Cuts on the way for Pell Grant program

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer

Patrick O’Keefe wants students to join in on the fight against cuts to the Pell Grant program as the federal government is looking to cut it the coming fiscal year.

“Put out or no more Pell Grant” yells the title of the latest Facebook note from the president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus. The note asks students to submit a pre-written letter with their name to their respective congressional representatives.

The letter is written in the form of a personal plea to Congress regarding the importance of the Pell Grant to the student sending it.

Two propositions are being debated in Congress on how to limit the Pell Grant.

The first, which would provide the federal government the largest savings, is to increase semester requirements for Pell Grant recipients from 12 credits to 15 credits per semester. This solution would save approximately $2.6 billion annually.

The other would limit the number of semesters students would be eligible to receive aid from the current 18 semesters, or nine years, to 12 semesters, or six years, as Pell Grants are only applicable towards the fall and spring semesters.

When and if these cuts take place depends on when Congress finishes debating.

Pell Grants are grants from the federal government specifically for low-income students, unlike Bright Futures scholarships, which come from the state and are merit-based.

The Pell Grant fund has been unable to keep up with the number of students entering the program.

A total of $34 billion would be necessary to maintain the Pell Grant at its current level of fund distribution, according to Sanjeev Udhnani, vice president of SEG-MMC.

Last year $23 billion went toward Pell Grants. If it were to be capped at that amount, nine million students, or 30 percent of all students, would otherwise receive the grants would not be able to.

The proposed cuts have driven University President Mark Rosenberg to action. Rosenberg traveled to Washington, D.C.

Rubio represents, teaches students

KATRINA BRUNO
Staff Writer

University students are once again learning Florida politics from a Florida politician.

Sen. Marco Rubio is co-teaching a “Florida Politics” course this summer at the University in addition to his senatorial obligations.

Throughout the course, which meets on Mondays and Fridays during summer C, students learn about Florida politics from a young and respected Republican leader with extensive experiences and political expertise to share with students.

Rodrigo Flores and David Ortega, senior political science majors and students in Rubio’s class, believe his return to the classroom is a great opportunity and experience for students.

“He brings a lot to the classroom. Rubio is very educated and has a lot of knowledge on both Florida and national politics,” said Flores. “He doesn’t seem very biased.”

“It makes the class more attractive in the sense that you’re learning politics from someone who has put it in to practice,” Ortega said.

Rubio, who the University hired in May as a “senior fellow,” will co-teach four courses at the School of International and Public Affairs alongside professors Dario Moreno and Nicol Rae, one with Rae in Spring 2012.

“I will be teaching the undergraduate political science class entitled ‘Legislative Process with Senator Rubio’... I am looking forward to the experience.”

While contracted, Rubio will assist with four classes and will be paid $24,000 for the year.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a democrat from California and head of the Senate Ethics Committee, approved the enrollment.

Senators earn $174,000 and are able to obtain outside compensation that does not exceed $26,955, which is more than what Rubio will receive.

In the early 1970s his parents emigrated to the U.S.

MISS FIU

Student represents school in positive light

ALFREDO Aparicio
Life! Editor

Ana Perez had only participated in one pageant before she came to FIU. Having fallen in love with college life, she entered the Miss FIU pageant in hopes of representing her school spirit in a positive light.

“The only reason I first entered the Miss FIU pageant was because it was about FIU and that’s my greatest love,” recounts Perez. “I had absolutely no idea what I was in for, but I’m really glad at what it turned out to be because I’ve learned so much through the process.”

Becoming Miss FIU out of the 13 girls who entered, Perez described the experience as “amazing.”

“There aren’t enough words to describe the experience,” says Perez. “It’s not just the past few months. I have grown so much as a person because it really makes you see your goals up close and for me, I really want to be the best person I can be in order to achieve them.”

The support of her family has also kept Perez steady throughout the pageant, especially through the initial training period which consisted of many different components and some rituals.

“I pray, a lot. To me, my faith is my luck, so I pray to God and some saints and family members who have passed.”

Perez’s mother has always been at the center of her success by helping her do her make-up, practice her walk for the competition and supporting her financially. “My mother has always supported me no matter what. For her it’s about me being happy and says as long as I’m doing the right thing to get there, she will always be proud.”

Perez also participated in the Miss Florida Scholarship Pageant 2011 that took place this past July 3-9 in St. Petersburg.

While the weeks consisted mostly of rehearsals and preliminaries, Perez got a chance to introduce herself to the city on camera, make an appearance at the Tampa Rays baseball game and tour the stadium.

MISS FIU

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Ana Perez
Miss FIU 2011

The Beacon is the official student newspaper at Florida International University.
Sen. to teach until Summer 2012

Rosenberg, SGA members address reps in response to Pell Grant cuts

**PELL GRANTS, page 1**

during the week of July 18 to protest the reduction of the grant program.

“Getting a quality college education these days is a costly enterprise,” he said to members of Congress. “Most of our students work and support families. Most of our dropouts are not failing they just don’t have the financial wherewithal to continue.”

Members of SGC at the Biscayne Bay Campus also travelled to relay the message of Pell Grants recipients to members of the state legislature.

Denise Halpin, Emilio Collyer and Kevin Gonzalez the president, vice president, and comptroller, respectively, of SGC-BBC went to Tallahassee after collecting 300 testimonies from students who receive Grants. SGC-BBC members also told state representatives the impact the cuts would have on them.

Across South Florida, Pell Grants comprises an essential part of funding for many students’ education.

Receiving the Pell Grant will help aid financially for the price of college; it may go towards classes or books that otherwise would be difficult for my parents to [pay for],” said Sonam Santastino, an incoming freshman nursing major.

According to figures provided by Steve Sauls, the University’s vice president of governmental relations, 48 percent of University students, or approximately 16,000 students, receive Pell Grant. Half of those, or 8,000, have an expected family contribution of zero meaning these individuals are in the lowest income bracket and comprise the “neediest” in the university.

SGA is currently pushing different positions for the changes to Pell Grant to relieve students that would otherwise see cuts and changes that may ultimately detract from their ability to graduate.

The point of contention for SGA and the campus is the first of the two propositions. O’Keefe and Udhnani have spoken about rallying for students’ purposes, but note, “Rallying would be great, but without a strong proposal on our side it’s just fluff.”

They are currently working to remove two propositions from the table and instead create a merit-based factor for the program.

They plan to suggest that students who are not in good academic standing with the University, which is below a 2.0 GPA, be cut from Pell Grant.

“Students that are truly using the grant for school and trying to advance themselves would receive all that is coming to them” Udhnani assured. SGA is in favor of the proposition, to limit the number of semesters one student is eligible for grant to 12 semesters rather than 18.

“Six years would be long enough for our students to get their under-graduate degree done,” Udhnani said.

“There are no hard figures for how much the government will save by implementing the GPA floor,” Udhnani said. “But ultimately we’d like to see it mirror Bright Futures, and make students more fiscally responsible.”

Udhnani went on to say that what SGA would need now is to get the plan into legislators’ hands.

“Marco Rubio is in favor of Pell, but he may be torn between his personal philosophy and his party appointment.” Damen said. “Democrats are on board for the most part, we’re trying to get Republicans to see it the other way also.”

“We understand what other students are going through because we’ve been there,” said Udhnani noting SGA is working their hardest to avoid any drastic cuts.

**RUBIO, page 1**

America in an attempt to escape Fidel Castro’s regime.

When he was 8 years old, Rubio and his family moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where his father worked as a bartender and his mother worked as a housekeeper.

Rubio said his father wished only that his son would be involved in a career where “...he could wear a suit to work,” in an interview with Jonathan Karl, senior political correspon- dent for ABC News.

He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in science from the University of Florida before and earned his juris doctorate, cum laude, in 1996 from the University of Miami.

He later served in the Florida House of Repre- sentatives from 2000-2008 for District 111.

In 2006 he was elected as speaker of the house. Once his term as speaker of the house ended in 2008, he began teaching at the University and continued to do so until 2010.

Despite his credentials, some students are opposed to University administration’s decision to re-hire Rubio as a professor, such as Ludovico Pereira, pres- ident of the University’s College Democrats.

“[It is] our belief that it is ethically wrong for professors to influence the student’s ideology or political views,” Pereira said.

As a senator and a professor his students openly know his stance on every political and ideological subject, so whether done by persuasive manners or by being a role model he is influencing his students. That is something we do not support.”

However, the College Republicans’ president disagrees. Jonathan De La Torre, current president of College Republicans at the University and a previous student of the senator in 2009, said Rubio’s presence now at the University is positive.

“Having someone with his experience in state and federal policies is a huge plus in any political science class, especially in a Florida Politics class,” De La Torre said. “I gained perspective and knowledge from this class that I would not have otherwise gained were he not to have been there. I think it is a very good idea for Rubio to come back and teach at FIU, both for the students and the University.”

“Other students have mixed feelings about the opportunity,” Freddy Juarez, senior psychology major, commends the University for hiring professors who have real experience in regards to what they are teaching, but does worry if the senator does not remain unbiased it may cause a “crutch” in the students and the campus understanding the full range of Florida politics.

“Colleges have tradi- tionally been known as a place of liberal thinking, with this in mind, it doesn’t make sense to add someone who has consis- tently shown to be very loyal and support conservative legislative work,” which in my opinion, is counterpro- ductive to worlds ahead institution and nation,” Juarez said.

Rubio was unable to be reached as of press time. Look for updates on on fiusm.com in the near future.
MEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers to start season against George Mason

The final four and championship game will be held in Madison Square Garden, as well as the consolation game.

For the demands of newfound success than their 2009 counterparts, with a majority of key starters returning on both sides of the football and a team that will be yearning for the exhilarating thrills of the bowl season this upcoming winter.

There might just revolve around themselves. Set this team backwards instead of forward daunting than it was in past years.

The losses of Marvin Roberts, Phil Gary and Eric Frederick will be tough to overcome, but gaining 6 feet 10 inch Joey De La Rosa and 7 foot Gilles Dierickx will mean that they will now have four players who are 6 feet 9 inches and above.

This will give them the ability to interchange lineups much more than last year, as well as increase their rebounds and not have to worry so much about foul trouble (an issue that plagued the team last season).

The added size and depth, plus the fact that they will be able to play with their complete roster against George Mason, unlike last year when they had to wait for players to be eligible, should make for an interesting game to start the new season.

The rest of the 2011-2012 schedule will be released in early Sept.

FIU men’s basketball team, set this team backwards instead of forward.

Much like after the Golden Panthers over performed in 2008, it is very possible for the team to suffer a relapse into mediocrity.

But this team is much more prepared than last year, as they have more depth and are not having to worry about foul trouble, which plagued the team last season.

The Golden Panthers are on top of a hill in the college football landscape, it is the first time that this decade-old program has garnered this much respect from their peers.

Raised expectations come a whole new array of obstacles and challenges for this season’s squad as they defend a championship.

However, no team will be able to play each other twice and the games will be assigned according to location.

This will be yet another great chance for FIU to make themselves more nationally known because ESPN will broadcast on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPNU.com. Last year, the team had only one game on ESPNU against Louisville.

It will be a tough match-up for FIU as they face a George Mason team who went 27-7 overall and won the Colonial Conference with a 16-2 record.

They also made it to the third round of the NCAA tournament before being bounced by Ohio State.

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The final four and championship game will be held in Madison Square Garden, as well as the consolation game.

There will also be third and fourth round games for the teams that do not make it to the final four from Nov. 21 to 22 at the campuses of the three highest remaining seeds.

NIT Season Tip-Off starting Nov. 14.

This is the second time that the Golden Panthers will participate in the tournament, the other time coming in the 1998-1999 season.

Their first opponent will be George Mason on the Virginia Tech campus. They have faced off against George Mason twice before, the last time coming in 2007 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena where FIU lost 86-68.

If the Golden Panthers can get past the first round, they will then play the winner of Virginia Tech and Monmouth in the second round.

There are 16 teams in all, the top seeded teams being at the top of the hill in the college football landscape, it is the first time that this decade-old program has garnered this much respect from their peers.

After years of toil and scraping along in the depths of the Sun Belt standings, the team broke through last year and was rewarded in the most recent preseason coaches poll.

Fall practice begins in less than two weeks and for the first time, the Golden Panthers will have the pressure of fighting from an elevated position. It will also be the first time the program will have to defend something with any kind of worth: a championship.

Those raised expectations pose a number of different hurdles and obstacles for this team to overcome when Sept. rolls around. And the biggest one that can knock the Golden Panthers from their newfound perch is not the teams that will be lining up against them on game days, and it won’t be the schedule, which is considerably less
Hall of Fame in 1985, where her number 42 was time in the ODU record books. 1,459 rebounds, including her record-setting 28
1980. Nissen scored 2,647 points and grabbed
the AIAW National Championship in 1979 and
ican, as well as the Outstanding Female Athlete
Russo was an assistant coach.
was in 1976 that Nissen would be united with
national championships throughout Europe. It
professional level, helping her teams win fi ve
years, one of FIU's assistant coaches is
Russo lead the women's basketball throughout
the years, and now has two bowl wins under his belt
That's the price of being respected and
always a little larger and the heat and pres-
They still have a lot to prove in order to
show they are more than a one-hit wonder and more critics to win over.
That’s the price of being respected and being at the top of the hill. The target is always a little larger and the heat and pres-
iture comes a new batch of
young raw players, arguably the best recruitment class in the time
Chestnutt has been in FIU.
This year’s recruiting class is filled with not only homegrown talent in Caroline Hernandez, Scarlet Montoya and Kelley Struyf, but they have also filled their recruiting list with two international players in Shante Correia and Sara Stewart.
Desde mucho talento con retornando jugadores y con tanto talento en los jugadores nuevos, ha tenido un gran número de competencias.
competition in every position on the
field," Chestnutt said. "One or two players, if they do what
they do, their positions are safe, but besides those two players all the other positions are up for grabs. The competition is only
going to be good for our team."
One of those secure players is
senior Victoria Milicucci, who is
coming off a year in which she
was an All-Sun Belt Conference Second Team honoree.
With expectations being so
high last season and falling short
of winning the conference tourna-
ment, it places added pressure for
a team on the rise. But the Golden Panthers are looking to turn this pressure into motivation.
"The players are so hungry to be better … they want to win
the conference and be a Top 25 team in the
country," Chestnutt said. "All it does is fuel the fire."
But just as this team has
improved, so have the other
teams in Sun Belt. Still, Chest-
nutt expects his team to stack up
well against in-conference rivals.
And the ultimate goal has not
changed. "We expect to be challenging for the conference title every year and
this year is no different," Chestnutt said.
Along with these expectations comes a hint of desperation for some of the players, as this will be the
final year for nine players who are entering their senior year.
This season may also be a
historic one for FIU, because if
they win 10 or more games this
season, it would be the first time
FIU has had three consecutive
double-digit winning seasons.
On the whole, this year's team is attempting to reach new heights starting Aug. 19, when the Golden Panthers travel
to Stetson for their season opener.
"The expectations this year this
after being ranked top 10 in the
region for the last two seasons is
that the goal of being a Top 25
team in the country is more in the forefront this year," Chest-
nutt said.
MUGGLE MANIA

“Harry Potter” website convention bewitches fan “family”

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

A decade has come and gone, full of invested time and devotion all leading up to the final frame of what many consider to be the end of their childhood. At least they didn’t have to do it alone, thanks to the fan site, “The Leaky Cauldron.”

The website hosted the LeakyCon 2011 Harry Potter Conference in Orlando from July 13-17 to celebrate the release of the eighth and final film, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2,” based on the series of books by J.K. Rowling. Melissa Andell, webmistress of the fan site and author of the book, “Harry, A History” and her staff worked hard to ensure that the “Harry Potter” era went out with a powerful spell, raising over $120,000 for charity in the process.

“I chose to attend LeakyCon because I’m a hard core Harry Potter fan! The fact that it took place during the week of the final film’s release was also a major contributing factor,” said Sama Askari, a senior and information technology major. “To me, that meant that this would be the last time the entire fandom could feel this level of excitement and anticipation at once, together.”

LeakyCon 2011 was held at the Royal Pacific Hotel, but from the moment you walked through the doors leading to the Pacifica Ballrooms you were transported, as if by Floo Powder or Portkey, to an extraordinary world. Like a scene from the books, wearing robes and having duels became the norm, offering the perfect balance between the Wizarding and Muggle worlds.

Over 3,000 people from across the globe took part in the five day event that featured special main stage performances with formal and informal programming. Highlights included an interactive panel with actors from the film: Scarlett Byrne (Pansy Parkinson), Evanna Lynch (Luna Lovegood) and Chris Rankin (Percy Weasley); two nights of Wicked musicians, a term used to describe music that draws influence from elements based on the “Harry Potter” series, Harry and the Potters and The Remus Lupin; a performance from Team Starkid, the creators of the online sensations, “A Very Potter Musical” and “A Very Potter Sequel” and the Harry Potter Puppet Pals.

Saul Perez, a senior, information technology major, said, “My favorite part of the conference was when Evanna Lynch picked up the guitar and rocked out with Harry and the Potters on stage during Wizard Rock Night.”

Savannah Currier, a sophomore, English major also enjoyed the live music at LeakyCon 2011.

“I met the first Wizard Rock band that I have ever listened to. I got to talk to people I had never dreamed I would meet [and now] it is now my favorite genre of music,” said Currier.

For those in attendance, the word “family” was one that many people used to describe the intricate community of “Harry Potter” fans. “It amazes me how quickly I made great friends within the fandom,” Askari said.

“Though the movies are done and the books have long since been finished and read, the magic of this series will continue to burn just as strongly until all who know of it are gone,” says Currier.

MUGGLE MANIA

“Harry Potter” website convention bewitches fan “family”
**LIFE AFTER DEATH**

“The Last Lecture” an appropriate testament for valued professor

**PAGEANT, page 1**

**Dail Museum.**

On Sunday, after the competition had ended, Perez had brunch with her princess—a girl she is responsible for mentoring throughout the year—and their families. Alternative Breaks is a course that gives students an opportunity to serve on a social issue of their choice and to work on it during their breaks in winter and summer. Alternative Breaks also consists of implementing a similar organization, write a book or two, produce documentary and become a motivational speaker.

“Perez also has dreams of joining Teach for America or a similar organization, write a book or two, produce documentaries and become a motivational speaker. "I don’t know what I will do first or what I will do for the rest of my life, but I do know that wherever life takes me, I will be helping people. After all, that is the basis of everything I want to do,” Perez said.

**Reel to Reel** is a weekly movie column. Look for it every Wednesday this summer.

**Miss FIU: “Everything will fall into place soon”**

Ana Perez introduces herself to the city of St. Petersburg during the Miss Florida 2011 Scholarship Pageant.

**LIFE!**

Cover to Cover.

**“Captain America”: A refreshing take on a beloved hero**

**CAPTAIN, page 5**

CAPTAIN, page 5

**“Captain America”**: A refreshing take on a beloved hero

“Sorry to disappoint you,” Pausch said to those who were expecting frailty. Pausch chose to be strong through his struggles and he suggests we all do the same. This introductory anecdote captures the reader’s attention from the very beginning and the book just goes up from there. The professor and creator of the widely used virtual reality teaching program, ALICE, is a self-admitted lover of clichés. He writes: “As I see it, the reason clichés are repeated so often is because they’re so often right on the money.” Throughout his book, the professor refers to such clichés as “the truth will set you free” and “don’t complain, just work hard.” Although such advice may be nothing new, Pausch delivered it through tales of personal experience that all readers can relate to—including denied acceptance into the college of one’s dreams. Pausch felt that we should “not tell people how to live their lives. Just tell them stories and they will figure out how those stories apply to them.” By keeping this mindset and saying things like, “we’re not going to talk about spirituality and religion although I will tell you that I have experienced a deathbed conversion,” Pausch’s words inspire, mostly due to their light and understanding qualities in the midst of his ailing health.

According to National Public Radio, after Pausch lost his battle to cancer in 2008, Zaslow said, “I knew he was going to move the world.” Pausch has done just that. Named ABC News’ “Person of the Week,” Pausch has accumulated over three million views on the video of his lecture while his book has become a phenomenon and one of the most influential of the last decade, attracting the interest of talk show moguls, Oprah.

The professor’s profound words, “I’m dying and I’m having fun” and “I’m going to keep having fun every day, because there’s no other way to play it,” has kept the attention of viewers and readers for three years, and will continue to inspire for years to come.

**“Captain America”** hits the right notes of emotion and humor at the right times. The action is fun, the characters feel genuine, and the unusual setting for a superhero film makes “Captain America” a refreshing summer film that continues Marvel’s current success streak.

“Captain America” follows the shield towards the camera, but you miss nothing if you watch it in 2-D. The film has the feel of “The Rocketeer”—both have a retro setting with a futuristic flair. Johnston’s vision of the WWII era is stylish and shows the audience what people living in the 1940s envisioned as the future. Viewers may notice that the last five minutes of the film felt tacked on to serve the mere purpose of ending the movie on a happy note and get comic book enthusiasts excited for the upcoming film, “The Avengers,” which we get a sneak peek of after the credits.

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Bright Futures should raise standards to survive

Times are tough for Florida students, and getting tougher. Students of the state’s 11 public universities will experience another 15 percent tuition increase for the 2011-2012 school year. Bright Futures also faces cuts with the Academic Scholar Awards falling from $3,210 to $2,751. Two American universities, University of Texas and the University of California, respectively, to 3.0 and 3.25. This lowers the number of students eligible, but would allow the program to increase the current amount awarded to each recipient. This recommended change would only apply to first-time Bright Futures recipients. Students currently earning Bright Futures would be grandfathered in under the new requirements. We understand requiring students to raise their GPA after Bright Futures was promised to them is unreasonable. Also, students are taking longer to graduate, which further strains the program’s ability to provide the necessary awards. Using our University as an example, according to the Office of Planning and Institutional Research, students take an average of five years to graduate. For a Bright Futures recipient who graduated high school in 2008-2009, the program provides scholarships for up to seven years after his or her high school graduation, 132 credit hours or the completion of their first bache- lor’s degree – whichever comes first. We understand the consequences of this recommendation, however, we believe our recommendation will be better for students. It will make Bright Futures more capable of fulfilling its promise to give students qualifying than ever, and many students attending our state’s schools. For 1997-1998 school year, Bright Futures only disbursed $69,566,969 to 42,119 students. For the 2009-2010, $423,532,776 was disbursed to 177,622 students. 15 percent is unacceptable and must be addressed. But obviously government debt, as it stands, is unsustainable. It seems contradictory to run a government with a deficit without ever incurring debt at any point. Everyone else, should manage to run things without ever incurring debt. Romney, McCain, PAU Alum. It is shameful that American leaders are prioritizing health over justice. It should be doing is limiting access to health care, not saving hundreds of thousands of lives. This extreme version of the Global Gag Rule is the height of hypocrisy... The last thing we should be doing is limiting access to health care for women in poor countries around the globe. The problematic nature of this legislation is that it provides, refers or discloses is anticlimactic. The University has formulated a budget plan. Univer- sity President Mark Rosen- milestone budget plan. Univer- sity President Mark Rosen- The immediate tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student's wallet. A 15 percent increase can cost an average full time student about $150 to $200 per semester, if not more. The immediate tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student’s wallet, and in an economy where financial aid is being reduced, salaries slashed, and simple part time jobs are becoming increasingly hard to come by, many may see them- selves having to put forth extra effort just to stay in school, including myself. Jeanne Castro, a biology major, claims the tuition increase is “Outrageous! I already work two jobs to stay in school and the tuition hike will make my budget even tighter.” Further increases in tuition will make obtaining a degree almost impos- sible for many students and it is unfortunate that many continue to struggle. According to an article in “Backslash Massachusetts,” many institutions of higher learning are being forced to raise their tuition anywhere from 5 to 30 percent, such as the University of Texas and the University of California, respectively. In the United Kingdom, some universi- ties have increased their tuition by an outstanding 300 percent, resulting in riots and student uprisings. I am glad there has yet to be any political unrest in the U.S. because of tuition hikes, but it will not be long before tuition, higher gas prices and even higher food prices make a college education simply unaf-fordable. If things do get worse, a call to action may be necessary, and we students have to exer- cise our right to free assembly when matters directly affect our futures. Many of us are just too invested in our bachelor and graduate futures to accept the reality that we are facing. For Students who are beginning their college careers in the fall, however, should be wary of future tuition hikes. We believe our recommendation will be better for students. It will make Bright Futures more capable of fulfilling its promise to give students qualifying than ever, and many students attending our state’s schools. For 1997-1998 school year, Bright Futures only disbursed $69,566,969 to 42,119 students. For the 2009-2010, $423,532,776 was disbursed to 177,622 students. 15 percent is unacceptable and must be addressed. But obviously government debt, as it stands, is unsustainable. It seems contradictory to run a government with a deficit without ever incurring debt at any point. Everybody else, should manage to run things without ever incurring debt. Romney, McCain, PAU Alum. It is shameful that American leaders are prioritizing health over justice. It should be doing is limiting access to health care, not saving hundreds of thousands of lives. This extreme version of the Global Gag Rule is the height of hypocrisy... The last thing we should be doing is limiting access to health care for women in poor countries around the globe. The problematic nature of this legislation is that it provides, refers or discloses is anticlimactic. The University has formulated a budget plan. University President Mark Rosen- milestone budget plan. University President Mark Rosen- The immediate tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student’s wallet. A 15 percent increase can cost an average full time student about $150 to $200 per semester, if not more. The immediate tuition boost will obviously not be a welcome expense to any student’s wallet, and in an economy where financial aid is being reduced, salaries slashed, and simple part time jobs are becoming increasingly hard to come by, many may see them- selves having to put forth extra effort just to stay in school, including myself. Jeanne Castro, a biology major, claims the tuition increase is “Outrageous! I already work two jobs to stay in school and the tuition hike will make my budget even tighter.” Further increases in tuition will make obtaining a degree almost impos- sible for many students and it is unfortunate that many continue to struggle. According to an article in “Backslash Massachusetts,” many institutions of higher learning are being forced to raise their tuition anywhere from 5 to 30 percent, such as the University of Texas and the University of California, respectively. In the United Kingdom, some universities have increased their tuition by an outstanding 300 percent, resulting in riots and student uprisings. I am glad there has yet to be any political unrest in the U.S. because of tuition hikes, but it will not be long before tuition, higher gas prices and even higher food prices make a college education simply unaffordable. If things do get worse, a call to action may be necessary, and we students have to exercise our right to free assembly when matters directly affect our futures. Many of us are just too invested in our bachelor and graduate futures to accept the reality that we are facing. For Students who are beginning their college careers in the fall, however, should be wary of future tuition hikes.
SGC-BBC prepares for the fall semester

DEBORAH SOUVREAIN Assistant News Director

A recent impeachment, an appointment and talks of removing the Wolfe Center, the Student Government Association’s Biscayne Bay Council is making changes and moving forward as the fall semester approaches.

A senator missing in action forced SGC-BBC to call for an impeachment.

Former senator of Hospitality and Tourism management, Xin Zheng, ran unopposed for office during the 2011 general elections and has been out of contact ever since.

“I have never met him personally,” said Pablo Hassepo, speaker of the senate and currently a senior majoring in political science, international relations and economics. “He has never attended a senate meeting or a general meeting.”

According to Hassepo, Zheng was also absent during the pre-election meeting while he was running for senator.

Several attempts to contact Zheng were made by Vice President of SGC-BBC Emilio Collyer, as well as Hassepo; however, they went unanswered.

Zheng was successfully contacted once during the meeting of the summer. It was then that he gave his council members brief insight on his whereabouts.

“We spoke to him on first week of summer A. He said ‘I’m going to Orlando,’ we never heard from him again,” said Collyer.

Without any explanation, Zheng’s council members are left to wonder why he decided to abandon his position.

“We contacted him about three weeks in advance to let him know we were screening and he never responded,” said Collyer.

Filing a leave of absence with SGC-BBC could have avoided this impeachment process. The impeachment was held on July 20, 2011 and in a six to one vote, Zheng was removed from his post.

The ground for impeachment in this case was “incompetence.”

The impeachment was only one of a few matters that were discussed during the meeting.

While one member was removed, the council appointed Jing Dong, a Hospitality Management student, to the Cabinet as marketing coordinator.

The council also discussed plans of placing a “Panther Statue” on campus as well as plans to renovate BBC’s Wolfe Center.

The statue is likely to be placed at MMC’s US Century Bank Arena. Convocation is held for incoming freshmen at the Arena and graduation. Placing the statue where it’s the first thing students see upon entering the last time on their departure from school only makes sense, said Collyer.

In regards to the renovations, engineering students will be brought in to create sculptures for the Wolfe Center, this will be the first time this is done at BBC.

“President Rosenberg is very happy that we have set forth to change the Wolfe Center and we have a vision for it,” said Collyer.

As the summer comes to an end, SGC-BBC still looks to fill the seat that Zheng was removed from as well as several other seats that are still vacant.

Jonathan Szydlo contributed to this reporting.

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SPASH Bash

Students enjoy a night swim session as part of the BBC’s “Summer Splash” event hosted by the Student Programming Council. The evening’s entertainment also included dancing, food, and giveaways.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama ends ban on homosexuals in armed forces

ERIC WERNER LOUTA B. BALDOR Associated Press

The ban on gays in the military has stood for nearly a century.

In 60 days, after decades of changes, lawsuits and lobbying, that will change.

On Friday, President Barack Obama fulfilled a 2008 campaign pledge, formally ending the ban. After meeting with Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the president went to Congress that repealing the ban would not jeopardize the military’s ability to fight.

“As commander in chief, I have always been confident that our dedicated men and women in uniform would transform this policy in an orderly manner that preserves unit cohesion, recruitment, retention and military effectiveness,” Obama said in a statement. “Service members will no longer be forced to hide who they are in order to serve our country.”

Friday’s milestone was expected to be reached under then-legislator Congress passed in December. But homosclerality has been prohibited in the military since World War I, and for recruits were screened and questioned about their sexual orientation.

Then-President Bill Clinton released the law a bit in 1993, saying the military could not ask if service members were gay. Service members could be discharged only if their sexual orientation became known. That became known as “don’t ask, don’t tell.”

Obama’s action means that effective Sept. 20, gay service members will be able to openly acknowledge their sexual orientation. And it opens the door for those discharged over the past 17 years under Clinton’s policy to reapply to the military and possibly serve again.

Jeremy Johnson intends to do just that. The former sailor served for 10 years in the Navy before coming out to his commanding officer in 2007.

Johnson, who has been working with a recruiting firm for months to return to the service, said he was initially bitter about leaving the Navy. Now, he said, “I’m very excited. I think it’s going to benefit a lot of people... It’s been a full roller coaster ride for me.”

For Zoe Dumming, Obama’s decision was the culmination of a nearly two decade struggle. The retired US Navy commander won a legal battle to stay in the service after coming out as a lesbian in January 1993. More than 13 years and two promotions later she retired in 2007.

“The day-to-day life of the military will not change,” Dumming said in a phone interview from California on Friday. “However, it will change significantly for gay, lesbian and bisexual service members, who no longer have to live in fear that this day may be the day they get fired or investigated.”

At Camp Pendleton, Calif., Marine Cpl. Jamie Rincon, 21, said “No one has to be scared anymore of who they are. We can serve our country and not worry about repercussions.”

Rincon, on active duty, said he was heading out with a group of military friends to celebrate.

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