Florida Travel Act challenged
Faculty Senate hopes Appeals Court rehers Cuba travel ban case

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

After losing in federal appeals court, the FIU Faculty Senate is hoping that second time’s a charm.

Lawyers for the Faculty Senate are set to ask the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider its decision that puts strict limits on funding for academic trips to Cuba.

Attorneys for the Faculty Senate will seek an En Banc reconsideration, in which all 11 members of the court will reweigh the case, instead of the usual three judge panel that delivers decisions. They expect to file for the motion before the Sep. 21 deadline set by the court.

On Aug. 31, the court upheld a Florida law barring state taxpayer dollars from being used to finance academic trips to countries considered “State Sponsors of Terrorism” by the State Department. Under the law, state money cannot be used to fund academic exchanges to Cuba, Iran, Syria, and Sudan.

The judges, however, ruled that private donations could be used to fund academic trips to the blacklisted countries.

In 2008, the Faculty Senate, along with eight other professors, challenged the Florida Travel Act in U.S District Court, and won. The State of Florida later appealed the decision to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

“We are disappointed by the panel decision. We are hoping that the full court will reconsider the panel decision,” said Patrick Fitch, an associate attorney for Alston & Bird representing the plaintiffs.

The Faculty Senate argued that the law violated the professors’ First Amendment rights and interfered with the federal government’s ability to regulate foreign affairs.

The three judge panel disagreed, ruling that the state legislature is well within its power to regulate the educational spending of state universities.

“They think that the court failed to appreciate the significant way in which the Florida Travel Act clashes with federal law and policy,” said Paul Brinkman, a partner at the Alston & Bird representing the Faculty Senate, told the National Law Journal. “Foreign relations is a uniquely federal prerogative and needs to be jealously guarded from interference by the states, particularly with respect to countries like Iran and Cuba.

Yet, state representative David Rivera, who helped pass the law back in 2006, says that “it is more a domestic case” than a foreign relations issue.

He said Students Media that the Florida legislature has a responsibility to make sure that taxpayer dollars are not used improperly.

“The legislature has the right to protect taxpayers from using their money to subsidize governments that do harm to the U.S.,” said Rivera.

Rivera, a Republican running for Florida’s 25th Congressional district, disagrees with President Obama’s plan to increase academic and cultural exchanges with Cuba.

“Giving any unilateral concessions to a totalitarian dictatorship is wrong. The Cuban dictatorship has not merited any change to current policy,” said Rivera.

SPY SCANDAL

The law came into effect shortly after a former FIU professor and his wife were accused of spying for the Cuban government. Carlos Alvarez, an associate professor at the College of Education, pleaded guilty in federal court to pleading guilty in federal court to the lesser charge of being an unregistered foreign agent and was sentenced to five years in prison, while his wife, Elsa, was sentenced to three years in prison for failing to report her husband’s activities to authorities.

“According to the Miami Herald, Alvarez took five academic trips to Cuba, but did not use the school’s travel license to take students to the communist country.

Alvarez took students as part of Puentes Cubanos, a group that encourages dialogue and reconciliation amongst Cuba and the U.S. Federal prosecutors, alleged that Alvarez used the group to gain recruits, but never gave

Florida Senator candidates meet in first Senate debate

BRENDA FARRINGTON
Associated Press

It was appropriate that Gov. Charlie Crist stood between Democratic Kendrick Meek and Republican Marco Rubio during their first Senate debate Friday since he was getting hit from both sides.

Crist repeatedly pointed out that he doesn’t have to follow the ideology of either party and said his opponents would only be part of the partisan divide that has Washington in gridlock.

“My opponents have a script that they have to listen to; they have talking points that they have to go by. The party bosses in Washington give it to them. If they don’t toe the line, they lose their support,” Crist said. “I’m the only one on this stage that can say the Democrats may have some good ideas, the Republicans may have some good ideas.”

But Meek and Rubio said voters shouldn’t buy the act.

“Everybody sees what you’re doing, everybody gets it,” Rubio said. “You only changed parties and did this independent thing when you couldn’t win the Republican primary. And now you wake up every day and you try to figure out what you can say or do to take votes away from Congressmen Meek so more Democrats will vote for you.”

Meek also pilled on, saying Crist is “trying to pick the raisins DEBATE, page 3

Surveys show adequate sleep improves GPAs

MATTHEW MACKLE
Contributing Writer

If you have a hard time falling asleep or staying asleep, or if you tend to stay up late and wake up late and feel fatigued during the day, you may want to take steps toward improving your sleeping habits before your academic life is affected.

Surveys have shown that students who get a full eight hours of sleep, and especially during the appropriate hours of the night, tend to have higher GPAs.

Fatigue is an extremely negative force. Activities you should be enjoying can become mundane chores. Instead of participating in class, you may find yourself counting the minutes until you can leave without being rude.

If you relate to these feelings, you may be like many other college students who have undesirable sleeping habits. A person struggling with this can change his or her attitude and ambition during the day by practicing certain techniques.

Sara Schwartz, a physician at University Health Services has some advice.

“Have a good bedtime routine. Turn off the T.V., music and lights. Don’t study in bed, use your bedroom only for sleeping. This will train your mind to connect the room with sleep.”

She also explained that a lot of people have insomnia because of stress. In order to combat stress, University Health Services offers several services that include counseling, massage therapy, yoga and meditation.

GARDEN PARTY

The University’s Organic Garden club, lead by Brayan Tome, a senior in environmental studies and Thelma Velez, a senior in anthropology meet together on Fridays to discuss future plans for their gardens.

CARLOS MURPHY/THE BEACON
Travel restricted to private funds

CUBA, page 1

President Barack Obama said the announcement rules out the possibility of any names to the Cuban government.

PRIVATE FUNDING

According to Rivera, professors can still continue to travel to Cuba for legitimate purposes, as long as they use private money to finance individual grants awarded to professors.

But, Uva de Aragon, the associate director of the FIU Cuban Research Institute (CRI), says that the law also bars state funds from being used to process private grants used to pay for the academic exchanges.

She says that most private grants need to go through the state university system for approval.

Aragon, whose institute has taken students to Cuba in the past, says she has only used private donations in the past from notable donors such as the Ford Foundation, the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, and the MacArthur Foundation.

In order for students to go to Cuba, Aragon says, they must be graduate students with an approved thesis, have a letter of recommendation from their professor, and absolutely need to go to Cuba to complete their thesis.

In 2010, the CRI took three graduate students to Cuba.

Aragon says the law has put Florida public universities at a disadvantage, especially when it is the policy of the Obama Administration to encourage academic exchanges.

“We have Cuban American professors that understand the issues better for people who don’t know the history of the country; this is really putting us at a disadvantage,” said Aragon.

She also added that the exchanges are an important tool to distribute information to the Cuban people.

“When you take information and books from here, I wonder how you can put a price on that? How valuable it is to give that information to people in Cuba?” said Aragon.

SLEEP, page 1

She also noted that some students like to consume alcohol before bed in order to go to sleep easier, but this is not recommended as it negatively affects the sleep cycle.

The same way it has an effect while one is awake, alcohol slows the nerve centers in the brain during sleep. The normal REM cycle is disturbed if the person is drunk.

The REM cycle, widely recognized as the dream state and the most beneficial mental process during sleep, happens for the first time between the third and fourth hours of slumber. Short naps during the day do not make up for the sleep that was missed at night.

Health Services also recommends a daily exercise routine and proper diet for better sleep. Schwartz added that many students experience acid reflux, which keeps them up at night, so it is not recommended to eat too soon before going to bed.

Professor Robert Grabowski explained the science of sleep. He gives this advice to his students before exam dates.

“Neuro-pathways are coated in myelin, the rubber coating on a wire. Like the wire, the coating only lasts so long... myelin is secreted during REM cycles,” said Grabowski.

The help comes to rein- force memories obtained during the day.

Myelin is a tissue made of fats and proteins, so eating foods with a reasonable amount of these elements is essential for myelin production.

“Athletes carb-load before a big game. If you’re a good student, carb-load before an exam” Grabowski advised. Taking multivitamins can also help myelin production. Dr. Robert Stickgold, of Harvard Medical School, has studied the connection between sleeping patterns and memory retention.

One of his more prominent experiments involved the game Tetris.

Subjects were novices at the game and were told to play for several hours a day. During examination, Stickgold and other scientists found that their first REM cycles came rather quickly. When they woke up, some of them reported that they had dreams of falling blocks.

The ones who had dreams of Tetris eventually showed more improvement in their playing than those who had not.

From this evidence, Stickgold draws the conclusion that the brain naturally re-examines and reinforces memories from the waking day. He believes this is the reason why we dream.

Another scientist, Anni Revonsuo, has studied sleep patterns in rats.

The rats were deprived of sleep and eventually became less adept at even their most primal survival instincts.

Students who experience sleeping problems or daily fatigue should take advantage of the services they offer at the clinic at University Health Services. Call (305) 348-2011 for information or appointments.

Sleep linked to memory retention

Florida universities weigh flat-rate tuition system

Florida’s state university system is mulling a one-size-fits-all tuition structure for full-time students. Under the plan, which could receive final approval from the state Board of Governors as soon as November, full-time students at participating universities would pay a flat rate per semester, regardless of how many classes he or she actually takes. The pricing structure, known as block tuition, is already the norm at private universities across the country. But, Uva de Aragon, the associate director of the FIU Cuban Research Institute (CRI), says that the law also bars state funds from being used to process private grants used to pay for the academic exchanges.

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Florida Unemployment rate rises

BILL KACZOR
Associated Press

Florida’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased slightly for the second straight month, hitting 11.7 percent in August although other economic indicators are looking up, state officials said Friday.

Legislative economist Amy Baker predicted the uptick earlier this week because people who had stopped looking for work are returning to the job market as the economy improves. Those who drop out of the labor pool are not counted in employment statistics.

August’s 11.7 percent rate continues to mean nearly 1.1 million Floridians are out of work. Florida again tops the national jobless rate of 9.6 percent.

“Historically, mixed signals from economic indicators during the bottom of a recession are common until the economy recovers,” said Cynthia Lorenzo, director of Florida’s Agency for Workforce Innovation. “Fluctuations in rates of unemployment and job growth are typical examples.”

Florida’s unemployment rate peaked in March at 12.3 percent, the highest since the federal government began compiling jobless statistics in the 1970s. It then started dropping and was at 11.4 percent in June before rising again to 11.5 percent in July and 11.7 percent in August.

The state lost 16,000 nonagricultural jobs in August for an employment total of 7.2 million. Florida, though, gained 29,800 jobs since August 2009 for an annual job growth rate of 0.4 percent.

Small as that increase might be, it marks the second straight month of positive over-the-year job growth after three years of losses. It’s more than offset, though, by growth in the state’s workforce. Florida added 35,000 more workers over the prior 12 months including 12,000 in August.

It’ll take the creation of nearly 900,000 more new jobs for the state to get back to pre-recession employment levels and at the current pace that won’t happen until 2014, Baker told the Legislative Budget Commission on Tuesday.

The segment showing the biggest over-the-year employment growth has been private education and health services with a gain of 33,500 jobs, or 3.2 percent.

Others showing growth are trade, transportation and utilities, up 18,900 jobs (1.3 percent); professional and business services, up 11,000 jobs (1.1 percent); leisure and hospitality, up 9,300 jobs (1.1 percent), and other services, up 5,500 jobs (1.8 percent).

The biggest over-the-year job growth has occurred in the Gainesville metropolitan area, which added 1,100 nonseasonally adjusted jobs (0.9 percent) and Bradenton-Sarasota-North Port, also adding 1,100 jobs (0.4 percent), followed by Pensacola and Tallahassee, each with 800 new jobs (0.5 percent).

Crist, Meek defend stimulus use

DEBATE, page 1

out of the bread” by saying what’s popular on any given issue. “Mr. Crist is someone that is willing to say ‘Hey, I’m for everything on any day.’ But we need leadership, someone to speak out,” Meek said.

Crist waited until the second to last day to qualify for the ballot to announce he would run without a party affiliation.

Crist debated Rubio in March as a Republican candidate, but Friday was the first time he and the two major nominees answered questions together.

All three agreed that the 14th Amendment shouldn’t be changed to strip it of automatic citizenship for anyone born in the United States. They also agree that the Cuban embargo shouldn’t be lifted.

“Congressman Meek talked about the Recovery Act, Marco Rubio, I assume, will talk about cutting taxes. Maybe he’s right too. I believe in both,” Crist said. “My two opponents, I’ve always had a leaning for green jobs in the state of Florida.”

Crist said he would have voted against the health care overhaul Pres- ident Obama signed. Rubio said the law needs to be repealed and Meek defended his support of the bill, saying thousands of Floridians are losing their health insurance every week.

Crist and Meek criticized the Arizona immigration law that requires officers to check immigration status of suspects if they believe they might be in the country illegally.

Rubio said the law was appropriate for Arizona as a border state, but not appropriate for the rest of the country. Crist and Meek defended the $787 billion federal stimulus while Rubio criticized it.

“The people in charge have abso- lutely no idea how jobs are really created,” Rubio said, adding that government has to create a business friendly environment rather than trying to spend money to boost the economy.

Meek said stimulus package kept the country out of a depression and Crist said it saved 80,000 Florida jobs.

“We have to get back to allowing folks to work with their hands and we have to making things again,” Meek said. “Unlike my two opponents, I’ve always had a leaning for green jobs in the state of Florida.”

Crist used the question on the economy to again point out that he’ll listen to ideas from both sides.

“Congressman Meek talked about investing in green energy and he’s right,” Rubio said. “We have to get back to allowing folks to work with their hands and we have to making things again,” Meek said.

Marco Rubio, I assume, will talk about cutting taxes. Maybe he’s right too. I believe in both,” Crist said. “My two opponents can’t talk about both. Only I can talk about both in an honest way.”

WEIRD NEWS

Koala Population Ravaged by Chlamydia

The world’s koala population is being rav- aged by an epidemic that would seem at odds with the animal’s image as the cuddly emblem of Australia. According to researchers, 50 to 80 percent of the marsupials are infected with a disease commonly associated with human pro- miscuity: chlamydia.

According to AOL News, situation is so dire, in fact, that experts fear the koala may become extinct in a few decades if a vaccine isn’t developed. While nobody knows how koalas first came to be infected with chlamydia, some researchers speculate koalas may have been exposed to infected mammals at some point in their evolution. The disease spreads among koalas through sexual contact, as well as orally from mother to young during child rearing.

US Tourists Caught With Human Skulls in Greece

Greek police have charged two American tourists with destroying the death after they were caught at the Athens airport with six human skulls in their hand luggage, according to AOL News. “The skulls were found in a scanner check during a stopover flight on their way back to the United States,” a police official told Reuters. “The coroner confirmed they were human skulls.”

The tourists told police they’d bought the skulls at a souvenir shop on the Greek island of Mykonos and thought they were fakes. They were charged Thursday and then released pending a trial.

“They bought them ahead of Halloween to decorate their homes. Both tourists were then released and took a flight back to the U.S.,” another policeman told CNN. It’s unclear where the skulls came from.

Rare ‘Asian Unicorn’ Dies in Captivity

You say you don’t believe in unicorns? Well, one of the mythical animal’s real-life relatives, known as the saola, has died after its short stay in a village in Laos. The mammal - often referred to as the “Asian unicorn” even though the antelope-like creature has two horns -- is so rare that only 250 are believed to exist worldwide, and none are in captivity. The BBC reports that the saola -- discovered in Southeast Asia in the early 1990s — has never been seen in the wild by biologists. Its existence, to date, has been confirmed only in photos by local villagers.

Men Wear Heels So Women Can Heal From Domestic Violence

A group of men in San Diego are collectively putting their best foot forward — and into high heels according to MSNBC. It’s part of a Sept. 30 event called “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” which, true to its name, will feature hundreds of guys strutting their stuff in a mile-long walk through the Gaslamp Quarter downtown to raise money for the local YWCA’s domestic-violence programs. There are similar events all over the country, but this is the third year that San Diego community members are leading, twisted ankles, hammertoes, blisters and all the things that women go through just for the “joy” of wearing stylish shoes.

– Compiled by Alexandra Camejo
There was a lot of talk about some “12th Man” that strikes fear into visiting teams that enter College Station to take on Texas A&M.

At the end of the third quarter, this “12th Man” was reduced to a spectacular stunned silence as the Aggies fell behind by two touchdowns to a team that many of the nearly 80,000 fans assembled at Kyle Field probably couldn’t locate on the map.

With just 15 minutes remaining, it began to look like the Golden Panthers would actually make program history on Sept. 18, finishing what they came close to doing a week earlier against Rutgers: beating a BCS team for the first time. And not just that, but actually doing it on the road in one of the most hostile environments in college football.

As the fourth quarter progressed, however, it became apparent that the tank was beginning to run on empty. The offense struggled to move the ball as they did all game long and failed to execute, leaving the defense to fend for themselves.

Despite forcing five turnovers, including an interception return for a touchdown by Anthony Gaitor to give FIU that fourteen-point edge in the third quarter, the Panthers still could not hang on for that elusive victory.

When the smoke was cleared, OF FIU’s 20 points, 17 were a direct result of turnovers forced by this aggressive defense that the Golden Panthers have never seen.

Any doubts of this defense being simply a one-hit wonder against the Scarlet Knights were erased as the Golden Panthers blitzed from every angle imaginable, constantly keeping the Aggies on their toes and off balance for most of the game.

It is clear that what Defensive Coordinator Geoff Collins has done over the offseason was not just a complete overhaul in the playbook and the style of play, but also in the mindset of the unit as a whole.

The defense remained aggressive and constantly sought to apply pressure in the backfield throughout the entire game, never backing down.

But despite giving the offense every opportunity to try and run out the clock and perhaps finish the game with one last score to put the game potentially out of reach, FIU went three-and-out on their first two drives in the fourth quarter and the Aggies took advantage of a tired defense.

For the Golden Panthers continue to play defense with the kind of aggressiveness displayed in the opening two games, FIU could conceivably be competitive in every game remaining on its schedule and compete for a Sun Belt championship with many of the conference’s top teams suffering early on this season both on the field and on the injured list.

But there is one thing that the Golden Panthers need to do if they are going to make that final step forward and turn these types of painful ‘moral victories’ into program-defining wins: deliver that final blow.

If the Golden Panthers and Rodriguez-Fraile was named MVP of the Stetson Soccer Classic All Tournament Team. Also on the all tournament team were Tamburros (2 assists in tournament), defender Anthony Hobbs (108 minutes against Stetson), who has yet to sit out any game, and goalkeeper Shane Lopez after having his second clean sheet this season against Stetson.

Last season, the Golden Panthers did not get their fourth win until an Oct. 12 matchup last year with Jacksonville and were 1-1-5 on the road. The team has already eclipsed both marks.

The team will now have five day’s off before going on the road again to take on Florida Gulf Coast on Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m. The team will then start its Conference USA slate at Marshall on Oct. 2.

**ACCOLADES**

After a thrilling couple of road wins, Lopez earned C-USA defensive player of the week honors for his efforts. The senior goalie had 12 saves at the Stetson Soccer Classic and played in every single minute over the last two games, which FIU won.

It’s the first time an FIU player has earned such a distinction since 2007.

Lopez is in his first year as a starter for the Golden Panthers after playing in a combined 13 games over the last two campaigns. The 6-foot-2 native of Canada was 1-6 in games he started last season

Lopez was joined in honors by Juan Castillo of Southern Methodist University, who was the conference’s offensive player of the week and is in the midst of a five game scoring streak for the Mustangs.

Castillo won the accolade for the second consecutive week.
FIU ends non-conference schedule

MIAMI HEAT

Heat looking to block distractions off the court

Part of Erik Spoelstra’s offseason time away from coaching included another trip halfway around the world to his native Philippines for some youth clinics and other events.

The 2010 visit wasn’t like the one he made in 2009.

“One Miami Heat was a much different brand this summer,” Spoelstra said.

Go figure, following an offseason where all the Heat did was miss Dwyane Wade, then lure two-time NBA MVP LeBron James, Chris Bosh and four other significant free agents to join a team with immediate eyes on a championship.

Added visibility was a given for the Heat after their almost-never-ending series of major moves this offseason. It hasn’t all been received as warmly as Spoelstra was when he visited his mother’s homeland earlier this summer, of course. Not with both Miami teams — Hurricanes and Heat — being contend for a title. He took issue after the signings of James and Bosh with things said, among others, NBA analyst Charles Barkley, Offerman, general manager Otis Smith and Magic coach Stan Van Gundy — a close friend of Spoelstra’s, and the current Heat coach, a former pro player.

Smith questioned James’ competitiveness in July, shortly after he joined the Heat. Riley called that “stupid” last week, setting the stage for Van Gundy to fire back a day later.

Van Gundy told OrlandoMagic.com that “what Otis said wasn’t a stupid remark. Unless of course you have a different opinion than Pat, then apparently it’s stupid.”

The war of words, for now, is ending with Spoelstra.

“I’m not going to comment on other teams,” Spoelstra said.

“Other teams have enough issues of their own to get ready for the season, without worrying about what we did or what we’re doing, to keep them busy,”

Spoelstra said he’s most rested and ready for the coming season than either of his first two at Miami’s helm, although that doesn’t mean all the offseason work is done.

The playbook is still getting tinkered with. The team is checking to see if any other players might be available to help, although Spoelstra said Miami’s current 18-man roster — three more than the maximum allowed during the season — is the one he’s planning on playing during the first practice. And Spoelstra is still working on what he’ll say at the first formal team meeting of the new year.

That all aside, he’s beyond eager to see what the Heat have.

“I wish training camp started three weeks ago,” Spoelstra said.

Sports replay

Sun Belt rewards Gaitor for TAMU performance

A few Golden Panthers have garnered accolades for their respective performances over the weekend, including cornerstone Anthony Gaitor for his performance in an upset bid at Texas A&M.

The senior was named the Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week in the aftermath of TAMU performance.

Since then, Gaitor has established himself as one of the premier defenders in the SBC.

In addition to the conference award, Gaitor was also an honored an Honorable Mention Defensive Back Performer of the Week by collegefootballperformance.com.

Football

Anthony Gaitor can add another conference accolade to his shelf.

The team was named the Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of the Week on Monday, rewarding him for a stellar performance in the Golden Panthers 27-20 loss at Texas A&M on Sept. 18.

Gaitor had a 5-4 interception return for a touchdown that gave FIU a 20-6 lead in the third quarter, and was instrumental in FIU’s containment of the post for FIU.

Harris is a three-star recruit according to rivals.com.

McAfee, a four-star recruit, turned down offers from Memphis and Auburn, among others, and will have a chance to have an immediate impact as his arrival comes with the graduation of a slew of this season’s senior guards.

The players are not assured to be Golden Panthers until they sign a letter of intent on National Signing Day.

Cross Country

The Golden Panthers had mixed results at the Mountain Dew Invitational in Gainesville on Sept. 18.

On the men’s side, the team finished 10th out of 19 teams with 231 points.

In the women’s race, 320 points.

The Heat is still getting tinkered with.

Avoiding them this summer has been largely impossible. The Heat have been the talk of the league.

Riley said last week that the way Miami can “answer all the critics” is by showing up and doing what the Heartwear built to do, that being content for a title. He took issue after the signings of James and Bosh with things said, among others, NBA analyst Charles Barkley, Offerman, general manager Otis Smith and Magic coach Stan Van Gundy — a close friend of Spoelstra’s, and the current Heat coach, a former pro player.

Spoelstra doesn’t care much about all the fuss. Spoelstra would rather the Heat look at the coming season than either of his first two at Miami’s helm, although that doesn’t mean all the offseason work is done.

The playbook is still getting tinkered with. The team is checking to see if any other players might be available to help, although Spoelstra said Miami’s current 18-man roster — three more than the maximum allowed during the season — is the one he’s planning on playing during the first practice. And Spoelstra is still working on what he’ll say at the first formal team meeting of the new year.

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New director reveals big plans for marching band

The FIU Marching Band is taking to the field with a brand new director at the helm to march them into the 2010 season. After the band’s elimination last year, the voided space is once again full and a welcome part of FIU’s forward moving ambition.

Barry Bernhardt has been directing college bands for the past 27 years and now steps up to the plate at FIU to help build a still growing program. Among the many responsibilities of directing a band is building a tradition which FIU can add to over time and call its own. Before it was taken out of commission, the band had only been a part of FIU for 6 years, so the new director has his job cut out for him starting FIU traditions in performances.

That is one of the main goals set by Bernhardt: to increase school and campus solidarity through the entertainment and boisterous sound of a marching band. He also stressed the responsibility of the band in creating a positive environment on the field and becoming the 12th player whose job it is to carry the morale of the crowd to the team. Obviously passionate about the tasks at hand, Mr. Bernhardt reveals his motivations.

“I’m doing it for the students,” he said. “I want to make sure they have the best possible connections.”

Currently numbering about 115, Bernhardt aims to increase the band membership to 300 or so, to reflect the huge student population.

“I like how everything has a schedule. He’s strict on time and he always makes sure he brings out the best in us. As for the music, he’s always on top of our music…it’s just one of the best programs I’ve been in,” says Matthew Ruiz, a freshman majoring in music technology and a band member.

Bernhardt intends for the band to begin the journey of gaining regional, and even national, recognition. Many events are planned for them, and Mr. Bernhardt proposes to take every opportunity for growth and exposure.

For example, a production company in Las Vegas will be hosting an event where the band is scheduled to perform.

Also, the Florida Marlins have shown interest in having the FIU Marching band play the National Anthem.

Barry has been traveling with bands for many years, and on three occasions he traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland to direct his marching band in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Before coming to FIU, Bernhardt was a professor and director of bands at Southeast Missouri State University for 20 years. In addition to directing college marching bands, he was on the production staff for Bowl Games of America where he choreographed halftime shows for college bowl games, including the Orange Bowl.

THE BAND, page 9

Fables take readers to a fairy-tale land not so far away

Snow White lives in upstate New York in a magically concealed village full of talking farm animals and fairy tale creatures. Her ex-husband, Prince Charming, is a cocky womanizer who mooches off his second ex-wife, Briar Rose.

These people all belong to the hidden community of Fable Town, which is the last bastion free from the evil adversary who took the homelands from the Fables thousands of years ago.

This may sound like the plot device from a Disney movie gone wrong, but it is actually just a part of the grand story arc of Fables, where characters from fable stories and tall tales from all over the world are real beings with real lives.

The more popular a fable is among the mundane humans, the more powerful they are and the longer they live.

Being immortal and well known makes it hard for these magical people to live their lives, but after thousands of years, they have carved their own lifestyle hidden within the real world.

After mentioning the book so often, I had to review the latest issue of Fables as well as the last 8 years worth of narrative that its creator, Bill Willingham, provides.

The reason I bring Fables up so often is because of its inventive concept and its immeasurable amount of potential throughout the years.

This is, in my opinion, how every comic book should be written.

When the characters and heroes of a story have strong inter-personal dynamics, the writer can let the story write itself.

Without this quality, a book can end up feeling forced such as when the Punisher did and someone revived him as a copy of Frankenstein’s monster to continue a war on crime (regrettable, this recently happened in the Marvel Universe).

Fables’ unique beginning helps it avoid forced plot points and has helped it not only become a successful book for years, but also spawn spin-offs that have become just as successful.

Even more important than the beginning is where the characters go from it, and Willingham dutifully provides interesting character growth, intense action, and grand adventures.

When reading through the story arcs, it’s hard to notice the specific attention to detail because it flows from issue to issue, yet Willingham has had the evolution of Fable Town mapped out since the beginning.

This preparedness on Willingham’s part is why Fables has had a steady printing over the past 8 years.

The art is subtle and modest. In mainstream comics, 2 page explosions fill each issue, but in Fables, panels are filled with character expressions that add loads to the writing.

In addition, James Jean, one of DC comic’s most talented artists, has supplied nearly every cover up to issue #81.

A book containing Jean’s artwork was published in 2008 to showcase his collection of amazing covers.

Fables is still going strong along with its current ongoing spin off, Jack of Fables and Cinderella: From Fable Town with Love.

In the past few months, issues #96 and #97 have been delayed, but I believe this is simply part of the build up to the #100 anniversary issue.

For those readers willing to put time into a lively and rewarding series, I highly recommend these comic books.

The series is so highly regarded that chances of finding the first dozen or so volumes at the nearest bookstore or library are extremely high.

Another option could be to wait until the printing of issue #100 when the current story arc “Rose Red” ends, but don’t wait too long. Missing out on Fables is a definite mistake.

Panel Panel is a comics column. Look for it every other Wednesday. Beacon writers do not receive free services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this column solely represent those of the author.
For years the band Brother Kite has built their reputation as indie rock’s heir apparent to Brian Wilson’s sunny pop throne.

Beginning with their 2004 self-titled effort, the band has crafted some of the most hummable pop music and has done so with the sort of originality that suggests this music does not belong to trends or fashions; it’s simply timeless.

2006’s Waiting for the Time to Be Right boosted their status as America’s pre-eminent ethereal pop-smiths and opened up a whole new sonic world for the band.

As they get ready for the release of their newest effort, Isolation, members Jonathan Downs and Patrick Boutwell discussed how their latest is a departure from their last album and how Paul Lansky’s influence played a part.

The Beacon: Who are the members of The Brother Kite and how long have you guys been playing together?

Jonathan Downs: Patrick and I began writing and recording together as a duo in the early 2000s. Mark (guitar) and Andrea (bass) joined us in 2002, and Matt (drums) joined us in 2004. That’s been the personnel since.

TB: What was the genesis of Isolation? There’s a more electronic sound to some of the tracks, but there are also a lot of “classic” TBK style songs here.

Patrick Boutwell: It was mainly just wanting to do something radically different, more dark and heavy, but also more than the last one. Waiting For The Time To Be Right was more of a “teenage infatuation and heartbreak” kind of album, and that dictated that big, wet Wall Of Sound vibe. Isolation is literally about feeling alone and wanting to deflect from the world.

TB: What were the main influences that went into making this album? Any particular artists or writers perhaps?

I sense a bit of New Order actually, but perhaps Joy Division. There is actually one line in the track, “Escape from the no-man’s land,” that I heard that (“On the tenth floor, down the backstairs, into no man’s land”), and thought, “Ah, so THAT’S where that came from”. Joy Division and New Order are bands that I’m not a rabid fan of, but I definitely get them, and that sort of understanding had an unConnellable influence, I suppose.

For this album, in the beginning, I was listening to things like A Rainbow In Curved Air by Terry Riley and “Mild un leidre” by Paul Lansky, trying to train my mind to think differently from the world. It was hard because The Beach Boys have been one of my favorites since I was a little kid, and to undo something that has become so tightly woven in my brain took some time, but I think it yielded some interesting results.

Lyricaly speaking, for me, there is no greater influence than the way I feel. I’ve never been the type of person to read poetry, nor someone who really pays that much attention to other people’s lyrics, but the single conscious literary influence I had on this album was “The Pasture” by Robert Frost. Everything about it just clicked with me, and I ended up naming the final song on the record after it.

TB: Does having your own studio increase the level of work that gets done or does the freedom to work on anything for as long as you want stall the process?

JD: Definitely the latter. We end up fiddling with things for months that should probably be done in hours. That was the case with Isolation, and also for Waiting For The Time To Be Right. But I’m not really complaining. I guess. On the rare occasion that we do work quickly, we usually don’t like the results. I guess our pace is our pace, and that’s that, although we’re trying to change that lately. I’ve recently mobilized most of the gear at our studio in New Hampshire and we’re now doing more recording at my home here in the Providence area. Because of this, we’re planning to follow Isolation rather quickly with an EP and seven-inch in November. Three months between TBK releases would be downright unheard of.

TB: Since you guys issued your self-titled album, it seems like TBK has become a sort of cult band, with figures like Tom Monahan counting themselves as fans. Are you guys happy with this distinction?

JD: Sure, it’s better than no distinction at all. In some regards, it would be nice to have a more lucrative distinction, I suppose. But we’ll take what we can get.

PB: Yeah, it’s a nice in, but not exactly in the bank.

Hector Mojena
Staff Writer

THE BROTHER KITE:
Band members discuss album, influences and plans

Band director has a lot in store for the 2010-2011 year

This week on Campus

Wednesday, Sept. 22

Organic Farmers Market

Local produce, smoothies, yoga, and more!

WHEN: 7 - 11 a.m.
WHERE: GC Central Fountain

Hearts Distinguished Lecture Series

Lecture by Don Kaneko, CEO of Telemundo.

WHERE: GC 340
WHERE: Mary Anne Wolfe Theatre, BBC
CONTACT: mmc@fiu.edu

Thursday, Sept. 23

Organic Farmers Market

Local produce, smoothies, yoga, and more!

WHEN: 12 - 3 p.m.
WHERE: GC Central Fountain
WHERE: off of the main road

College Democrats

Meeting

WHEN: 7 - 9 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
HOW MUCH: Free

Friday, Sept. 24

FIU Volleyball

The Golden Panthers host the Stetson Hatters in the first home game of the season.

WHEN: 4 - 6 p.m.
WHERE: GC 154
HOW MUCH: Free for students; $5 general

Monday, Sept. 27

Men’s Soccer

FMU vs. St. Thomas University

WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: GC 124
HOW MUCH: Free for students; $5 general

Tuesday, Sept. 28

BBC Rec Center Yoga Retreat

Retreat includes three yoga sessions, cabin rental, nature walk and more.

WHEN: 5 - 7 p.m.
WHERE: Oleta State Park

How Much: $5 for students; $10 general

Wednesday, Sept. 29

International Coasal Cleanup

Join students for Environmental Action and help clean up our Florida beaches!

WHEN: 12 - 5 p.m.
WHERE: GC Central Fountain
WHERE: off of the main road

Write to calendar@fiu.edu to have your event featured!

THE BROTHER KITE:
Band members discuss album, influences and plans

The drumline practices with the band for the FIU vs. Rutgers game.

Hector Mojena / The Beacon

The Beacon – Wednesday, September 22, 2010

www.fiusm.com
Homeowners snubbed by politicians

MELANIE MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

When people first learn that I’ve studied abroad, the first words out of their mouths are usually, “I wish I could’ve done that when I was in college.” Whether you’re majoring in medicine, business or basket weaving, I believe that studying abroad is something every college student should do at least once before they graduate. I found it to be quite an experience when it came to helping me appreciate my culture in relation to the dramatically different cultures of the world.

When studying in places as geographically and culturally foreign as Australia or China, it definitely helped me appreciate the simplest amenities I had always taken for granted being born and raised in the United States. While some may argue that taking a vacation produces the same effect, there’s something to be said about staying in the same place long enough to immerse yourself in that culture, as opposed to simply being a passive observer everyone can immediately recognize as a tourist.

Besides the cultural integration, studying abroad also helps out career-wise. Having global education and language studies on your resume is a huge bonus for those of us wanting to go into international careers. Globe-trotting through study abroad programs also helps you earn credits towards your grade point average. Personally, the most important benefit I earned from studying abroad was a reminder of something I’d been taught a long time ago and had forgotten in the hustle of the archetype that we call “life”: time and space hold little sway over what truly makes us human.

You can’t realize the true universality of our basic human elements until you’re riding for eight hours through the Australian Outback laughing uproariously at a movie that would never make it to theaters in the States, or climbing the Great Wall of China beside two complaining five-year-olds, not understanding the language their mother keeps snapping at them in, but still knowing that she’s telling them to shut up because this builds character. The University offers hundreds of different scholarship opportunities and dozens of study abroad programs to travel, study or work in places like Tianjin, China or the Amazon in Peru. Some of the most popular and affordable scholarships come from the David L. Boren Scholarship and Fellowship Awards, a federally-funded initiative designed to encourage students to acquire language proficiency and refine international skills. If you qualify, they could pay for your entire trip.

Take a semester to study abroad and widen your horizons to the point where you can barely see them anymore. Stop to smell the flowers just once, because there are some daisies you’ll never cross twice.

When studying in places as geographically and culturally foreign as Australia or China, it definitely helped me appreciate the simplest amenities I had always taken for granted...
Debuting with a buffalo chicken cheesesteak

INGREDIENTS FOR 4 CHEESESTEAKS

- 1.5 lb. raw Chicken (Breast or Thighs)
- 1/3 lb. White American cheese (thin sliced)
- 1/2 cup Buffalo sauce
- 1/4 cup Blue cheese Dressing
- 4 12" long (approximately) sandwich rolls

Prepared for a foodgasm because it is now ready to enjoy.

AT THE BAY

Power, Gelabert contributed to on campus sculptures

SCULPTURES, page 12

composed of steel, tree trunks and a polyester coat resin. It is a white column with various openings featuring tree trunks.

“Florencio Gelabert’s work is the ideal fit for our sculpture garden which draws attention to the connection between art and the environment,” said Damian Fernandez, vice provost of BBC at the time, in a press release from the University’s media relations.

Power, a well-known artist throughout the world is recognized by his innovation of combining art with science. His goal is to obtain an audience by his artwork to take interest on our oceans.

...[To] create a very loud voice that is interesting and while we have the public interest, we communicate scientific facts that better preserve and enhance the natural phenomenon called the ocean.

Power, Gelabert contributed to on campus sculptures

FOODGASM, page 12

chicken as tender as possible. If you're using a thick piece of chicken, such as a breast, first cut the thickness in half or thirds.

Heat about a tablespoon of olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Once the skillet is hot add enough chicken to cover the bottom of the skillet. It’s good to spread the chicken out as much as possible. All of the chicken should be directly touching the skillet.

In about two minutes the chicken should be ready to flip over. At this point the cooked side should be lightly golden. If it’s ready, flip it over and let it cook for about another two minutes on the other side. Once the chicken is cooked through, place a few pieces of American cheese on top, and then toss the chicken so the melted cheese is spread throughout.

Set this mixture aside in a bowl and repeat the process with more chicken if needed.

Cut open a roll lengthwise and spread some blue cheese dressing on the inside of the roll. Put the cooked chicken and cheese mixture inside the roll and then drizzle enough buffalo sauce on top to cover the chicken. Repeat the previous steps to make more than one “buff” sandwich.

Prepare for a foodgasm because it is now ready to enjoy.

INGREDIENTS FOR 4

CHEESESTEAKS

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**ST. MARTIN**

**Tight outcome in 1st parliament vote**

Tiny St. Martin has elected its first independent parliament, but results on Sept. 18 leave nuclei who will govern when the former Dutch colony becomes a sovereign country on Oct. 10.

**HAITI**

**Few answers at Haiti’s pres. debate**

Haiti held its second presidential debate on Sept. and only four of 19 candidates faced off in front of about 40 audience members. There were few detailed responses and it was disrupted by power blackouts.

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**Pastor suspected of abusing 30 children**

Prosecutors are investigating claims that Daniel Vasquez sexually abused 30 children. The pastor has surrendered to authorities in the city of Santiago and declared his innocence.

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**Getting to know the campus’ steel artwork**

**VICTORIA MARICHAL**

**Contributing Writer**

The Biscayne Bay Campus flourishes with beautiful steel sculptures by environmental artists Florencio Gelabert and Ross Power. BBC’s sculpture garden blooms everyday at the campus with its scenic views and environmental purpose for the over 7,000 students who attend.

“The sculptures are very free-spirited,” said student Kaylan Perez, junior biology major. Both Gelabert and Power’s sculptures have contributed unique formations that draw attention to the link between art and our environment.

Gelabert, born in Cuba, is from an era of artists who migrated to the United States after Fidel Castro took power. The “Column Tree,” and his other recent work, focuses on obtaining public response by depicting the destruction the earth and the environment undergo.

The “Column Tree,” located outside the Wolfe University Center facing the Marine Science building, was donated by New York art collector Marc Routh and funded by the Florida Art in State Buildings Program. This program is an organization that is dedicated to displaying art in various public locations. The “Column Tree” stands 10 feet tall in the

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**Marine Science building not just for marine science**

**BRIAN CORREIA**

**Contributing Writer**

Since opening in 2006, the Marine Sciences Building at the Biscayne Bay Campus has been home to many different courses other than biological sciences majors.

Over the last year alone, 13 different disciplines were taught in the Marine Sciences building besides programs related to Biological Sciences. Such courses include: Philosophy, Hospitality, Nursing, Speech Communications, Women’s studies, Modern Languages, Physics, Statistics, Accounting, Management and International Relations, Journalism and Politics.

However, Biological Sciences courses still constitute 60 to 70 percent of the total building utilization. Some of the courses taught this semester include: Ecology, Biological Oceanography, Marine Ecosystem Ecology, Invertebrate Zoology, General Oceanography, Marine Botany and Marine Biology.

On top of the disciplines taught in the Marine Sciences Building over the last, there is also allocated space for the Student Government Association at BBC to host the Fall Semester kick-off.

“All classrooms on campus are utilized for general purposes. In regards to the Marine Sciences Building, we try to focus only those majors there, but we need to utilize University resources where available,” said Stephen Meil, vice provost of BBC.

The utilization of all classrooms on campus is the key to additional funding that the school receives from the State.

“Utilization is important because if we don’t utilize a building to its full capacity, then the state won’t give us more funding. And by receiving more state funding, we are able to offer more courses and majors inevitably giving the students more choices,” said Annette Baham, BBC Facilities Scheduler.

Prior to the Fall Semester, there were several renovations that took place within the Marine Sciences Building to give students studying biological sciences a new home at BBC away from the Modesto Maidique Campus.

“There was three faculty members that relocated their labs and offices from MMC to BBC within the Marine Sciences Building,” said Joel Trellex, professor of biological sciences and director of marine sciences.

Two of the three professors are Trellex and Rudolf Jaffe, who teaches chemistry. Bill Anderson, professor of earth and environment, will follow shortly thereafter, once all the renovations are finished.

Another renovation currently taking place is the boat ramp along Biscayne Bay.

Recently, this has been non-functional, but administrators hope to see it finished by the end of the fall semester.

In addition, faculty members are discussing the possibility of building another Biological Sciences Building at BBC to address students’ needs in that major.

“The new building, which we’re not really sure when it will happen yet, will be a large lab, classroom and office building for multiple disciplines. That will lead to the kind of interdisciplinary research and teaching that is needed to solve environmental challenges of today and the future,” said Dr. Michael Heithaus, director of the school of environment and society.

“In my 13 years with Florida International University, ultimately seeing [Modesto Maidique Campus] and Biscayne Bay Campus as a whole grow, has been a totally awesome experience,” said Baham.

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**FOODGASM**

**Restarting for the foodies with some flair from Philly**

**GENE KRAVETS**

**Contributing Writer**

Following a brief hiatus, a column known as Foodgasm, will once again grace the pages of The Beacon. Foodgasm, which was previously written by Bianca Rojas, will be taken over by myself, a fellow food-lover.

Ever since, cooking has been one of my favorite hobbies and even something that I’ve only been here for a month, so being a newcomer to the area I haven’t a clue where to find a buffalo chicken cheese steak, let alone a good one.

Instead, I will offer my own recipe on how to make this sandwich. For those who already cook, consider adding this to your repertoire, and for those who do not, this is an easy and highly satisfying dish to make.

To start, cut the chicken into quarter inch chunks or as small as possible. Small pieces will decrease the cook time, keeping the cheese and the spice of the buffalo sauce, all contained in the roll.

Since cheese steaks have become a universal food item many variations have been introduced. There are pizza steaks, chicken philly’s and now, my newest favorite, the buffalo chicken cheese steak.

This heavenly creation merges the buffalo wing and the cheese steak. The thought alone brings tears of joy to my stomach, but when the sandwich materializes and interacts with my taste buds, a true foodgasm ensues.

The essence of this sandwich is a roll filled with chopped chicken pieces, melted cheese, buffalo sauce and blue cheese dressing. The resulting concoction is pure deliciousness. In every bite you taste the tenderness of the chicken, mixed with the creaminess of the melted cheese, the tang of the blue cheese, and the spice of the buffalo sauce, all contained in the roll.

I’ve only been here for a month, so being a newcomer to the area I haven’t a clue where to find a buffalo chicken cheese steak, let alone a good one.

**FOODGASM, page 11**