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Senate fills positions left vacant

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

While many leadership positions were left open due to resignations, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus was able to fill many of those key positions, including the Senate Speaker Pro Tempore and the Chair of the Finance Committee.

After serving as Speaker of the SGC-MMC Senate since the summer of 2010, William Jose Velez resigned from his position as Senate Speaker and Senator of the College of Engineering and Computing so Velez could focus fully towards his academic studies. Due to a line of succession set in place by SGC-MMC in case this situation would arise, the speaker pro tempore would become the active senate speaker.

With Hector Mujica moving to senate speaker, the speaker pro tempore seat became available, leaving the SGC-MMMC senate to choose among four candidates in a special election: College of Education and Computing Senator Patrick O’Keefe, Housing Senator Samir Patel, Lower Division Senator Vincent Fernandez, and UPPER Senator Bahair El-Degirat.

SGC-MMC, page 2

University starts ramping up recycling efforts, awareness

RONNIE FIGUEROA
Contributing Writer

One way Florida International University is staying “Worlds Ahead” is through its revamped recycling efforts.

Since taking control of the University’s recycling program four years ago, staff within FIU Custodial Services has seen a steady rise in recycling and anticipates further reductions in the current 7 million pounds of waste the university dumped each year.

In the past 12 months, the University has recycled 29 percent of its total waste output, a seven percent increase from the previous 12 months. By comparison, the university was recycling less than 19 percent of its total waste stream by 2008.

In 2008, then-Gov. Charlie Crist signed an energy bill mandating state agencies to recycle 75 percent of their waste stream by 2020. Nuninga said the university goal is to reach 50 percent within the next five years.

For a university constantly cutting costs due to budget cuts, recycling could provide needed relief.

“It’s still cheaper to recycle,” Nuninga says. “It’s financially sound for the university to invest in this.”

The current waste removal contract with its contractor, Waste Management, costs FIU slightly more than $508,000 for the year. It’s an average of $64 per ton for non-recycled waste.

Recycling, however, costs $35 per ton. The school also makes $10 for every ton of paper it recycles.

Nuninga says. “It is financially sound for the university to invest in this.”

“The priority No. 1 is placing more bins around campus,” Nuninga says.

But he sees a troubling discrepancy in recycling trends among the different campuses. Initiatives are concentrated more throughout the Modesto Maidique Campus.

“There is no student organization to pressure administration to make changes,” Vogel says of the lack of involvement.

So, while FIU currently recycles paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, batteries, used oil and tires, light bulbs, wooden pallets, ink cartridges and other items, FIU currently recycles paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, batteries, used oil and tires, light bulbs, wooden pallets, ink cartridges and other items.

“People are thinking more green now than they were several years ago,” he says.

He credits the commitment of student organizations, increased funding and administrative involvement. While public buildings are mandated to recycle at least three items, FIU currently recycles paper, glass, plastic, aluminum, batteries, used oil and tires, light bulbs, wooden pallets, ink cartridges and other items.

One way Florida International University is staying “Worlds Ahead” is through its revamped recycling efforts.

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This event for two years now.

BUDGET, page 2

A PORTRAIT OF LOVE

Juniors Roberto Jimenez (left), a business administration major, and Gretel Vigo (right), a nursing major, have their caricature drawn by an artist for the A Parisian Valentine’s Day activities hosted by FIU Alumni Association. Jimenez and Vigo met their freshman year at FIU and have been together since.

RECYCLING, page 2
Election board members confirmed

Nature Preserve status ‘up in the air’

RECYCLING, page 1

environmental organizations — Students for Environmental Actions, Emerging Green Builders and Intellectual Decisions for Environmental Awareness Solutions — are all based in MMC and concen- trate their efforts. 

Nunnings says: “He’s also noticed the discrepancy and vows to place more bins around BCC, Broward Pines Center and the Engineering Center. In the last few years, the univer- sity received more than 400 bins as donations from corpo- rate sponsors like Carnival Cruise Lines and Pepsi.

During Earth Week last year, President Rosenberg announced the creation of the FIU Sustainability Committee, comprised of 18 members equally made up of staff, faculty and students, charged with finding ways to reduce the University’s carbon footprint.

“Living green isn’t some- thing you do one week or the year or when it’s conven- ient. The way of life for the University,” Rosenberg said in a video. 

As Vogel is finding out, the demand for convenient parking is forcing the Univer- sity to make environmentally conscious choices.

With the goal of having 60,000 students enrolled in the university by the year 2020, creating more parking garages is necessary. As manager of FIU’s nature preserve, a nine-acre area complete with organic gardens, a pond, and two main trails, Vogel is constantly fighting to keep the preserve from becoming another parking garage.

“The preserve is safe until 2015, but after that it’s up to us,” he said. 

Biological, environmental science, education, and art and photography students frequent the preserve. Safeguarding it from the construction of new dormitories and parking can be accomplished if everyone looks at it from the concept, but Vogel remains skeptical.

“Students at FIU haven’t gotten into the culture,” he says of environmental thinking.

For the past two years UNF has partnered with Re- man, a competition where hundreds of colleges and universities compete to see who recycles the most. After seeing disappointing results in the first year it competed, Vogel was pleased to see that UNF was the winner the past two years.

“What we can change starts with us,” Vogel says.

An Illinois woman has given birth to her own grandson. Kristine Casey, 61, agreed to act as a surro- gate for daughter Sara Cornell after Cornell spent years trying to have a baby without success. 

Cornell and her husband, Bill, are the biological parents of the boy, Finnean Lee Connell. Through vitro fertilization Casey carried and gave birth to the child.

Cornell told the Tribune that she held her mother’s hand as Finnean was born through a Cesarean sec- tion.

A kiss is still a kiss — even if it goes on for more than 32 hours. Loreto, attempting to spend more than 32 hours locked lip- to-lip.

RECYCLING, page 1

the preserve from becoming another parking garage.

The Obama budget would “stand the test that we live within our means and we invest in the future.”

Senior administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity in advance of the formal release of the budget, said that Obama would achieve two-thirds of his projected $1.1 trillion in deficit savings through spending cuts including a five-year freeze on many government programs.

President Obama put forward last year only that the problem had already been reviewed and no conflict of interest existed in this case. Proenza also assured that there would be no problems on his part.

After Proenza was confirmed, Muffy Barbaran was brought forth and the senate gladly confirmed the enthusiastic candidate.

Vincent Fernandez; works as a Beat Writer, covering the Broward County Government Association at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Illinois Woman, 61, Gives Birth to Own Grandson

Nature Preserve status ‘up in the air’

Citing her experience as finance chair, Cristina Loreto emerged as the best person to fill the position of speaker pro tempore in lieu of incoming University budget deliberations.

“I am looking forward to representing the view- points of the student body as we move into budget deliber- ations for the 2011-2012 academic school years,” said Loreto. “I am committed to utilizing all the tools at my disposal to ensure that the University Wide Council appropriates the budget fairly and to consider brought to all facets of student life here at FIU.”

With Loreto moving to speaker pro tempore, the position of chair of the Finance Committee was left vacant. Although Loreto can no longer serve as chair of the Finance Committee, she will continue to serve the committee as a general member.

During the special elec- tion held for the vacant finance chair position, only two candidates nomi- nated were Senator At-large Diana Gonzalez and Lower Division Senator Patrick O’Keefe.

After their presentations and debate by members of the senate, it was decided that O’Keefe would become the new Finance Committee Chair.

“Senator O’Keefe has proven invaluable to the progress that [the] Senate has made thus far this academic year,” said Loreto about O’Keefe’s confirm- ation. “I am certain that he will bring these attributes to the Finance Committee as its new Chair, building upon the progress that I made as we end the senate’s tenure.”

After all special elections ended, the senate moved to confirm new members for seats left open after previous meetings.

The two candidates were presented for the open College of Business Administration chair, which was left vacant after Kevin Gonzalez became SGC-MMC Comptroller.

Eventually, Francisco Perez was selected to fill the position, due to having “very pointed short-term plans,” keeping in mind that senators only have three more months to be in session.

Finally, as the meeting wound down, two candidates were brought forth for the senate to be confirmed as new members of the SGC-MMC Student Elections Committee.

The first to present was Ed Proenza, who is currently the student of Residence Hall Association. Due to RHA being one of the largest voting constituencies for SGA elec- tions, the senate questioned whether Proenza becoming a member of the student elec- tions board was a conflict of interest. Proenza was quickly confirmed as a valid candidate for the position.

The senate leadership assured that the problem had already been reviewed and no conflict of interest existed in this case. Proenza also assured that there would be no problems on his part.

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SGC-MMC, page 1

Carlos Rodriguez and Finance Committee Chair Cristina Loreto.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Malcolm Shields

The Golden Panthers broke up a scoreless tie in the bottom of the sixth inning to defeat the University of North Florida Ospreys by the score of 3-0 to give head coach Beth Torina her 100th career win as a head coach.

Both teams struggled to sustain any form of offense as FIU's Jenn Gniadek (1-2) pitched a complete game - a two-hit shutout to help keep the Ospreys in check. Gniadek also recorded a season high ten strikeouts in the win.

UNF's Cortney Radke (0-4) pitched six innings giving up five hits and surrendering the three runs in her outing that helped FIU to its second victory of the season. The Golden Panthers had a scoring chance in the fourth inning when Brije Rojas reached on a walk. After she advanced to second on a wild pitch by Radke, catcher Jenny Welsh reached first base on another walk from the Osprey starter.

With two outs in the inning, Rachael Slowik came to the plate with an opportunity to drive in Rojas from second, but she fouled out to the catcher to end the inning.

The Golden Panthers finally broke through against Radke in the sixth inning, who at that point had only given up one hit in the pitching duel.

Jessy Alfonso led off the inning with a walk, but was thrown out at second by catcher Jackie Reese. Kayla Burri was able to compensate with a double to right center and Ashley McCann followed with a single of her own, advancing Burri to third. After Rojas walked, which loaded the bases, Jenny Welsh broke up the tie with a single back up the middle to drive in a run.

With the bases still loaded, Patty Zavala capped off her 2-for-3 day with a single to right field to score both Rojas and McClain, giving the Golden Panthers a 3-0 lead heading into the top of the seventh inning.

Gniadek closed the door on UNF as she only had one base runner, who reached by being hit by a pitch. Gniadek struck out Lauren Pollock and Alyson Bailey to end the game.

The Golden Panthers completed the 2011 Combat Classic with two wins in five games over the weekend.

Weekend Notes

Pitcher Jenn Gniadek has been busy over the weekend, appearing in four of the five ballgames for FIU and currently holds 3.50 ERA on the season.

On the offensive side of the ball, catcher Jenny Welch and outfielder Ashley McClain lead the team with batting averages of .400 and .375, respectively.

FIU recorded errorless games against Ohio State and North Florida and compiled at least 10 hits against Memphis and DePaul, a good sign for an offense looking to get off to a fast start.

Welch's home run against Ohio State in the opening game was déjà vu for her.

She hit a home run in the first game last year against Southern Illinois in last year's Combat Classic.

"That was kind of exciting because last year I did the same thing, so it's kind of weird," Welch said after the game on Friday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

MTSU deals Golden Panthers another road defeat

Jackson Wolek

The Golden Panthers lost for the second time this year against Middle Tennessee by a score of 80-68 as they got outrebounded 33-27 with Phil Taylor putting in 21 points off the bench on Feb. 12.

The rebounding proved to be the biggest difference in the latest defeat and it was due in large part to being undersized against the Blue Raiders big men.

Eric Frederick did not play due to a coach’s decision and Brandon Moore only played seven minutes as the team was left with only one true big man in freshmen Dominiique Ferguson, who would only grabbed three rebounds.

“We got to recruit better rebounders and bigger players,” Coach Isiah Thomas said. “We just got to keep getting better and wait till they get a little older and a little stronger and wait for another class to support them.”

The first five minutes set the stage for the rest of the game when MTSU started out on a 10-0 run over FIU that forced them to be forced to fight back to keep in the game quickly. They closed the deficit within two points with 11:54 to go when the Blue Raiders went on another run.

The Golden Panthers kept closing the gap throughout the first half but were never able to take the lead and went into the locker room at halftime down 34-26.

In the second half, the Golden Panthers (9-16, 4-9 SBC) never went on any runs that allowed them to come back into the game as they kept on exchanging baskets with Middle Tennessee (14-12, 9-4 SBC). Every time they came closer, the Golden Panthers would be unable to push it any further and fall right back to being down by double digits again.

They battled back one last time late in the game with 1:54 left when they found themselves down 68-61, but they were soon forced to send MTSU to the line where they made their free throws when it mattered most and never let FIU get a chance at the comeback upset.

On offense, the Golden Panthers relied heavily on Taylor, who came off the bench in a big way, putting up 21 points in just 29 minutes of action. The next closest player for the Golden Panthers was DeJuan Wright, who finished the game with 10 points on the night.

“I just go with the flow of the game and take what the defense gives me, they gave me some open shots I knocked them down, and that’s how I was as able to do it tonight,” said Taylor.

KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Jessy Alfonso [above] prepares to hit an incoming pitch in FIU's shutout win over North Florida.

Dejuan Wright [center] finished with 10 points in a game where the Golden Panthers struggled to rebound.

Dejuan Wright [center] finished with 10 points in a game where the Golden Panthers struggled to rebound.

Dejuan Wright [center] finished with 10 points in a game where the Golden Panthers struggled to rebound.
The Golden Panthers went into Murfreesboro, TN riding a five-game winning streak and a chance to sweep Middle Tennessee in the season series. Instead, FIU left Tennessee with their streak broken and while losing ground in the Sun Belt Conference race for good tournament seeding.

Middle Tennessee beat their SBC opponent 66-52 on Feb 12 as FIU struggled to get their offense going, helping the Blue Raiders clinch the top seed in the East division. Redshirt junior Fanni Hutlassa led the Golden Panthers with 18 points and 10 rebounds for her second double-double of the season while senior Michelle Gonzalez added 11 points and five assists. Freshman Jerica Coley added seven points, nine rebounds, and three steals in the loss.

Both the Golden Panthers and the Blue Raiders began the game strong offensively, as MTSU held a 7-6 early in the first half. Middle Tennessee would go on a 14-2 run to take hold of the game and as the first half progressed, FIU saw their deficit grow by as much as 20 points as the Blue Raiders held a 35-15 lead with minutes left until halftime.

Hutlassa was able to cut into the lead as she scored eight of the game’s next 10 points, but MTSU would score the final eight of the half, including a three-pointer by Anne Marie Lanning, to give the Blue Raiders a commanding 53-26 lead at halftime.

FIU would look to power themselves back into the game when Hutlassa hit a three-pointer to start the second half. The Blue Raiders would quickly respond with a 9-0 run, giving MTSU a comfortable 62-27 lead, more than double the points the Golden Panthers had.

FIU would look to finish the game strong, outscoring the Blue Raiders 26-13 in the final minutes to lessen the damage of the loss, but MTSU would come away with a 66-52 victory.

Ebony Rowe led the charge for the Blue Raiders with 22 points and 13 rebounds, leading the Blue Raiders past an FIU team that struggled in many areas of the game. The Golden Panthers failed to control the painted area, second chance opportunities, and regularly gave up points off of turnovers. In all three categories, FIU gave up 28, 17, and 20 respectively.

Things haven’t been and will not get any easier for the Golden Panthers after the loss of senior Elisa Carey for the remainder of the season due to re-aggravating a knee injury she suffered in the off season. Along with Carey, Rakia Rodgers has not played in six games since she is currently out with an ankle injury she suffered on Jan. 22 against South Alabama.

The Golden Panthers will have time to rest, not playing again until Feb 19 when they will be at home to host South Florida rival Florida Atlantic. This will be a tough test for the Golden Panthers, a litmus test for how well prepared they are for the conference tournament.

FIU was forced to play in major foul trouble this game as four of their starting five players got four fouls or more including Wright, who fouled out. This required the younger players on the team to play together without any real senior leadership on the floor on some occasions.

“We played our freshmen a lot with Taylor, Ferguson even Richard Pack,” said Thomas. “I didn’t have a whole lot of seniors out on the floor and I think all the young kids are getting valuable experience by learning how to play in tough situations. Even though we’re losing a lot of close games, the minutes that they’re getting on the floor are valuable.”

FIU will now come home to take on their rivals FAU on Feb 19 in a rematch of the one-point loss they suffered against them back on Feb. 5 in Boca Raton.
Wayne E. Robinson Jr., a professor in the Department of Theater, was drawn to theater as a child. He pursued his dream and attended Phillips Academy, Northwestern University, The National Theatre Conservatory and the American Conservatory Theater.

In these institutions he developed both teaching and working experience. He then moved to California where he applied for multiple teaching positions and was presented with the opportunity to become a member of the University’s faculty, which he said he gladly accepted.

Robinson chose acting for a few reasons. “I did not come from a family with a background in the arts, but I immediately became drawn to musical theater as a young man,” he said.

After he pursued acting, he realized that theater was a wonderful way to examine human nature and life overall. “The best way to get a profound experience in the theater is to feel as if everyone is part of the same experience,” he said. Apart from working at FIU, Robinson is an actor and director where he does not conflict with his schedule at the University. His overall career includes acting and directing in over 50 productions, which have taken him from Chicago to Los Angeles.

Robinson is no stranger to moving from place to place, when he was a young boy his father was in the Air Force which caused his family to be continuously on the move. After living in many states, he immediately felt at home in Miami, Florida, he said, “this is the place I was destined to be in.”

Robinson believes you should always “follow your bliss.” This motto has been replicated in his students genuine pursuit of happiness. After being part of the FIU faculty since the Fall term of 1994, Robinson has had a positive influence on his students. Students described their experience in the classroom, which in turn makes the class engaging. Most, if not all students, say that they would take him again and recommend him to all undergraduates who are thinking about taking one of his courses.

“I think Professor Robinson showed me how great theatre really could be. Now that I have taken his class, I have a better appreciation and understanding of it all,” said theater student Danny Gomez.

Professor Robinson has been recognized for his work, in fact, he recently received an award in 2009 for his Excellence in Directing “Electricidad.” Putting on a stage production is strenuous and time-consuming but Robinson said, “I do not see it as a job, just something I love to do.” The primary goal of the theatre program is to give an intensive theatre guidance through classes and productions which are managed with professional theatre discipline and the highest possible quality work.

Apart from all the work that goes into the curriculum, theatre majors are also required to take part in all the major productions presented while the student is enrolled in the theatre program. Plays are selected to offer students the opportunity to work with a wide range of styles and periods, from contemporary to classical, straight drama, and musicals.

The department presents a main stage season of four shows each year, as well as Second Stage and Student Theatre Lab productions. The New Plays Festival attributes work written, directed, and performed by students within the department.

Professor Robinson says he hopes to one day develop a grad program for the department. He said he loves what he does and is immensely passionate about theatre. “I want to continue to do what I am doing, and compel students to do what I love,” he said.

He is a firm believer that although relatively unconventional, theatre can lead to a successful and rewarding future.

Professor Wayne takes his lesson outside as he teaches a theater movement class in the WPAC Alum.

Out of all the awards show, the Grammy’s is one of the stars of the music industry get to unleash their crazy sides and it’s perfectly acceptable.

Lady Gaga was dressed as an egg and hatched on stage. Does it get kookier than that?

IEA MICHELE: The only thing I think of when I see Michele is, “Oh, hi. I’m Lea Michele and I try way too hard.” Nothing about her Emilio Pucci worked on the petite actress. It was overwhelming and did not suit her bubbly persona. If the dress didn’t have the ruffles cutting across the skirt, it might have liked it a little better. I will give her props on her accessory choices. Michele wore jewelry by Lorraine Schwartz and Christian Louboutin shoes. They complimented the dress well. It was pretty cute too that she wore berry-colored lipstick as an homage to her Glee character, Rachel Berry.

KATY PERRY: No matter what Katy Perry says or does I will love her. She is bubblegum pop and if “Teenage Dream” does not make you want to jump on your head and make you just a teeny bit giddy, you have no heart. Perry, her husband Russell Brand and her grandma all wore custom-made Giorgio Armani outfits. Perry’s dress was exactly what the Grammy’s are about. It was whimsical and fit her great. The Swarovski crystal-encrusted bodice and feather wings made the dress look like it was from a Victoria’s Secret runway and it was just so fun! Her performance outfit was also great because it bottled up what Perry’s music is. The sparkled design paired with glitter tights was fun and flirtations. Perry’s outfit choices for the night were just an expression of what she sells herself as: fun.

GWYNETH PALTROW: The Oscar winner has somehow weaseled her way into music. She performed “Forget You” with Cee Lo Green and creepy and colorful puppets in a skintight jumpsuit that shows off her incredible body. The real show stopper was her amazing multi colored Christian Louboutin shoes. I wouldn’t know how to incorporate those into my wardrobe but I would put them in a glass box and make a shrine for them in my room.

EVA LONGORIA: I just don’t understand why she was there. Longoria can’t be taller than 5’4” and the Ashi Studio dress she chose was so overwhelming for her petite frame. Her bottom half was great. It was short and cute and her Brian Atwood pumps were beautiful. If it wasn’t for the ruffled bodice, the dress could have worked.

NICOLE KIDMAN: Though the dress wasn’t stunning, it was unlike anything she’s ever worn. She really did look beautiful and youthful. Her Jean Paul Gaultier gown was straight from the runway and she paired it with Fred Leighton jewelry. I’m glad she chose a natural looking hairstyle but it didn’t compete with the grand- ness of the dress. The same goes for her soft and clean makeup. The combination of her makeup, hair and outfit reminded everyone that she has one of Hollywood’s most beautiful faces.

Nothing to do with her dress, but I couldn’t help swooning over how cute she looked as she danced and sang along with Katy Perry.

RIHANNA: On anyone else, Rihanna’s risqué dress would have looked like a high-paid hooker’s dress. The dress alternated ruffles with sheer panels. It was a completely scandalous dress but my initial thought was “It’s Rihanna. She can so wear that.” Someone from her team made sure the ruffles were covering her lady bits better. The majority of the time her flower petal nipple covers were exposed and it all became a guessing game. It’s not a perverted thing, but she was completely exposed. Who would not look?

FASHION FINDS: GRAMMY’S EDITION

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

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Miss FIU believes she was crowned ‘to make a difference’

PEREZ, page 8

with no time wasted took her first step to what would become a plethora of social involvement at FIU. Bronwen Bares, assistant director for the Center of Leadership and Service and full time staff member of the Women’s Center at MMC, was Perez’s Freshman Experience teacher who promoted the Academy of Leaders in her class, which sparked Perez’s interest.

“Ever since I met [Perez] she really stood out as someone who had a lot of potential,” says Bares. It was after this weekend retreat that Perez says, that Sunday when she came back home she was super excited and told her mom she wanted to join everything on campus.

“I don’t think I would be who I really am without the Academy of Leaders,” says Perez. Now holding the crown and open window of opportunities to network, Perez plans on building up her platform for a high school program equivalent to all to influence and mentor younger students for a brighter future.

Perez’s future goals are to attend the Peace Corps or Teach for America, and with graduation scheduled for Fall 2011, that future is closely at hand.

“Perez didn’t have to make a difference in peoples’ lives,” Perez said.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC AT THE 101/EXHIBIT SERIES
The program features chamber music for winds.
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
FREE: Free and open to the public
WHERE: UT/Exhibit Art Galleries

MEET & MINGLE WITH CLIVE KING
WHERE: 6-8 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: The Foot Art Museum

SCHWARTZ CENTER LECTURE SERIES: “TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION”
Hosted by the BSU.
WHERE: 7-9 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: MMC TBA

BEGINNER SUNSET YOGA
WHERE: 5-6 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

SPRING 2011 CAREER FAIR
The Career Fair is one of the biggest career-related events in this region!
WHERE: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
FREE: Free to FIU students and alumni only
WHERE: EBC, WSC Ballrooms

TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION
Licensed by the BSU.
WHERE: 7-9 p.m.
FREE: MMC TBA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

FIU CHAMBER PLAYERS SERIES: “MUSIC OF THE 20TH & 21ST CENTURIES”
WHERE: 7:30 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: MACC, Piano Room

INTERMEDIATE MOON-LIGHT YOGA
WHERE: 3:30 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

BATE-PAPO
WHERE: 5-6:15 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: EBC, WSC Room

SOIA LECTURE SERIES
WHERE: 6:45 p.m.
FREE: Free
WHERE: EBC, WSC Room

This program features chamber music for winds.

Aesthetic PLEASING
POINT-COUNTERPOINT

GUNS ON CAMPUS?

Proposed bill has low risk

GISELLE RODRIGUEZ  Staff Writer

Imagine that an argument breaks out in class because a fellow student does not agree with what your professor is saying. Suddenly, the argument reaches into his backpack and withdraws a handgun, waving it at the professor in order to emphasize his point. Now, imagine that one of Florida’s senators has introduced legislation that would make this legal.

Fortunately, Senator Greg Evers’ proposed amendment to the Florida constitution does not actually allow this. The Student Government Association recently published their opposition to this proposed Senate resolution, however, I do not think this is necessary.

Senate Resolution 234 is actually an amendment to make Florida an open-carry state, meaning that if you have a concealed weapon and the license that goes along with it, you may, within certain parameters, wear it openly. Only seven states and the District of Columbia have bans on openly carrying weapons and this proposal would remove Florida from this list.

While there are always problems inherent in changing weapon laws, I do not think this resolution merits such hubbub it has been receiving. Ultimately, what is being changed is the fact that people who are already allowed to openly carry weapons will be able to wear them on their belts. If nothing else, this would be better for society, specifically for those who are openly armed. If you are less than 10 years old with a weapon, you may, within certain parameters, be victims of violent acts or school shootings.

The main contention mentioned in the SGA’s opposition is that the resolution changes the definition of a school to exclude universities and colleges. This change allows for concealed weapons to be carried onto a university campus, something the SGA purports would “put a grave safety concern to the Student Body.” It is paramount, yet it is difficult to argue that legal adults with concealed weapons licenses should be able to carry their weapons into a supermarket or a crowded shopping mall, but not a university. With regards to the law, there is no real difference between these places. If we are allowing weapons into pretty much every other crowded, potentially dangerous environment, nothing makes universities different, except for the fact the adults there are technically referred to as “students.”

Of the 107 school shootings that have occurred since 1966, only approximately 25 have occurred in colleges or universities. Of these, less than 10 occurred with what are classified as concealed weapons. This is not to downplay the tragedy, but to put the SGA’s contention into perspective. The majority of school shootings in the past 40 years have occurred in high schools, places where the carrying of weaponry will still be prohibited as per the new resolution.

While I do not think we should make it easier for people to acquire weapons or allow them into places where there is the potential for a violent alteration, this resolution does none of these.

One factor that may prevent concealed university shootings is the student getting caught with the weapon before having a chance to use it. If this bill passes, it will become lawful for any student to have a weapon on them at any time, as long as they have a license. Along with violent acts, there is the possibility of gun violence that lesser restrictions on weapons will encourage and bring rejections of this new resolution.

A new Senate Bill is causing controversy at the University and has the Student Government Association in disagreement. Senate Bill 234 aims to make it easier to carry concealed weapons on campuses with a license. Of the less than 10 reductions for penalties for not having a license for your concealed weapon. It is in no way a safer option to start allowing students to carry weapons on campus and potentially take the law into their own hands. Making it easier to access weapons on campus will increase the number of university shootings such as the University of Arizona shooting in 2002 and the shooting at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 2007.

Although university shootings are relatively uncommon, looser regulations on hand guns and the ease of transporting a weapon on campus that the bill provides can only lead to more frequent occurrences. One factor that may have prevented countless university shootings is the student getting caught with the weapon on campus. I would rather they carry them openly than hidden away.

GIOVANNI GONZALEZ  Staff Writer

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Proposed bill has an unsafe gamble

THE POLITIC

Political sex scandal a lesson in reputation, hypocrisy

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pring is around the corner, the State of the Union address went off without a hitch (unless you are Republican, but that is a conversation for another time). The safety and revolution is in the air and there is a fresh political sex scandal that has lead to the shameful resignation of yet another United States congressman.

As of Feb. 9th, 2011, Representative Christopher Lee of New York’s 26th District tendered his resignation from the United States House of Representatives. Lee alleges that his wife, an Olympic dancer, never consented to a past woman’s Carlisle personal advertisement, (you can already see where this is going) and sent lewd photos of himself to her. While the woman in question has yet to be named, what is clear is that Lee used his name and personal email address and a series of weak lies to begin a correspondence with the woman.

Now, to Lee’s credit, he did attempt to cloak a couple sections of himself. He responded by saying that he was a 39-year-old divorced lobbyist. In his fantasy life, his wife is out of the picture, he is seven years younger and he lives the fast life of a lobbyist with a kid, because if there is anyone you can trust, it is a divorced single parent lobbyist working in Capitol Hill.

Given our politicians’ recent propensity for scandalous affairs, this one is pretty tame. There is no secret family, no love child, no great love story to tell. He wrote no apologies and no mea culpas and just some good old-fashioned lying and attempts to deceive and cheat on his wife.

According to the emails and a photo leaked by the woman in question to news and gossip website Gawker, Lee complained about people who lie on Craigslist, and apparently has a penchant for sending half-nude photos of himself to total strangers while misusing his work email address and personal email address and a series of weak lies to begin a correspondence with the woman.

In June 2009, Lee wrote an opinion piece about why he supported the Student Internet Safety Act, a bill that aims to educate young people about the dangers of the Internet. Lee wrote: “Responding to what may seem like a friendly email or an appealing marketing offer can have serious consequences. Private information and images can so easily be transmitted to friends and family. If you suppose hindsight is always 20/20, but to be fair, the bill did not cover the dangers of lying to your wife.”

With the advent of the 24-hour news cycle, the Internet, camera phones and news papers, there really is no way to hide an affair. What politicians need to learn is control and restraint. While many wonder how the same affairs will play out once it is revealed, Lee, got busted without actually doing anything, or anyone, for that matter. It is the simple fact that he lied and got caught in the most public of forums, the Internet, and that is what made this story important.

While Lee is no Silvio Berlusconi, Italy’s prime minister who we accused of soliciting an underage prostitute and bailing her out of jail, he is still a disgrace to the American people. If we cannot trust a politician, even a faithful to his family, then how can we trust him to be faithful in the American people? 

The Politick is a political op-ed column. Look for it every other Wednesday.
Tough time in Miss FIU’s past inspires her present

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer

There aren’t many people who can walk into a room and completely change the mood.

Ana Perez does that and so much more.

The 20-year-old journalism major may sound familiar because she is the president of Panther Power at the Biscayne Bay Campus, director of Alternative Spring Break at BBC, Lead Team facilitator and a Campus Life and Orientation peer advisor.

Her platform for Miss FIU is to extend Alternative Breaks to local high schools so that younger students will have a chance to feel its experience through direct service, global learning, self-esteem building and team building, as stated in her pageant application.

One of the main reasons for this platform is because in her junior year of high school she moved away to Arizona and was faced with a tough time in her life, she said.

“I thought I was going to drop out of school” said Perez.

Her problems inspired her to create a program through which teenagers could learn valuable life skills.

“I got lucky because I’ve always been strong willed and I had help from a professor that would stay with me and talk to me,” said Perez. “I started thinking to myself what if there was something in school to help kids through rough times then a lot more of them would stay in school.”

Perez moved back to Miami and with no time wasted took her pageant application.

Top: Ana Perez performing her talent for judges at the Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant on Feb. 4. Right: Perez being crowned Miss FIU 2011 by Overall Director Maribel Chaluja (left) and Miss FIU 2010 Stephanie Jimenez (right).