**SPOTLIGHT**

**AT THE BAY** PAGE 4

SGC-MMC During their final meeting, the council looked back on what they have accomplished and offered their advice.

**AT THE BAY** PAGE 4

Weekends with Paradise: Our columnist spends her last weekend going back to two of her old favorite hangouts.

**LIFE!** PAGE 4

The Midnight Ensemble put on their last concert of the school year to a captive audience, and ended on an incredibly high note.

**LIFE!** PAGE 4

Critics: Chris takes a look at the controversial Senate Bill 6, which calls for teachers to be paid in accordance to the amount of money that FIU test scores their students earn.

**OPINION** PAGE 7

Chris takes a look at the state capital; a number that he keeps your eyes on education, and amount of money that FIU will prepare for in the 2010-2011 academic year.

**SPORTS** PAGE 12

Baseball: Golden Panthers fell for the fourth time in five games by dropping an 8-3 decision to Bethune Cookman. On Wednesday, Daniel Desimone gave an 8-3 decision to Bethune Cookman for MMC.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The April 12 town hall on regulations is a free event between 12-1 p.m. For more events, look for our calendar in the LIFE section on Mondays and Fridays.

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**WEATHER**

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**TUITION TO INCREASE NEXT YEAR**

Rosenberg: State appointed funds ‘not significantly high’

**MELOISA CACERES**
Staff Writer

After five weeks of deciding where to allocate state funds, the Florida Legislature has finally passed its budgets for the 2010-2011 academic year. University President Mark Rosenberg announced the verdict to the FIU community in his April 12 budget forum, which took place in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

“By what they have accomplished and offered their advice,” Rosenberg said.

**According to the presentation, state revenue was $32 billion in the 2004-05 year and has dropped $10 billion within four years. With only around $22 billion to work with these days, Rosenberg stated that Florida will not be picking up to its original 2004-05 numbers until 2017.**

“The FIU budget plan will be receiving reductions from the Florida senate (0.3 percent), and the House (6.8 percent). Compared to the state funding per full time equivalent in 2000-01 time equivalent in 2000-01.”

**BUDGET, page 2**

**REQUESTED RECALL ASKED FROM PETITION**

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**
Senior Staff Writer

Throughout his time at the University, Jose Toscano, Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus adviser, has never seen a petition to recall the SGC presidential election. This includes him time as an undergraduate student from 1992 to 1997.

In an interview with Student Media, Javier Lopez, sophomore communications major, said he is one of the people responsible for such a petition.

“I came about during general elections, the week of March 29, when the petitioners realized the presidential race was uncontested. It was the second uncontested presidential election in a row, and the fourth in the last five years for MMC.”

**PETITION, page 3**
Teachers now to receive raises based on student performance

On Wednesday April 14, the Miami-Dade School Board took a formal position against the teacher tenure bill, which would dramatically change the way teachers are paid in Florida. According to The Miami Herald, the resolution passed on a 7-0 vote and was brought forward by veteran board member Marta Pérez.

The proposed legislation would tie teacher raises to student performance on tests, not years of experience or professional certifications. It would also require local school districts to create a new set of exams for students at all grade levels.

Earthquake in China claims over 500 lives

The 6.9-magnitude earthquake, as measured by the U.S. Geological Survey struck at 7:49 a.m. local time on Wednesday, April 14. The Xinhua news agency reported that many victims were buried beneath the debris. Rescuers were struggling to clear debris with hoes. The quake rattled thousands of citizens who were still at home and schools were on summer vacation.

According to CNN, Twitter says it receives about 55 million tweets every day—amounting to billions of them since its inception.

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Dependence on tuition anticipated

Google raises security concerns

Google’s “hosted solution” for a school’s online needs. It provides the students with Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Talk, Google Sites, Google Docs and Google Video.

This delay has contributed to Google’s cloud computing. Cloud computing, or cloud services, is used by companies that do not own storage, networks or services. These are hosted instead on an infrastructure that holds the companies’ files on the provider’s data server. When data is located on a cloud storage array, it can be accessed from anywhere by anyone with an Internet connection.

Cloud computing typically depends on users to keep and run the data without interruption by maintenance. The same data is stored on more than one server, creating redundancy. One of the more common forms of cloud computing is free e-mail service.

“Yale is simply pointing out that if the Google servers go down, there is no emergency backup,” Rosenberg said. “Our system is designed never to have a total outage.”

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College of Medicine hosts first ever health event

PETITION, page 1

"We saw that it was one choice, and we want to make sure that not only everyone has an equal chance to run but that students aren’t pushed into one administration," Lopez said.

After this Lopez said he and his group read the Student Government Association constitution and learned they could petition the election.

The names and Panther IDs of those who signed have to be verified by the Registrar’s Office. The amount of usable signatures could be lower after the verification is finished.

Which is exactly what happened.

The petition was delivered to Toscano and Luis Robayo, chief of justice for the SGC-MMC judiciary, on April 1.

Article VIII, Section E of the current student government constitution gives any student the right to petition for a University-wide recall.

"It’s a great networking event to learn about what organizations are doing," Garland said.

"It’s been a learning experience. Students have made connections at this event for their future career plans."

The American Public Health Association serves as the organizer of NPHW and develops a national campaign to educate the public, policy-makers and practitioners about issues addressed that year’s theme. APHA creates comprehensive planning, organizing and outreach materials that can be used during and after the week to raise awareness.

The event also featured information about establishing a rubric based on popularity and nutritional value to be compared with the old recipes.

"It was an experience because I’m working with students and making them want to go to the clinic," said Makeba Burke, who is a public health intern at the Robert Stempel School of Public Health and Social Work. Burke participated in the cookbook project as part of her internship and assisted in trying to get funding for the cookbook project.

"It’s been exciting to see it come together and to see our community partners out to support," Dr. Laura Boudon, College of Medicine Panther Community Coordinator said. Boudon aided in the facilitation of planning the event in collaboration with students like Garland and concluded that in the future the event will aim to follow a similar pattern. "There will be more events in the future that will further grab people’s interest."

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MIAMIAlumni

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Council reviews year, looks ahead

JASMYN ELLIOTT
BBC Managing Editor

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus spent its final meeting on April 14 expressing their gratitude towards one another and telling what they hope to achieve with the new 2010-2011 administration.

Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor and assistant director of campus life and orientation, made sure to let the council know that their work has not gone unnoticed.

“I know that, at times, people take things for granted,” Zapata said. “But, see your work at the University and I would like to thank you for that.”

Brittany Brewer, SGC-BBC director of lectures, was nostalgic.

“It’s so nice to see people grow into leadership,” she said. “You all have done a phenomenal job; don’t ever for a second think that you haven’t.”

Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator, credited the current “small but strong senate” for getting many things accomplished, including creating a new senate handbook, hosting several forums and lectures, being a part of the first-ever joint senate meeting with the council at the Modesto Maidique Campus, and revising the SGC-BBC statutes on April 12 from 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“We all did this from the bottom of our hearts,” Arbabi asked. “I don’t think this recognition should come on a trophy, but we just want to say thank you.”

SGC-BBC Chief Justice Georgia Bedeau also acknowledged Arbabi’s sentiment.

“It was a struggle [for the senate] to meet quorum sometimes, but you still got things done,” Bedeau said.

Crag Cunningham, director of campus life and orientation, acknowledged SGC-BBC’s accomplishments, but recognized this past administration as a “learning year” and hopes that the council will use the lessons learned for the better.

“it is important to have your internal policies and procedures clear and understood by everybody,” Cunningham said. “Next year, fill all of your positions as quickly as possible and get everybody ready. BBC needs self-governance. Students have a voice here, not 30 miles away [at MMC].”

Elections Commissioner Kiela Samuels also had some advice for the new council.

“Put all of your childish thoughts away; don’t be selfish,” Samuels said. “Remember that you represent the student body. Put them first.”

Sholom Neistein, the outgoing SGC-BBC president, left the council confident that Christin “Cici” Battle will do a “great job” as SGC-BBC president for 2010-2011 and with a few words of encouragement.

“The ones who persevere are the ones who survive,” Neistein said. “Don’t let anyone tell you that you are not leaders. Everyone brings separate part to the council. Be a part of the family that SGA has become.”

Battle expressed her gratitude for the council being “patient and understanding” when it came to working with Neistein and herself.

“We’re really passionate about student government,” Battle said. “Thank you for not taking things personally.”

Battle was also quick to express her desire to begin her administration on solid ground.

“Be ready to work,” said Battle, “because we’re going to take it to another level.”

Circuit

Trip to the past makes way for future endeavors

This feels weird.

I began this column thinking that, one day, it will be over. Yes, it sounds corny, but I didn’t think the end would come so soon.

Since this month marks the end of my college career, I cannot help but look back.

This weekend, I went out to revisit some of the places that helped me build, hoping that I could recover some long-lost pleasant memories along the way.

For better or for worse, my mission wasn’t accomplished.

I began by going to Cheeburger Cheeburger, where I used to spend every Friday night during high school. This is the place that began my obsession with cheese fries.

Before I was a vegetarian, my best friend Beth and I would challenge each other to eat the “one-pounder” cheeseburger. We both did it, twice.

I went back this weekend to find that it has been closed and there is a new burger joint in its spot called Stop Burger, located at 1793 Bell Tower Lane, Weston.

This place is a cheap knockoff of Five Guys Burgers and Fries. Honestly, it is no Cheeburger Cheeburger either. I had the cheese fries and a vegetable burger, the same order I made after I gave up meat.

The cheese was cold on my fries; this was the first time I ever regretted ordering them.

On the upside, the veggie burgers at Stop Burger were just as bad as the ones at Cheeburger. They lack so much flavor and were so greasy that they made me want to throw up, just like old times.

I then decided to go to one of my favorite spots that I have gone to since I began this column, Blue Martin Fish House, 2500 N.E 163rd St, North Miami Beach.

I loved this place to the point I would go out of my way to eat the grilled cheese sandwiches there. I didn’t do this because they were great (Trust me I could make better at home), but I loved the atmosphere and I thought DJ, the owner, was a sweetheart.

I drove by expecting to see old faces, but, of course, the place is under new ownership.

Just my luck.

I asked where DJ was and I was introduced to Tommy Lopez-Meisz, the manager and marketing director.

“We really marketed to students and increase SGA exposure,” he said.

According to Neistein, this administration has also provided more student-focused events, including the highly-attended Dan Rather lecture, which SGA invested $30,000 for.

“This year, we have had more events than ever,” he said. “It was a phenomenal lecture and it was full of students.”

He also focused on providing students a manageable SGC-BBC website, which, according to Neistein, had some minor setbacks during the beginning of the semester, but “is currently up and running after extensive work.”

Additionally, Neistein’s goal was to provide transparency on all matters to students and increase SGA exposure.

“We really marketed to students and provided more SGA exposure this year,” he said.

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

With a full term served and several goals met, Biscayne Bay Campus Student Government Council President Sholom Neistein reminisced on his time spent with students, his council and the University.

“I never expected for it to be this way; this position was full of surprises. No one is ever really prepared for what is at stake, but it has helped lay a strong foundation for my future experiences,” he said. “It has been a great honor and privilege and I am very grateful for this opportunity the students have given me.”

Neistein, who began his term as SGC-BBC president on May 1, campaigned during the Fall semester of 2009 to offer students complete transparency, more events and alleviate concerns students expressed. Goals, Neistein feels, both he and his council have fulfilled.

“I have been blessed this year with a phenomenal council that has allowed me to empower and teach them,” he said.

Shortly after being elected during the Fall semester, Neistein established free black ink printing for students in the Student Government Association printing lab located in room 200 of the Wolfe University Center.

NEISTEIN, page 5
Neistein interested in working with council

NEISTEIN, page 4

After a difficult time with elections, Neistein also reflected on the issue and saw it as a learning experience.

“You need a lot of energy and be able to be in five different places at once. The president gets both the undeserved credit and blame, but you have to remember you can never do it all by yourself and you have to trust the people you work with are doing their job,” he advised Battle during their final meeting on April 14.

Neistein, who will vacate his position as of April 28, will be replaced by the current SGC-BBC vice president, Christin “Cici” Battle, whom he offered his words of advice to.

“You need a lot of energy and be able to be in five different places at once. The president gets both the undeserved credit and blame, but you have to remember you can never do it all by yourself and you have to trust the people you work with are doing their job,” he advised Battle during an interview with The Beacon. “Stay on course and stick to your ideals and morals. Make sure you maintain your integrity and remain transparent with students.”

Thankful for his time and patience, Battle shared her gratitude during the SGA meeting.

“There were some days where he basically lived in the office. There would be some days where we would be there working late together and he would help me with everything -- working with administration, putting events together and helping me through all the drama. I would like to thank him for that,” she said.

I care about the students…
The student voice is the most essential aspect of the University.

Sholom Neistein, SGC-BBC President
Student Government Association

Old haunts bring new understanding to change

WEEKENDS, page 4

I order my grilled cheese sandwich, which of course was cold.

What is my luck with cold cheese this weekend?

There were no warm conversations like I am used to having there.

Guess I am never going back to Blue Marlin again.

My whole weekend went just like that. The location of my first internship four years ago has closed and the location of my first job is no longer there.

As sad as this should make me, I am kind of okay with it.

Those phases in my life are now over. But, I have the memories that allow me to be that annoying person who says things like, “Back in the day, this place was so much better.”

I want to say that, just like my childhood memories, this column, or even college, has closed to look back upon.

Little missteps will make for great memories to look back upon.

Go out, make mistakes, try new things. Just laugh along the way, because all those little missteps will make great memories to look back upon.

For more information about this research study please call (305) 596-9901

Participation is completely voluntary.

CLINICAL RESEARCH STUDY FOR BIRTH CONTROL

New Age Medical Research Corporation is conducting a clinical research study of an investigational oral medication for birth control.

Qualified participants will receive at no cost for up to 12 months:

- Periodic gynecological exams
- Investigational oral birth control medication

Females who are 18-40 years of age, sexually active, and have regular menstrual cycles may be eligible for participation. Compensation up to $750 is available for time and travel.

For more information about this research study please call (305) 596-9901
MARCHING IN

Band looks for new director, hopes to attract 110 students

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

They’re back and they’re here to stay.

The FIU marching band took a hit last year when their funds were cut and the band was forced to stop sharing their Panther pride with students on the field.

But, with the help of University President Mark B. Rosenberg and the Student Government Association, the band was given a second chance.

Rosenberg and several groups from the University came together to come up with a solution for the band.

The band costs approximately $300,000 a year and SGA stepped up and will be funding about half that amount. The band will also be partly funded by private donors.

“We are proud to be part of the solution to bring back the band,” said Student Government Council President Anthony Rondicchio to Student Media earlier this month.

“This is not an athletic band, but truly an FIU band that will participate in all aspects of University and community life.”

Catherine Rand, director of bands at the School of Music, is serving as interim director for the band and hopes it will bring a much-needed spirit back to the games.

“I think it’s going to bring back a lot of spirit in the Athletics Department. It’s pretty unusual not to have a halftime show,” Rand said.

Marching bands are meant to get fans pumped up for big games and the band has high hopes for the new academic year.

“I’m looking forward to getting back on the field and we’re looking at getting at least 110 students marching,” said Ernesto Fernandez, a senior music performance and music education major who served as the former drum major for the band and is a current member of the search committee for the band.

Finding the perfect director is the search committee’s main priority for now and they hope to have someone on board by the end of May, ready to get started in the last week of classes in the Spring and be ready to propel our ensemble,” Rand said of the future director.

She hopes the new band director will create a tradition for the band.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NEWS.FIU.EDU

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

THE BEACON REVIEWS: THE FIU WIND ENSEMBLE CONCERT

Ensemble ends semester with extraordinary, powerful performance

MARIA MURRIEL
Staff Writer

The last week of classes in the Spring marks the time for extended study sessions, coffee overloads and frantic scheduling. At the FIU School of Music, to call this a “hectic” week was an understatement.

During a series of end-of-the semester concerts by various student music groups, Catherine Rand, director of bands, led the FIU Wind Ensemble in a compelling three-piece, hour-long performance on April 13.

The concert could most accurately be described as an ominous demonstration of the ensemble’s abilities, a showcase of just how strong their sound is and how well they can project, level and manipulate it.

Concert-goers milling around the entryway of the Wertheim Performing Arts Center poured into their seats at around 8 p.m., most of them unaware of the bombastic introduction that awaited them.

The band, an ensemble of more than 40 musicians, took the stage to tune their instruments and produced a sound that was a fitting signal for a heavenly tidal wave.

Rand joined them shortly; the audience tensed in expectation.

The opening piece was a five-minute tour de force entitled “Asphalt Cocktail.” The dramatic scorcher was written by composer John Mackey about his time living in New York City, and it was crafted to resemble “the scariest NYC taxi ride you can imagine.”

This, the composer captured perfectly.

A blast of aural energy blew through the walls of the auditorium from the first measure, and it’s sufficient to say the listeners were slapped into attention by the determination of the blaring horns.

The perfect combination of xylophone and horn, of strong percussion and frantic clarinet, created a decidedly aggressive atmosphere and fierce presence.

Rand, as conductor, interpreted every rhythmic variation with emotion and ultimate precision.

Busy, rushed and at times anxious, “Asphalt Cocktail” was reminiscent of a comic book action scene — something straight out of Who Framed Roger Rabbit, and it was the most adequate introduction to the powerful evening that followed.

Led by Michael Guzman, assistant conductor, the ensemble embarked on their intimate interpretation of “Ballad for Band,” a Morton Gould composition that has been lauded as one of his most popular for decades.

Definitely in high contrast with the first number, “Ballad” touched on softer sensibilities and more lyrical expres-

CONCERT, page 8
Parade to feature 100-foot rainbow flag

PARADE, page 1

was one-and-a-quarter miles long. Locals may remember this flag when it was stretched from the Atlantic to the Gulf of Mexico during a 2004 pride parade.

More than 1,000 people are expected to participate in this parade, which will be presenting the Legacy Couples – LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and allied individuals) couples who have been in committed relationships for more than 20 years.

Pride asserts this parade is open and free to the public, with entertainment for the whole family.

The parade organizer, Miami Beach Gay Pride, is an initiative of the Miami Beach Gay Business Development Council. Miami Beach Mayor Matti Bower played a large role in the establishment of this group.

“It is hard to believe a city as diverse and as inclusive of the LGBT community as our city has not had an official Miami Beach Gay Pride in the past,” Bower was quoted on the group’s Web site in anticipation of the first annual parade. “I am very proud to be a part of such a historical event in our community.”

This year’s parade will pass through Ocean Drive’s Art Deco section, from 5th Street to 15th Street. The parade will complete its route at the Miami Beach Pride Festival and Expo.

The festival and expo is being held between 10th and 14th streets. This area alone is an example of the increasing popularity this event is seeing in one year. Last year’s expo featured 80 different businesses and community bo. This year’s has nearly twice that amount, as more and more LGBTQIA-friendly businesses come forward to share their support for this event.

The parade, the shopping and the booths all seek to make this event fun for everybody.

Still, what would a Gay Pride Day be without music? Fortunately, the organizers have come prepared for that.

With a local stage on the streets, and a main stage set up at 14th Street, Pride will be featuring various DJs and presentations, from the start of the parade at 12 p.m. leading up to 2 p.m. when the festival brings out its special live performances and guest appearances.

A varied selection of DJs will keep the music moving, as well as DJ Zehno playing throughout the day on the main stage. Along with offerings ranging from local performers including the Miami Gay Men’s Chorus, poets, drag shows and celebrity impersonators, the stages will also see local diva Maryel Epps. Other performances include international artists such as Marge Robin S, and Crystal Waters.

For those who are in the Miami Beach area but not able to make it to the festival itself, fear not. The celebrations are not restricted solely to Saturday. As early as a week before, many local sponsors are providing discounts and special offers in honor of the event, with partial proceeds benefiting Miami Beach Gay Pride. A complete list of participating businesses and events, as well as contacts and information can be found at www.miami-beachgaypride.com.

Marching band to come back this Fall

BAND, page 6

FIU so that it will no longer be known as the Division I university without a marching band – a rare thing for such a large school, she said. “It’s truly creating the spirit of FIU,” Rand said.

She stressed that the band wasn’t a product of the music school, but part of the University’s identity because the music school was only a small part of it.

As for the band itself, anyone with music experience is free to audition. The current band is made up of students from all majors, exemplifying FIU’s spirit of diversity, Rand said.

“This band is the band of the University. It is the face of the University. Doesn’t matter your major, as long as you have played an instrument before you can play in the marching band,” Rand added.

Potential band members attend band camp a week before the semester starts. The camp separates auxiliary, wind and percussion players and designates each student a spot on the field.

Rand’s position as interim director means she gets to serve as recruiter for the band. Just this week, she visited local high school bands to talk to them about joining.

She has also begun recruiting FIU students to make the new director’s transition in Summer B easier.

The marching band will be back in the stadiums this Fall.
Apple store’s philosophy may be alienating customers

I love buying Apple’s stuff; it’s a bit of fun. I have to go to the Apple store to buy it.

The “Apple store experience” is the execution of Apple’s vision of how retail operations should be conducted.

It’s simple, clean and efficient - I’m sure, buzz words in Apple’s retail strategy.

However, just because it’s simple, clean and efficient doesn’t mean that it’s great.

Let’s analyze the experience on two levels: design and customer experience.

DESIGN

Aesthetically, an Apple store looks like what I think the inside of a giant iPod looks like.

Aside from the flagship stores, such as the glass cube on Fifth Avenue in New York City, which astounds customers with its architectural design, most of the lesser Apple stores are all the same.

Upon entering an Apple store you are automatically hit with a smell, the “Apple scent.”

I would describe it as a 60 to 40 percent split of hospital disinfectant and warm plastic.

But, as soon as you get used to it, you are overwhelmed by the blinding, surgical white that adorns the walls, complementing the matte gray floors and the minimalist wooden tables; all done, I am sure, to highlight the little aluminum boxes they are trying to sell.

As much as I love to play with all the new stuff, I kind of hate walking in there. It unsettles me a bit, and flashbacks of The Matrix loading program come to mind. It’s too white.

The place is so methodically organized that I can navigate it with my eyes closed.

I wouldn’t recommend that though, because even on a Thursday night it has about 1,000 people in it.

EMPLOYEES AND SUPPORT

In an effort to make the buying experience less corporate, they’ve made it more corporate, surrounding you with snobby employees to remind you of it.

For the most part these guys are pretty elitist, starting down at you through their dark rimmed glasses with no lenses, their faux hawks casting a shadow over you.

Recently, I walked into the Apple store and explained to the greeter that I had a problem with my iPhone and would like to swap it for another one, to which she directed me to the Genius bar.

I was directed to a person standing in the middle of the store, a gatekeeper to the geniuses, protecting the average consumer from the overwhelming knowledge possessed by those at the rear of the store.

I explained my problem and that I urgently needed my phone to work properly because of my job.

However, without an appointment, all I received was a broken iPhone with a large side of attitude.

Look, the Apple store experience hinges on their customer service. The day I went, the majority of geniuses were sitting around chatting about the new release of Adobe CS5 and what iPhone case they had.

I paid $30 bucks for my iPhone and $110 bucks per month to use it (don’t judge me). So when I walk into the store, fix my damn iPhone, it takes five minutes, seriously.

In conclusion, the Apple store delivers when it comes to putting Apple products in people’s hands quickly and efficiently.

However, I think that the philosophy of the store and most of its employees seek to alienate its customers a little bit, even loyalists like me.

Conductor Catherine Rand (right) leads the Wind Ensemble concert.
GOP to Florida teachers: Stop, it's hammer time

They call Florida Senate Bill 6 “The Hammer,” because it’s about to hit teachers really hard. In the face.

That’s meant to be a metaphor, although it wouldn’t be surprising if the bill actually calls for teachers to actually be bludgeoned with hammers (only the bad ones, of course).

The bill, which would become law if signed by Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, would dramatically revamp how teachers are paid.

Apparent Thrasher and the rest of the Republicans in the Florida Legislature decided that the real problem with the Florida school system is that too many teachers had it easy, and that students weren’t taking enough standardized tests.

Among the many brilliant changes in the bill is that, beginning in 2014, teacher pay increases would be largely based on student test scores.

In addition, teachers would no longer be rewarded for having advanced degrees or for years of experience teaching; their contracts would expire at the end of every year and their pay would fluctuate depending on their students’ scores.

Teachers could be fined if the test scores their students produce are considered subpar.

Of course, the bill doesn’t clearly outline what specific scores will be considered subpar. Apparently they’ll just figure that out later.

What the bill is specific about is that experience, education and examining circumstances will be write the book when it comes to teacher pay and job security.

Whether teachers get raises or keep their jobs will be determined primarily by how students perform on tests.

Tests, it bears noting, that haven’t even been created yet.

Teachers are outraged over the proposed legislation, since many of them still cling to this antiquated notion that their pay should be based, at least partly, on experience and level of expertise.

The bill’s proponents argue that those who teach ESL or those who teach in inner city schools will be at an unfair disadvantage.

Even then, good teachers in poor neighborhoods may not be able to yield high enough test scores among their students, since their students are statistically more likely to do poorly when it comes to testing.

According to a recent study by the University of Florida, “Groups of students socio-economic level corresponded with their group’s ranking on FCAT scores.”

The repart continues, “The most affluent lifestyle groups registered the highest FCAT scores, the second richest group ranked second in test scores, and so on. On the math tests, the gap between the highest and lowest scoring lifestyle groups was more than two grade levels.”

Teachers were told to study the case like this one as proof that their pay should not be dependent on their test scores, since statistically teachers in inner city schools are at a major competitive disadvantage in such a system.

The new rules, they say, would completely disincentivize teaching in poorer schools, since statistics seem to indicate that it would likely take substantially more work to achieve the same results in those schools as opposed to schools in wealthier areas.

Many teachers will do all they can to avoid teaching at schools where they essentially will have to work harder, for less money, and with less job security than at other schools.

Proponents of the bill point out that studies like the one done at UF are based on the FCAT, and the new pay standards will be based on other standardized tests, which will somehow be far more accurate than the FCAT.

Even though these tests have yet to be created, they are confident that these tests will be substantially better... somehow.

Sure, the FCAT has been an abysmal failure in many respects, but these new tests will be way better... somehow.

Sure, teachers will have little economic incentive to teach in poor areas, but good teachers will still want to teach at those schools anyway... somehow.

And sure, teachers may want to flee our state in greater numbers, but they’ll swallow these unwanted changes and stay in our state... somehow.

The Republicans in the Florida Legislature haven’t really figured any of this out, but they think somehow, some way, it will all work out.

Or it will deal a crippling blow to the teaching profession and the education system in one of the country’s most populous states. Whatever.

Either way, if Crist signs this bill into law, it’ll hammer time.

BBC senator rebukes restructuring proposition

MAWOU FRANCOIS
Special to The Beacon

Last week, The Beacon’s editorial board published a two-part series focusing on the frustration of SGC-BBC’s elections while vehemently calling for the consolidation of both governing councils into one unified SGA to better serve all FIU students.

As a member of SGC-BBC, I am concerned about why The Beacon’s editorial board wants to take this step, considering that these are the two councils.

The wrongdoing of certain members in SGC-BCC cannot be justified by any means, but their actions do not hold enough weight to justify the dismantling of the two-part council system.

These individuals acted upon their own self interest and do not reflect the true character of SGC-BBC.

Instead, their actions should be used as examples, for anyone who intends to hold a position in a SGA council will be held accountable for their actions.

The lack of communication between both councils needs improvement, instead of conversations for reconstruction or reform.

This issue is clearly stated in both editorials with one depicting how the SGC-MMC chief justice would only consider key members of SGC-BBC regarding changes to the constitution and failed to get a response from those members.

The lack of effort from the SGC-MMC chief justice to not include all BBC council members, or to think that each one is just as important as the other, gives evidence that there needs to be more respect and communication from both councils in order to better serve all students.

The editorial proposed that if any reconstruction efforts were to take place it should be modeled after the University’s presidency, meaning that there would be one University-wide SGA president to govern all campuses, and a vice-president each for MMC and BBC.

The student president would have a “Modesto Maidique Complex,” meaning that there would be a priority to serve the interests of only one campus.

The two-part council system is a checks and balances system that prevents this from occurring. Students currently have the privilege of having direct contact with their presidents on either campus about their concerns and key issues.

The judiciary and legislative branches would also be condensed, but the editorial did not give much detail as to how it would work.

The current situation of the two-part council system is not being utilized efficiently by both campuses, which keeps giving life to a dead argument of restructuring SGA members from both councils.

We must understand that these positions are meant to serve FIU students regardless of which campus they reside.

Mawou Francois is the current SGC-BBC Business senator

Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiu.edu or drop by our offices at the University’s presidency, or tweet a statement on their Web site posted Wednesday.
Your FIU Police Officers remain committed to protecting you but the administration provides them with little resources.

Without better radios and the administration’s realization that your safety should be a top priority, there is only so much your police officers can do.

You are not as safe as you should be on campus. The administration’s top priority should be your safety...just like it is ours.

We don’t want any more tragedies.

IN MEMORY OF

KENDALL BERRY

December 31, 1987 - March 25, 2010
Barrett records No. 500 career strikeout in win

SOFTBALL, page 12

and tied the game before a ground out finally ended the inning.

“I feel like I needed to step up since Burri is out,”Spiers said. “[The pitcher] threw it to me inside and that’s my pitch so I swung and it just happened to go over.

FIU improved to 26-15 overall and 6-6 in the Sun Belt Conference while FAU falls to 21-20 and 8-5 in the SBC. The Golden Panthers would muster the rest of the runs, six of them earned while giving up just two hits in nine at-bats.

The University has a plan in place to expand the Arena in 2011, with the original budget set at $4.5 million from the Capital Improvement Trust Fund.

ARENA EXPANSION

• The University has a plan in place to expand the Arena in 2011, with the original budget set at $4.5 million from the Capital Improvement Trust Fund.

ARENA, page 12

like sticking a shank in a fish bowl.

And no matter how much money you throw at it, it will always be a fish bowl.

OUTDATED

The U.S. Century Bank was built for Division II teams and if this school is serious about turning the program into a basketball powerhouse, they need to start thinking even more ambitiously.

It has been a little more than a year since Isaiah Thomas signed on the dotted line to become the highest profile coach to ever call FIU home, signing a five-year deal to coach a Golden Panther team which has no real history to turn to outside of the rare bright spot.

While it was a tumultuous first season for Thomas, he has to proven to be a very capable recruiter, landing some of the nation’s top high school prospects for the 2010 class while getting some serious looks from others for 2011.

With the right facilities in place, the Golden Panthers can become a force to reckon with for a long time. But if the administration continues to dump resources on The Bank, this potential success will only be a blip on the radar screen and will fade away quickly.

A new state-of-the-art, multi-purpose facility would keep the flame going perpetually. Recruits take into account the kind of facilities they will be working in every day and if Athletics doesn’t show the kind of investment that is necessary to sustain a successful basketball program, why should any recruit invest their talent into the program in the long haul?

TIE TO SAVE

Central Florida opened the brand-new $107 million UCF Arena in 2008 without a dime from student fees or state funds.

While the price tag for UCF may be excessive for FIU, Sun Belt Conference rival Troy recently broke ground on what will become one of the finer arenas in the conference: a 5,200 seat facility that will cost roughly $31 million.

FIU needs to begin investing in such a facility, first by making a commitment to build it. Whether that means tearing down the current arena and building on top of it or building it somewhere else on campus and using the The U.S. Century Bank as a facility for non-revenue sports and intramural events, it does not really matter.

There are many ways in which FIU can attract the money for a new facility without having to use any student fees at all. Isaiah Thomas can host fundraisers to help lure in boosters and get alumni investing into Athletics. A portion of ticket sale proceeds can be put into a fund that would go toward covering the costs of construction. If possible, the current funds that will be used to upgrade the arena could be saved for the future.

A new facility that would act as a conversation center would also be available to host community events, concerts, big time gatherings and more to help bring in revenue for FIU as a whole.

It would be a place that students, alumni and the community in general can be proud of.

The question that remains is whether or not Athletics will take that leap, which they seemingly have no intentions of doing.

Offense strands eight; Barroso hits first home run

BASEBALL, page 12

only lead of the game.

The slight one-run advantage disappeared rapidly as the Cougars were able to score five runs off of FIU starter Daniel DeSimone in the top of the third after surrendering a series of hits with two outs recorded to take a 6-2 lead.

DeSimone settled down afterward, pitching three consecutive innings of scoreless baseball. But the damage had already been done.

BCU starter Roman Lancara was able to handcuff the FIU offense for the rest of his outing, only allowing one unearned run in the fifth inning after the second inning. Jeremy Patton scored from first after a Mike Martinez reached on an error by BCU infielder Emmanuel Castro when he tried to throw Martinez out at first to end the inning.

It would be the last shred of offense the Golden Panthers would muster the rest of the night.

Lancara pitched six innings to earn the victory, his third win of the season for the Cougars.

The Golden Panthers had just as much trouble with Justin Dahl, who came in to relieve Lancara in the seventh. Dahl came in and retired eight consecutive FIU batters in three innings of relief to hand FIU its fourth loss in its past five games.

DeSimone got the loss, dropping his record to 2-2 on the year. In seven innings, the sophomore right-hander gave up seven runs, six of them earned while giving up 11 hits in addition to striking out four BCU hitters.

Jeremy Patton was the only Golden Panther to get more than one hit after going 2-for-4 on a night where the offense was only able to pick up eight hits on the night. Unfortunately, the Golden Panthers struggled at the top of the order with Pablo Bermudez and Jabari Henry combined for just two hits in nine at bats.

“There’s no doubt that your leadoff hitters have to get on base so you have a chance to score some runs,” Thomas said. “We’re just not playing good fundamental baseball right now. We didn’t come out with any energy or enthusiasm.”
Golden Panthers’ struggles on the mound continue in loss

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

Coming back home was not enough to help solve all of the struggles that have fallen on the Golden Panther baseball team as of late.

FIU (19-14) ran into problems against the visiting Bethune-Cookman Cougars (20-14), struggling to create opportunities on offense while one big inning for the Cougars proved to be the difference in the Golden Panther loss on April 14.

“They have a good club, a very well-coached club,” said FIU head coach Turtle Thomas. “We just didn’t come out wanting to play baseball tonight. We have to start playing better baseball … smarter baseball.”

The Cougars struck first in the second inning with a run in the top half of the inning after shortstop Alejandro Sanchez sliced an RBI single into centerfield to drive in the first run of the game.

Yoandy Barroso was able to provide a quick answer for FIU, crushing his first collegiate home run over the left-centerfield wall to tie the game in the bottom half of the second.

Later in the inning, Sean Reilly stroked an RBI single to give the Golden Panthers their first lead.

Pitcher Daniel Desimone saw his earned run average (ERA) inflate to 5.28 after giving up six earned runs in seven innings on the rubber.

Team wins on Spiers’ home run

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

After Florida Atlantic University tied the game, 2-2, in the top of the seventh inning, the FIU softball team had one more chance to win it before heading into extra innings.

Spiers came to the plate, leading off the bottom of the inning, and ended the game with a walk-off home run to give the Golden Panthers a 3-2 victory on April 14 at the FIU Softball Complex.

“I was really just trying to get on base since we needed just one run,” said senior first baseman and catcher Lauren Spiers. “I was just trying to get it in play, basically.”

The two other runs for the Golden Panthers were scored in the fourth inning. A couple of walks taken by freshmen Beth Peller and Brie Rojas, and a single by sophomore Ashley McClain loaded the bases before Spiers drove in the first run on a sacrifice fly. After Peller scored, Rojas advanced to second base but McClain was called out on the throw from first to third base. Sophomore Jennifer Gniadek came up next and singled, allowing Rojas to score from second base with the help of an error by FAU second baseman Ashley McClain.

“Have a long list of items that need to be improved,” said Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg. “We want to create a signature entrance, set up the groundwork for suites, renovate the locker rooms … we’re looking to make it an intimate and improved setting for everyone.”

In the short-term it might seem like a good idea to at least turn The Bank into a decent basketball facility, but at the end of the day it is just throwing pearls at a swine of a facility.

Having Isiah Thomas coach in a relic that resembles a high-school gymnasium more than a college basketball facility is shortsighted.

FIU starting pitcher Kasey Barrett pitched a complete game in which she gave up one earned run, five hits and a single walk to go along with nine strikeouts.

“Felt good until the seventh inning and then [FAU] put a little bit more in play and I should have stepped up in a few more situations there, but besides that I was fine,” Barrett said. 

Soon after Croney’s triple, senior Jessica Myers tapped a single and advanced to second base on an error by Rojas, which drove in first run for FAU. At the time, Barrett said she was focused on showing her confidence and getting the game back under control, hoping her team would follow.

“I told everyone to be ready and I had to show the rest of the team that I believe in myself,” she said. “We kept talking to each other a lot because at times like that you have to communicate and know where to go when the ball is hit.”

After the Owls’ first run, Martinez singled to score Myers