball Foundation’s National All-Star Lineup and was also College Baseball Insider’s National Player of the Week.

CHANGE OF HEART

It wasn’t always baseball for Henry growing up, however. He was being groomed to be basketball player by his father, Joe Henry, but young Jabari had other plans.

“I remember he came home one day and said he wanted to play baseball,” Joe Henry said of his son. “He said he wanted to pitch so we bought him a glove and we saw he had a pretty good arm. When I got home from work we took a bucket of balls, a bat and a glove and we would go hit every day.”

Now Henry’s family comes down from central Florida frequently to catch as many home games as possible. Watching the left fielder play from a distance has been a bit of a role reversal for his father, who has been accustomed to having more of a hands-on role in his son’s development.

“It seemed like I have seen all of it before and I’m reliving it all over again but now in the stands.” Joe Henry said.

QUICK ADJUSTMENTS

Outside of striving to win conference championships and earning a College World Series berth, Henry has his sights focused on the tasks that lie right in front of him.

“Henry has made an immediate impact, FIU head coach Turtle Thomas still believes that there are better things yet to come and expects him to continue to make progress as an everyday outfielder for the Golden Panthers.”

“Jabari is a fine young, freshman baseball player,” Thomas said. “The biggest thing he has to do is continue learning the game of baseball and to get much stronger. We’re expecting even better things from him in the future.”

Barrett proves to be a leader in and out of the circle

ROBERT BROWN
Contributing Writer

Kasey Barrett came into the FIU softball program just like other things in her life. She came without many expectations.

After playing a single season at South Florida Community College, Barrett started her career with Florida International University in 2008. Her first major achievement came modestly while pitching a complete game versus a No. 18 ranked Ohio State team.

“Pitching just kind of happened, my middle school coach asked me to try out pitching one day at practice and I have been pitching ever since,” the 5-foot-10 team captain said.

Head coach of the team, Beth McClendon, says that Barrett is one of the best people and players that she has had the opportunity to coach.

When asked how she felt about the senior pitcher, McClendon said, “Kasey pitches until it is right, comes to practice 10 to 15 minutes early to get better and never utters a word.”

McClendon has helped mold the Golden Panther softball team into a program that strives to be a tight-knit group priding itself on work ethic and loyalty on and off the field. This philosophy was an ideal situation for Barrett to adapt and work on her skills in Miami and has molded her into a team leader that will continue to have an influence on the team by coming back as an assistant coach.

“Barrett’s time at FIU has allowed her to take on a leadership role and become more assertive both in and out of the circle. One of those assertions was putting on 30 lbs in the offseason to gain velocity on her pitches.”

The sacrifices have seemingly paid off. The hurler presently leads the Golden Panther pitching staff with an earned run average of 1.97 and a 12-8 win and loss record. She has also earned Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week awards three times this season.

“It’s nothing new, however. Barrett has been the staff ace since she arrived on campus. After struggling versus Florida Gulf Coast on April 6, Barrett managed to pitch a two-hitter in game two of the double header for her fifth shutout of the season. In the game, she recorded a season high 12 strikeouts.

She now holds 12 career shutouts, second all-time at FIU.

Just this past weekend, Barrett showed dominance again by totaling 16 strikeouts over three games versus Louisiana-Lafayette. In the series she picked up two wins and a loss.

The softspoken Barrett has let her pitching speak for her throughout her career.

“Kasey has always been the type of person to let her actions speak for herself,” McClendon said. “She has great integrity and is a hard worker.”

“Kasey always has been the type of person to let her actions speak for herself,” McClendon said. “She has great integrity and is a hard worker.”

Although the end of the season is nearing and Barrett will not be standing on the mound next year, she hopes to still be a part of the team. She will continue to have an influence on the team by coming back as an assistant coach.

“We are a team on and off the field,” Barrett said. “And we’ll always be there to pick one another up.”

Kasey Barrett [above] leads the FIU pitching staff with a 12-8 record and a .97 ERA in her final season.
Despite Tim Jobe and Jabari Henry turning in strong individual performances, it was not enough to overcome an early deficit as the preseason Sun Belt favorites were able to get their offense going against FIU starter Scott Rembisz. FIU picked up a run in the top of the second to take an early lead after catcher Sean Reilly hit a sacrifice fly to center field deep enough to drive in Jobe.

But that would be the only lead the Golden Panthers would have for the rest of the night as the Blue Raiders picked up two runs in the bottom half of the inning and then scored five runs in the third, chasing Rembisz out of the game. Rembisz picked up his third loss of the season, dropping his overall record to 4-3 on the season after giving up six runs, four of them earned, on four hits in 2.1 innings on the mound.

Down 10-3 in the seventh inning, Henry stepped up to the plate and hammered his eighth home run of the season, a two-run shot to cut the MTSU lead to five. FIU had a chance to come back in the eighth after loading the bases with just one out recorded, but Rudy Flores grounded into an inning-ending double play, stopping the potential rally dead in its tracks.

Jobe picked up two hits for the Golden Panthers and scored twice while picking an RBI in the loss, while Garrett Wittels extended his hitting streak to 27 games after a 2-for-4 performance.

Wittels, who has started in all but three games so far this season, has hit in every game he has played in so far this season.

Chris Adams / The Beacon File Photo

R.J. Fondon [above] gave up three runs and 10 hits to the Blue Raiders on April 10. The Golden Panthers lost 4-3.

Wittels’ hitting streak continues as Panthers fall
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