White House easing restrictions on travel, remittances to Cuba

**NICOLE CASTRO**
Staff Writer

Within the Cuban community, the recent White House press release easing restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba has caused polarized views due to the 52-year presence of the communist regime. Public Institutions around the country applauded the changes made on regulations allowing accredited institutions of higher education to sponsor travel to Cuba for academic work - all except in the state of Florida. In 2006, the FIU Faculty Senate and individual faculty members joined the American Civil Liberties Union in challenging the constitutionality of two Florida statues prohibiting state universities and agencies from using funds from any source to travel to countries designated as “state sponsors of terrorism.” These countries include: Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria. Although the statues were overturned, they came in full effect once again on November 2010. Cuban expert and Associate Director of the Cuban Research Institute at FIU, Uva de Aragón, comments on how “it is unfortunate that some of the provisions regarding academies do not impact us at all.”

“The CRI has had as a policy to encourage students and faculty to travel to Cuba,” said de Aragón. “But students need to have a fixed income to support themselves during their trip to Cuba. This travel ban makes it impossible.”

**TRAVEL, page 2**

**POLIANA GUIMARÃES**
Contributing Writer

It’s been four years since a milestone agreement between the U.S. and Cuba to establish “trusted shipper” program. The U.S. is now in talks with its allies, airlines and maritime groups about creating a global vetting system for international cargo.

The protests in Egypt drew the unparalleled attention of leaders who were at the World Economic Forum in Davos, calling on Egypt to guarantee freedoms for its residents and avoid violence.

**ANDIAMO**

The Phillip & Patricia Frost Art Museum opened several new galleries on Jan. 26. Gran Torino: The Cross-Section of Art, curated by Iuliano (above). For more photos featuring the other galleries, turn to page five of the Life! section.

**IN THE BAY**

Senior Sergio Burgas, a marine biology major, sets up an experiment in the mangroves at Biscayne Bay Campus on Jan. 25 for his Marine Biology and Oceanography lab.

**SCHEDULE, page 2**
Florida legislators criticize the change in restrictions

**TRAVEL, page 1**

**SCHEDULE, page 1**

**PARTNERSHIPS, page 8**

Current class schedules influenced by budget cuts
FIU losing streak extended to six games

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

FIU shot ten more free throws than Middle Tennessee in the game but shot poorly from the charity strip in a tough 79-70 loss that summed up how the Golden Panthers season has gone so far. “We’ve been losing the same way for the past three weeks,” Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. “They do all the big things but when it comes down to doing all the small things, like making a free throw, they don’t do it. And that’s the difference in our season.”

In the first half, both teams went back and forth exchanging baskets but FIU went out to their biggest lead of the game with 2:29 left when Phil Gary found Marvin Roberts open for their biggest lead of the game with 2:29 left when Phil Gary found Marvin Roberts open.

FIU also dominated the charity stripe in a tough 79-70 loss that went to the end of the game.

Going into halftime, FIU had a slim 35-33 deficit, something they did not have the pleasure of the last few games. Normally, they would give their opponents double digit leads and have to fight back in the second half just to get within striking distance at the end of the game.

The Golden Panthers perplexed at times as they jumped out to an 11-3 lead in the first half. MTSU managed to claw to a 27-17 lead with 3:45 left in the half. MTSU took full advantage of both teams and built their lead all the way to 80.

With 2:43 to go the team down by just two, Roberts would turn the ball over twice on consecutive possessions just moments later. MTSU took full advantage of both of their offense, “It’s frustrating.” said Carey, when talking about the Panther’s first half.

The FIU defense was strong until they allowed consecutive three point shots by Elie and Anna Marie Lanning to make the score 27-17 with 3:45 left in the first half. MTSU managed to continue their hot streak from three-point range, continuing to cut the Panther lead. The halftime buzzer could not come soon enough for FIU, as they clung to a 27-22 lead.

“I told them to hang tough. This was a very good team and we weren’t going to keep them down for long,” Russo said.

FIU looked to start the second half the same way they started the first, by attacking the basket and running successful fast-breaks. MTSU would continue the pace at which they ended the first half, matching FIU point for point. Both teams continued the frenetic pace of the game, as FIU was able to hang on to a lead with 11:41 left in the game.

Marvin Roberts [above] scored a team-high 17 points in loss to MTSU on Jan. 29.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Rico Albarracin
Asst. Sports Director

The Panthers not only managed to hold the number one scoring offense in the Sun Belt Conference to under their season average, but they also managed to come away with a win.

FIU was able to upset Middle Tennessee State 62-59 on Jan 29, giving coach Cindy Russo her 600th victory as head coach of the Panthers, and her 640th win overall. Jerice Coley and Finda Mansare led the charge offensively, scoring 15 and 14 points respectively. Elisa Carey fell one rebound short of her first double-double of the season, contributing 12 points and nine rebounds.

FIU (9-14, SBC 4-5) got off to a hot start over the number one team in the SBC, as they jumped out to an 11-0 lead five minutes into the game. Finda Mansare and Carmen Miloglav led the FIU charge, scoring eight and seven points respectively. MTSU (17-5, SBC 8-1) would finally break the scoreless drought when Icelyn Elie scored a free throw and a layup, giving the Panthers a 19-3 lead with 11:31 left in the first half.

“We ran our offense to perfection,” said Carey, when talking about the Panther’s first half.

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WOMEN’S, page 4

FIU defeats FAU in season finale

MALCOLM SHIELDS
Contributing Writer

In the regular season finale, the swimming and diving team faced off against their Sun Belt Conference rival, Florida Atlantic, and also against Nova Southeastern in a dual meet on Jan. 29. This meet would be their last until the conference tournament in Dallas from Feb 23-26.

The Golden Panthers would win both meets by defeating NSU in meet one by the score of 175.00 to 40.00 and FAU 117.50 to 113.50 in meet two.

“IT was a complete team performance,” Horner said. “We had no standout stars. It was definitely across the board a team effort. Anytime you have a scenario with a meet with an in-conference rival… you want it to win that meet. It’s always good momentum (to beat FAU) going into conference championships.”

In the 200-yard medley relay, the team of Danielle Steiner, Erin Pavlick, Yesica Rojas and Mariangela Macchiavello got off to a strong start for FIU. The relay team would cruise to a victory with a time of 1:49.36.

“It was really awesome beating FAU,” Pavlick said.

The 1000-yard freestyle would see FIU’s Mary Boucher, Colleen Quinn, and Joanna Pomerantz finish 2:3-4 respectively.

“I have never worked so hard in my life,” Pomerantz said. “Coach Randy is amazing. All the hard work we put in has shown off.”

In the 50-yard freestyle, Macchiavello and Kariann Stevens finished 1-2 as Macchiavello finished with a time of 25.03. In the 100-yard butterfly, Rojas would finish second, with a time of 58.65. In the 100-yard freestyle Derr, Macchiavello and Vixian Torres would finish 2-3-4 for FIU.

Steiner and Caroline Foster would finish first and third respectively in the 100 breaststroke.

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Golden Panthers hold off Blue Raider comeback

WOMEN'S, page 3

The Blue Raiders were able to tie the game at 45 with inside scoring by Laken Leonard, who scored on consecutive possessions. The Panthers would stem the tide by scoring critical jump-shots in consecutive possessions, and by playing staunch defense. MTSU would make another charge to tie the game, this time at 56 with 2:40 left in the game. The Panthers would score on a layup before the Blue Raiders would take a 59-58 lead off a Kortni Jones three-point shot. FIU would step up the defense to force the Blue Raiders into bad shot opportunities. Free throws by Michelle Gonzalez and Elisa Carey would ice the game for the Panthers, as they would win 62-59.

The Blue Raiders have now lost all four games in which they have trailed at half-time. The Panthers have now won two consecutive games in SBC play, and look to continue to build confidence as they have when they travel to Troy to battle the Trojans.

“Were not doing well before, but the win against Western Kentucky really helped us for this game. This win will help our confidence,” Mansarr said.

Consecutive losses sink FIU lower in standings

MEN’S, page 3

The start of the second half did not see the spark that FIU is so used to producing. Instead, it was just the opposite, and they came out with no energy at all. Thomas regrets the lineup changes he made to start the second half.

“The group that I had in to start the second half, I didn’t like their energy level so I went with a smaller group in order to get back into the game,” said Thomas.

They trailed by as much as 14 points until halfway through when they started to make another one of their thrilling come-backs. With Phil Gary and Phil Taylor in the game at the same time and none of their big men in the game, FIU used speed and great press defense to get them within just one point with 1 minute left.

“I thought that our big guys were our biggest advantage,” Thomas said, who credited the play of WKU’s big men as the reason why he brought out a smaller lineup. “I thought that their big guys were jumping higher, and every time I looked around they were laying it up or dunking it.

So if that’s how your big guys are going to play then I’d rather have a little guy in there, at least there’s an excuse for it.”

They were able to force WKU’s Kahlil Mcdonald to take a tough three-point shot, which he missed, but could not grab the rebound. The Hilltoppers (8-11, 3-4 SBC) got a new shot clock to work with and scored on the next possession.

FIU would score once more off a Marvin Wright put-in to tie the game at 59.

“Wright put in 19 of his 25 points in the second half, and was a huge part of FIU’s comeback run on the offensive side of the ball. FIU (8-12, 3-5 SBC) has now lost five straight games, all in Sun Belt play.

“They came out and punched us in the mouth so I took it upon myself to just give them the spark that FIU is so used to producing. I wasn’t about me going out and trying to score I was just trying to bring life.”

Panthers prepare for tournament

SWIMMING, page 3

respectively in the 100-yard backstroke while distance swimmers Boucher, Quinn, Pomerantz and Jennifer Lee would finish second through fifth respectively in the 500-yard freestyle.

The final event of the day was the 200-yard freestyle relay and it would determine the winner of the meet between FAU and FIU. The relay team of Sneir, Pavlick, Rojas, and Macchiavello set the pace throughout, but in the final 50 yards they would be pushed by FAU’s relay team. The Golden Panthers would hold on to win with a time of 1:38.47.

“It all comes down to heart,” Horner said of his relay team’s win to seal the meet. When its close races and close meets; you got to win to win to win the meet… you got to make it happen, and they showed the ability to do that.”

In diving, Sabrina Beaupre competed in the one and three-meter events. Beaupre finished first in both events with scores of 279.83 and 258.70, respectively.

“I’m happy with my scores,” Beaupre said afterwards. “The three meter was a little harder (today).”

Beaupre also spoke about preparing for the conference tournament.

“‘I’m going to train a lot more than I have been because a week or two off is a lot for diving,” she added afterwards.

Horner also gave his feelings on the team’s prepa-

ration for the conference tournament. “[We will have] one more week of hard training and then its… rest.”

Horner said. “We haven’t seen anything yet. These ladies will swim a lot faster.”

Freshman Giulietta Boha (above) plays against Florida Atlantic University for the season home opener on Jan. 26. The Panthers beat the Owls 6-1 in their first win of the season.
A modern day form of slavery, human trafficking is an underground, illegal trading ring that sells individuals, mostly women and children, for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. The 2010 “Trafficking in Persons Report” by the U.S. Department of State cited reports of approximately 12.3 million people falling victim to this practice worldwide.

On Jan. 11, a date Congress has designated as Human Trafficking Awareness Day, nine University students from the theater department and one alumnus travelled to Washington D.C. with professor Phillip M. Church to join a group from McKinley High School for a dramatized reading of Body and Sold.

“To perform at the Kennedy Center, and to be recognized by political leaders on Capitol Hill and high school students at McKinley Tech High School, what is best in college students,” said Church. “That both adults and students can aspire to the examples that they personified through their work and their social commitment.”

Body and Sold will be travelling abroad this summer. The group will work with and present the play alongside students from Solent University in Southampton and Kingston University of London in July as part of the 2011 International Youth Theater Festival in Kingston, London. Professor Church shared that Congressman Smith invited them to perform the play for over 130 delegates at the Helsinki Commission, which is gathering to discuss European security and human trafficking issues in Belgrade following the Festival.

“This is a great honor for FIU and puts us ‘Worlds Ahead’ in the league of student social consciousness. As you probably realize, part of my own personal mission as a teacher of theater is to develop young actors/directors/designers/playwrights to be socially aware of what theater can do. This is a wonderful opportunity to lead them to that awareness,” said Church.
Dealing with parents while living at home not an easy task

Dear Confused,

Balancing competing needs can often be tricky.

On the one hand, you have a need for autonomy: you want to explore who you are and what kind of people you get along with best, and what kind of activities you are really good at and what your personal strengths and limitations are.

On the other hand, you have a need to be a “good” child. You want to feel as though you provide the comfort and stability that your “good” child. You want to feel as though you are not loving them enough. I really do think there is a way for you to satisfy what kind of activities you are really good at and what your personal strengths and limitations are.

The beginning of a new semester is a great time to start new habits. The first thing I would do is buy a planner. Use this planner to not only write down school deadlines but personal appointments and plans as well. Including your personal life in your planner will make it more likely that you will take it around with you and that you will actually use it.

Once you get your syllabi, write all of the due dates into your planner for the entire semester. You will be surprised how this simple approach will make it more likely that you will take it around with you and that you will actually use it.

Also, try to break down the days and times you can study and write those in your planner.

Getting to know people in New York. You will also select your top three want to be mentors or mentees so we can help them find mentors or mentees as well. We will try to pair you with someone you want to be with.

As long as you feel emotionally connected to you throughout this new experience will help to make them feel included. As long as they feel emotionally connected to you throughout this new experience will help to keep them a part of this new area of your life somehow.

Helping your family see how much you are growing and how excited you are about this new experience will help to make them feel included. As long as you feel emotionally connected to you throughout this new experience will help to keep them a part of this new area of your life somehow.

Dear Confused,

I am thrilled just thinking about starting a new semester. Any advice?

Dear Vicki,

The beginning of a new semester is a great time to start new habits. The first thing I would do is buy a planner. Use this planner to not only write down school deadlines but personal appointments and plans as well. Including your personal life in your planner will make it more likely that you will take it around with you and that you will actually use it.

I really do think there is a way for you to satisfy all the needs and wishes that you have.

The first step is being aware of what is going on. You have two needs that are in some ways in direct contrast with each other. The process of further developing your own identity could mean that sometimes you may need to separate from your family unit.

I think it is important to look at the big picture, though. You can still explore who you are and at the same time enjoy your family and their company.

For example, if you develop a new hobby or you spend time with a new friend or romantic partner, include your family in that experience. Come home and take a few minutes to tell them what you did today and what that experience was like for you.

At the heart of it, there is a large chance that your family fears they will lose you. So just help them see that they are not losing you by trying to keep them a part of this new area of your life somehow.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Vicki? Send an email to: Vicki.Burns@fiusm.com
Hearing him speak is nothing like learning from a textbook, or even a knowledgeable history professor, because he saw major historical events with his own eyes.

In a recent Beacon Editorial, the Beacon suggested that at any time an accusation be punished. The Beacon is saying he did something wrong. But this latest editorial does nothing wrong or illegal. I would also like to add that at any time an accusation can be made. Does every time there is one against an FIU player, said player should be suspended? I hope not.

Furthermore, if he were to be suspended now, that would mean a year’s worth of punishment for nothing. Rape trials, especially one as complex as this one, can go on for months and even years. While I understand the Beacon’s concerns over public publicity, it is simply unfair to try and punish Wittels for an accusation. It is my hope that the Athletics Department will stand by their player and allow him to continue playing.

Which would be better: to abandon a fellow Panther in his time of need or stand by our fellow Panther until proven otherwise? I think the answer is obvious.

Ben F. Badger Jr. is a senior liberal studies major.
Council battles to update their website

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus has a website that is clearly stuck in the cyber-past, as its homepage dramatically offers up the “SGA News & Events for Fall 2009!”

Alas, the site will be brought up to speed after it receives a complete renovation by the end of the spring semester, SGC-BBC President Christin CiCi Battle announced at the general meeting held on Jan. 26.

Battle explained the website has been a huge concern for the council, so they took it up the project after the former SGC-BBC press secretary, Oheleo “O” Higgins graduated from the University, but failed to fix the site.

Battle contacted the University’s External Relations department to help out in contact with Ashleigh Brymer, University web assistant, who knows the website’s issues firsthand from visiting it as a student in the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Brymer said that the SGC-BBC site is plain and outdated, and the reason is because it takes a lot of work to update a site through a website designer.

“CMS gives the operators access so at the moment they want to change something, they don’t have to call us and wait for us to do it, and we don’t have to bill them for it,” Brymer said. “They can just do their own little updates.”

Brymer will manage client relations in the project, alongside Web Communications director Matt Herzberger, developer Andre Oliveira, and designer Fabian Alcantara.

“We’re going to focus on the student needs, because right now it’s more of a business layout,” Brymer said.

Brymer said that the SGC homepage for Modesto Maidique Campus displays a crisp blue flyer for the National Signing Day event on Feb. 2, and has links for the current SGC-MMC officials with their photographs and bios.

The SGC-BBC Communications is performing content inventory by mapping the SGC-BBC site as-is to a spreadsheet, in order to find out what needs to stay and what needs to go for easier navigation.

“We’re going to focus on the students needs, because right now it’s more of a business layout,” Brymer said.

Brymer wants the designers to use CMS as much as possible. “So that’s why I need people to help me,” Brymer said. “They can do hands-on activities with the kids,” Brymer said. “We can just do their own little updates.”

Conversely, the SGC homepage for Modesto Maidique Campus displays a crisp blue flyer for the National Signing Day event on Feb. 2, and has links for the current SGC-MMC officials with their photographs and bios.

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“Fabian and Andre redid the main FIU homepage to be as beautiful as it is now. They have talents beyond mine,” Brymer said.

Currently, the website has “dead links” that go nowhere, and sections that should provide information about officials and government documents but are simply blank, or at the most read: coming soon.

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