TALLAHASSEE

Rosenberg: not ‘enthusiastic about raising tuition’

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Financial aid, the impact of STEM degrees and tuition are some of the issues that University President Mark Rosenberg, Student Government Association and members of the University community, will address in Tallahassee on FIU Day.

On Jan. 19, Rosenberg and other presidents in the state university system appeared before the State House Education Committee to address the possibility of tuition hikes—hikes about which Rosenberg had considerable misgivings.

“I can’t tell you that I’m enthusiastic about raising tuition to the national average in the next three years because that would have a significant impact upon students who matter to me,” said Rosenberg in response to questions by the House Committee Chairman Rep. William L. Proctor. “I'm not convinced that the financial aid would be there to reduce the difficulty and the pain.”

According to the lobbying group Florida Student Association, its opposition to a tuition increase in 2012 comes “after a nearly 20 percent reduction in Bright Futures awards, decreasing state financial aid award amounts, and a 15 percent total (base and differential) tuition increase in 2011.”

The FSA sponsored “Rally in Tallahassee” is an opportunity for attendees to have one-on-one meetings, open forums, and to speak on issues relevant to students such as University funding.

O’Keefe, also serves as the external vice chair for the FSA’s Board of Directors.

Each year, attendees, through one-on-one meetings, open forums and discussions, speak on issues relevant to students such as block tuition, textbook affordability in university funding.

For the video of Rosenberg’s full presentation to the House Committee, go to http://1.ama.gov/A2zCH4.

A correction for Rosenberg’s quote towards Chairman Rep. Proctor, can be found on page 2.

CHEERRY POPPIN’

Cherry PoPPin’

Jacques Halbert, a French artist of the Eat Art movement, shot darts at his subject covered in balloons for his performance, “A Table: Life is a bowl of cherries...” during dinner at the Tour de France/Florida on January 21 at the Frost Art Museum.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Payroll switches to Panthersoft

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The University has chosen not to renew its five-year-old contract with Automatic Data Processing, Inc. and instead take advantage of a license it had for about 10 years.

The divisions of Human Resources and Information Technology worked together to combine the capabilities of Panthersoft with the University’s Human Resources services to manage its $13 million payroll budget.

The phasing-in of the new system, called Panthersoft HR, started in April 2010. It officially launched on Dec. 24, 2011 and caused the University small headaches when the first paydays arrived about three weeks later on Jan. 13.

When the University was updating employee records, the system defaulted them to their standard hours which led to $53,000 in overpay being dolled out. This amounts to less than 0.5 percent in the University’s total payroll and affected 217 employees, 3 percent of the University’s roughly $500 employees.

“We found the root cause and [it’s] not related to people approving hours, time and labor, or managers,” said Carlos Flores, director of Operations and Systems for HR.

Iaffs Hartridge, vice president of HR, was unavailable for comment as of press time.

The average amount that went out was about $213. The amounts varied on the number of standard hours, the number of hours reported and the hourly rates for the employee’s specific job.

The overpay came from the department’s budget. Flores said HR will work with the departments over the next

COMING UP | Sports

Check out Friday’s issue for a preview on the upcoming weekend’s games in the Sports Section.

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GDP turns to new terrain in FL

MATT SEDENSKY
AP Staff

Now it’s Florida’s turn. And Republican presiden-
tial rivals Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich have just 10
days to navigate a state unlike any they’ve competed in so
d far.

Florida is six times larger than New Hamp-
shire and has almost five times more Hispanics than Iowa,
and, with numerous media markets, is much more expen-
sive for candidates than South Carolina.

That’s where Gingrich pronounced Romney on Saturday
afternoon, suddenly scrambling the GOP presi-
dential race ahead of Flori-
da’s Jan. 31 primary.

“It’s been fascinating spectator sport so far,” Beth Schiller,
48, said inside Buddy Coffee Shop
during the morning. “But it’s
coming here now. They’re all
coming.”

Indeed, the remaining
candidates in a shrunk field
— Romney, Gingrich, former
Pennsylvania Sen. Rick
Santorum and Texas Rep.
Ron Paul — planned to be in
the state Monday for the next
two of the first presidential debates this week.

All eyes were certain to be on
what’s essentially a two-
man race.

After a bruising South Ca-
rolina defeat, Romney no longer faces the prospect
of winning up the nomi-
ination quickly and now is
forced to regroup. He has
spent months planning for
the Florida campaign, es-
cially and building a firewall in the state.
He has the largest organi-
zation of any candidate. And
he has all his allies on board
have had the TV airwaves all
to themselves for weeks, spending roughly $6 million
combined.

The former Massachusetts
governor’s areas of strength in the diverse state may be with the
transplanted Northeast-
ers and snowbirds along the
Gold Coast.

But now there are doubts
about whether he can knit together the broad cross-
section of Republican voters he’d need to win in this state,
much less the nomination.

“I’m looking forward to a
long campaign,” Romney
said on “Fox News Sunday,”
an acknowledgment that he wouldn’t still win up the nomina-
tion with a Florida victory as aides once had hoped.

Gingrich, for his part, will
work to keep his momentum
going despite continued divi-
sion among tea party and
religious activists, who, to a
degree, continue to divide their support between
him and Santorum. The state’s
conservative panhandle may be fertile ground for
the former Georgian lawmaker who talks of his Southern
roots often. His team also is
working hard to court evan-
gelicals, who vote in droves in the state’s GOP primaries and
who tend to look skepti-
cally on Romney.

He dramatically trails
Romney in fundraising and
organization in the state,
underscored by his launching of an $8 million
Saturday night to try to raise
$1 million to help fund his
efforts in Florida.

“My job in Florida is to
convince people that I am the
one candidate who can clearly
defeat Obama in a series of
battles and be the one candidate who can really
win in this state,” Gingrich told CNN’s “State of
the Union.”

His South Carolina victory is certain to change
dynamics in a state where
Romney has led in polls for weeks.

“We want to get behind a
winner,” said Tom Gaiters,
co-founder of the Tampa Tea Party and state director for
the conservative organization FreedomWorks. “People
will be drawn to Newt like a
target.”

Florida’s state and divers-
ity creates challenges for all
the candidates. And the issues
may be far different than those
in the previous states.

There are, 10 distinct
media markets in Florida, which helps explain the
tremendous cost of running a
statewide campaign.

And the voters are
anything but homogenous.

Northern Florida along the
Panhandle is a far cry from the
South as the state offers.
It’s the least populated and also the most cultur-
ally conservative.

Southeastern Florida, including the Miami area, is
traditionally not as consen-
subsequently as the state,
offering a large Latino popu-
lation and many Northeastern
typical media markets.

The bulk of the state’s
Republicans, including a sizable voting bloc of
evangelicals, live along central Florida’s Interstate
4 corridor, including Tampa
and Orlando.

Exit polling from the 2008
GOP primary shows that
approximately 39 percent of voters identified themselves
as born-again or evangelical Christians. That’s a signifi-
cant voting bloc Gingrich has
been targeting. He evan-
gegics soundly in South
Carolina, where they com-
mited for 65 percent of the electorate.

Changes bring internal glitches

PAYROLL, PAGE 1

two pay periods to get their money back. They will deduct
from the employees’ pay for the next two pay periods.

They said they are more
guarded towards cutting payroll support researching
structure. Other issues the
University had with ADP
include its managing of
contracts of people such as
overload faculty, graduate
students, etc. and
overload faculty, graduate
students, etc.

It “significantly improves
the HR’s ability to respond –
weeks. It was not able to support the
switching of semesters.

On the other hand, the
benefits of Panter2Soft HR
is their single sign-on system with
myAccount credentials, its
“significantly improves” HR’s
ability to respond to
requests from months to weeks – and
which are temporary.

Instead of having 8,000
people coming to us, we only
cut down, “Flors” said on why
liaisons are used.

The liaisons also make
sure fewer errors happen and
HR has submitted hours for
people who failed to do so.

For the first three pay
periods under the new
system, HR is working with
the University community
to make sure it’s learned.

Flors said HR invited the
University’s Office of Internal
Audit to have an objective set of
eyes look at the results of
their comparisons of the
new and old system.

So far HR has had 99.7
percent accuracy when
comparing the two systems.

Another part of the
new system is tracking
improving, is how improving the hours
of hourly employees are
approved.

Another benefit to
the University wants to make
direct supervisors, people who should have direct
the work of their department,
involved and be the ones
who approve.

“The idea is to change the
culture of FIU,” Flores said.

Changes bring internal glitches

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Panthers to play Miami Marlins in new ballpark

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There is a very long and tedious, albeit metaphorical, line that college baseball players have to make if they ever want to have the chance to compete against athletes from the major leagues on a regular basis.

For some, that line takes years to complete. For the FIU baseball team, it is going to take all but two months.

On March 7 at 7:05 p.m., the Golden Panthers are going to play an exhibition game against the Miami Marlins in Miami’s new, state-of-the-art stadium.

It is the first time in FIU baseball’s 39-year history that the baseball team will get a chance to play against a major league squad.

**TICKETS**

The Marlins will be selling 15,000 tickets to the game, each one selling for $10.

“There will be no student discounts,” confirmed Caroline Ferrina, Director of Business Communications for the Marlins.

Individual tickets will go on sale on Jan. 27 at 10 a.m. at marlins.com or by dialing 1-877-MARLINS.

Currently, fans can buy group tickets, though they must have a minimum of 20 people at the time of purchase. The $10 price tag remains the same for group tickets.

The Marlins have been planning to have a soft opening for their new, yet-to-be-named ballpark since April of last year. The $515 million stadium in Little Havana will play host to two games before FIU gets a chance to step onto the field.

Christopher Columbus High School will play against Belen Jesuit Preparatory School on March 5, followed by the Marlins and University of Miami on March 6.

Though this marks the first time UM has played the Marlins in a major league setting, the franchise has historically played the Marlins in spring training. UM has only managed to beat the major league squad twice in the past decade.

For FIU, the exhibition game is just another boost to a program that has enjoyed success in the past two years.

The Panthers have compiled a 73-45 record since the beginning of 2010, claimed a Sun Belt Conference Championship the same year and have made it to the Coral Gables Regional as well as the Chapel Hill Regional in the same timespan.

**UPSWING**

Perfectgame.org recently named FIU’s baseball program one of the top 10 teams that are primed for an uprising. The website cited senior outfielder Pablo Bermudez, senior infielder Mike Martinez, junior outfielder Jabiari Henry and redshirt junior left-hander Mason McVay as a few of the reasons for success in 2012.

Panthers represented in Battle of Florida all-star game

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In the first ever Battle of Florida, held at FAU stadium, two FIU Panthers, seniors Wesley Carroll and Jonathan Faucher, got to show for the last time in their collegiate careers what they had to offer in front of 140 scouts at the game and many others watching on television.

Carroll was made captain for the South team and also started at quarterback. However, in the three drives that Carroll played, he totaled negative two yards on 16 passing and earned a net yardage of -9 on the ground, as the North side blew out the South side 51-3 and even went to a running clock in the fourth quarter.

“It was tough to watch, thank goodness I was able to allow the time keepers to let the clock run there at the end,” said former FAU head coach Howard Schnellenberger.

Faucher, a tight end who caught eight passes for 92 yards and two touchdowns this season, did not receive much playing time and ended the game with zero catches. Both Carroll and Faucher’s team, the South side, were being coached by Schnellenberger.

“It was great, it was great for him to be out there, it was really a lot of fun and he’s a good guy,” said Carroll.

Although Carroll did not put up great numbers, he said the practices were a really great experience for the now, former Panther.

“The game is set up to try and eliminate guys getting hurt,” said Carroll. “There’s not a lot of blitzing, not a lot of checks, it’s really just all about speed, a lot of one-on-one matchups. The week of practice was really the most crucial part of this whole week.”

In the practices leading up to the game, Carroll said that he got opportunities to try different offenses such as pro style and being under center, sets he didn’t run at FIU, which used a spread offense. He also said that he had a great week of practice and could not be more thankful for the chance to show the scouts what he had.

Out of the 140 scouts, 29 NFL teams were in attendance as well as four CFL teams and one AFL team.

“It’s good for the boys because it gives them an opportunity to show what they’ve got, maybe something the pros have not seen today,” said former FSU head coach Bobby Bowden. “I’m sure some of those guys out there attracted some attention.”

Even though his team lost, Carroll knows that this game ultimately is about having fun and getting one more chance in practices and in the game to show the scouts he can play.

“A lot of these guys had a great week of practice, a lot of scouts were out there and that’s really what this week was about,” said Carroll. “This game, it’s competitive but at the same time it’s really meant to be fun and a good atmosphere.”

His next step is to keep on working and preparing for his pro day.
Schumann hopes to fill holes by opening day

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After a season that saw the Panthers go 31-27 finishing third in the Sun Belt Conference, FIU leads into a third consecutive Conference tournament appearance. After finishing third in the Sun Belt Conference, the Panthers’ softball team enters the 2012 season with a bit of a new look as this season marks the start for new head coach Jake Schumann.

Jake Schumann takes over as the skipper, inheriting a team that went 31-27 in 2011. Schumann is in charge of a program that has developed into a legitimate contender under the tenure of Beth Torina for the past four seasons. While Torina has left some big shoes to fill, Schumann’s track record may show that he seems willing and able to continue FIU’s recent success.

Schumann previously coached at Texas A&M Corpus-Christi for the past four seasons, where he amassed a total record of 120-104. Just last season Schumann guided the Islanders to an overall record of 41-19, good enough to earn the Southland Conference regular season crown and the conference Coach of the Year award.

“I loved everything about [Texas A&M Corpus-Christi], it’s just that it’s not a priority [athletics] and I’ve always wanted to climb the ladder,” Schumann said. Now with a new skipper comes new recruits in Marisa McGregor, Aleima Lopez and Corinne Jenkins.

McGregor, an outfielder, seems to fit the mold of a lead-off hitter for FIU and will compete for a starting spot in the outfield.

Lopez is a versatile catcher that can be utilized in the infield if necessary. She will be looked upon this year to stop opposing runners.

Although these players signed their letter of intent, they will not be available to play until the Fall semester.

Jenkins, the sole pitcher of the group, has been clocked constantly in the low 60’s (miles per hour) with great movement and looks to give a boost to an already strong rotation.

Along with the new faces come many players that made last season a success. Key players include Mariah Dawson, Jenn Gniadek, Brie Rojas and Kayla Burri. Jenkins, the sole pitcher of the group, has been clocked constantly in the low 60’s (miles per hour) with great movement and looks to give a boost to an already strong rotation.

But as the season nears there are some positions that are still for the taking. “At catcher we are looking at a couple of kids, left field is still a tossup and first base is still a tossup and first base we are trying to groom a freshman from California, Shelby Graves,” Schumann said. But the one player who became the team’s catalyst for the past three seasons is Ashley McClain, who batted an astounding .409 average to go along with 12 homers and 44 runs batted in this past season.

“Ashley McClain is one of the players that we have had the past three seasons and she has been a spark plug for us,” Schumann said. “We have a lot of returning players that will be able to contribute to the team.”

With fresh new faces joining an already talented group of experienced starters, the club seems prone to make some noise in 2012 and prove that the program’s recent success is no fluke.
**Fiction and poetry, a form of therapy for professor**

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“This is a story that took me a few years to write,” David Gonzalez said to his students while passing out a stack of papers, “but I’d like you all to analyze it and look for recurring themes and symbolism.”

The 34-year-old adjunct professor explains that the story he is handing out, titled “The Gift,” is about a woman who sends her ex-lover a package in the mail, but the ex-lover avoids opening it, and instead spends a week guessing the contents.

The inspiration for the seven-page story came from personal experience—one that Gonzalez fondly remembers. He said it may have been the first boy-meets-girl story he had ever experienced.

“I was in the fifth grade, and a group of my friends told me that a girl much younger than me had a crush on me. She was going to give me a present after school,” Gonzalez said.

“Remember waiting in the rain for my mother to come pick me up and just praying that this little girl wouldn’t show up with a present for me.”

But she did. A little girl with big curls cascading down her uniform ran quickly toward Gonzalez in the pouring rain, tripped and fell onto her face. She got up and handed Gonzalez a gold necklace with her name on it, asking him to wear it from then on.

“It was extremely brave,” Gonzalez said, “but I returned it the very next day and apologized to her.”

He was on the verge of entering middle school, and did not want to be seen dating a younger girl; it was not “cool.” However “uncool” it may have been 23 years ago, the anecdote still influences his writings of short fiction and poetry.

“Similar to my experience as a fifth grader who was unmindful of love, in my story ‘The Gift,’ the male character treats his fiance somewhat flippantly,” Gonzalez said.

Campbell McGrath, a University creative writing professor, has read Gonzalez’s works of poetry.

“David Gonzalez is a terrific writer and a great guy. While formally a prose fiction writer, I can attest that he is a very good poet. He has also served as an editor of Hinchas de Poesia, a very cool online lit mag, and a member of the Miami Poetry Collective,” McGrath said.

Gonzalez writes about life experiences and the sentiments that go with them.

“I like to write about characters that present a certain set of emotions,” he said.

**PRACTICE**

“David Gonzalez is a terrific writer and a great guy. While formally a prose fiction writer, I can attest that he is a very good poet. He has also served as an editor of Hinchas de Poesia, a very cool online lit mag, and a member of the Miami Poetry Collective,” McGrath said.

Gonzalez writes about life experiences and the sentiments that go with them.

“I like to write about characters that present a certain set of emotions, be it the ‘horse guy’ (talking from personal experience).”

There are so many jackets in different styles, such as army jackets or varsity jackets. The same applies to bottoms: do not be limited to jeans. Instead, you can purchase chinos in khaki, blue or black. Please remember, leave the zip-off pants for hiking.

The point in achieving a wardrobe with variety is to accomplish versatility. The most versatile item ever is probably a white button-down; it matches with most color bottoms, and can be worn to a formal event or to class (styled differently, of course). Make sure that with each clothing item you have, you can at least wear it in three or more different outfits or ways.

Lastly, quality over quantity. Spend the extra $30 on a regular T-shirt; it will last longer and probably look better. Yes, designer clothing may hurt your wallet now, but in the long run, it is worth it because designer items are made from high-quality fabrics that will stay in your wardrobe for years.

Chances are you will probably end up wasting the same amount of money in rebuying the same low-quality items throughout one year. Does anyone really want to walk around with lumpy, colorless, wrinkly clothing?

**Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Juan Satzibale is a guest columnist on men’s fashion.**

**Being female not a hindrance to priesthood for student**

**PRIEST, PAGE 1**

At first, Buehler needed time to weigh Blasco’s decision. He eventually pledged his support to her after she saw how happy she had been after deciding to join the priesthood.

“We share our experiences, and it makes us closer. If you go to the seminary and becoming a priest makes her happy, then it makes me happy,” said Buehler.

Although she did not have to study anything in particular for her bachelor’s degree before applying for the seminary, she chose religion because she wanted to be well-rounded.

“All the religions that I have studied since I’ve been here I [have] found really interesting. I find a lot of religions to be beautiful and just misunderstood because they haven’t been studied,” said Blasco.

Despite her dedication to her church, don’t expect Blasco to proselytize in class.

“I would never want to make anyone think I want them to think how I think,” said Blasco.

She has applied to three seminaries in the north-east and will be attending for three years.

“I am excited but there’s also this fear. I’m not sure what I’m afraid of, being homesick or not succeeding,” said Blasco.

After graduating, she plans to come back to South Florida.

“I think the South Florida diocese needs highly qualified bilingual clergy,” said Blasco.

Blasco projects the opposite image of a priest, so it is no wonder she has a drink now and then. “I won’t drink, but I’ll go to a bar and have a few drinks,” said Blasco. After all, she is a college student.
“Paralytic Stalks” an intimate look into frontman

Kevin Barnes is an immensely challenging artist to follow. While there are certain aspects of Montreal fans have come to expect both in their records and live performances, every hint at a possible new release always leaves the followers with a nagging sense of uncertainty, a bitter-sweet prospect of what is to come.

This, in itself, is a big reflection of Barnes’ persona, as his lyrics tend to reveal his most intimate thoughts, and the turn of a verse or a simple chord change completely alter the mood of a song—and sometimes the album itself.

“Paralytic Stalks” is a fantastic example of this, presenting what could best be described as controlled chaos: an amalgam of carefully crafted pop songs, paired with distorted sounds and landscapes, leading to dada-esque moments that will get a sun in a sea of noise, before reigning the song back into a tight melody, making this one of the most exciting records of Montreal has released to date.

The starting track, “Geldi Ascend,” presents a reverb-heavy melody that draws back from ‘90s rock angst and offers an early look into the record’s themes of solitude, loss, tragedy and growth.

The lyrics, mostly lost behind a massive wall of guitars, beg for the presence of a reverb-heavy melody that draws back from ‘90s rock angst and offers an early look into the record’s themes of solitude, loss, tragedy and growth.

The constant feeling of doom presented by Barnes is what ultimately makes of Montreal so attractive, a rather miasmic entity that never reveals the music, despite the uplifting nature of the song. With each track, Barnes finds a new clue about the life and humanity, and even crescendos often feels like a massive celebration, a cathartic burst of instrumentation that injects a grain of hope in the sea of bitterness he often portrays. And while this formula might become repetitive under any other artist, Barnes adds enough variety to the record where no two tracks feel the same.

His sense of personal confusion, his conclusion that he has “lost the thread of being human,” does not reflect as wallowing in depression. Rather, it’s sad that we need a tragedy to occur to gain a fresh perspective in our lives," Barnes said, kicking into a bass-driven jam where he radiates reviews of the song’s themes of solitude, loss, tragedy and growth.

This constant feeling of doom presented by Barnes is what ultimately makes of Montreal so attractive, a rather miasmic entity that never reveals the music, despite the uplifting nature of the song. With each track, Barnes finds a new clue about the life and humanity, and even crescendos often feels like a massive celebration, a cathartic burst of instrumentation that injects a grain of hope in the sea of bitterness he often portrays. And while this formula might become repetitive under any other artist, Barnes adds enough variety to the record where no two tracks feel the same.

His sense of personal confusion, his conclusion that he has “lost the thread of being human,” does not reflect as wallowing in depression. Rather, Barnes is what ultimately makes of Montreal what is to come. It only seems fitting, in its contrast between the beginning and ending track, starting with overly aggressive tones, and ending, in a whimper, but rather a sense of resignation with the world, and most importantly, with himself.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Email at carlos.sucreparras@fiu.edu.

It loyalty, shame, joy or fear,” Gonzalez said.

For Gonzalez, writing began at the age of 13 as therapy to get the problem never affected the kind of writers they’re looking to bring in to FIU, I want to teach there.’"}

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. You can see this and other class work by going to themenewswave.org.


gonzalez’s writing “original and emotionally true”
Recent death reminds of dangers of hazing

In 2008, the Chad Meredith Act made hazing a felony in Florida in hopes that organizations, Greek or non-Greek, would stop this dangerous practice. However, the brutal death of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University drum major Robert Champion reignited a heated discussion on the merits and dangers of hazing. In the midst of this discussion, I truly hope our University is never on the darker side of it.

According to a hazingstudy.org survey of over 11,000 students, 55 percent of college students in an organization, Greek or non-Greek, have experienced some form of hazing.

The most popular form of hazing is binge drinking which can cause fatal alcohol poisoning. Chad Meredith, the University of Miami student for which Florida’s anti-hazing policy is named, died in 2002 when he, after getting drunk in a hazing exercise, drowned in a lake on campus. In addition to binge drinking, beatings and other injurious methods also caused deaths.

“Fighting the sorority student at the University I have heard the arguments in favor of hazing: “It is tradition,” “It builds character,” “It shows just how far you’re willing to go for your letters,” and other nonsensical reasons behind putting new members through humiliating, if not life-threatening, ordeals for the sake of joining a prestigious national organization.

Joining an organization should build character and make college life more fun, not break you down and cause you pain.

As a member of a Greek organization, I can proudly say that my sorority has faithfully upheld the zero-tolerance hazing policy as outlined by the University and the state. I can only hope that this is the case for all student organizations on campus.

Greek organization or not, every one of us profess to uphold high standards of conduct. In one way or another, honor and friendship make up the core of our values. As a human being and a Greek member, I cannot treat the honor and the friendship in beating someone with a paddle, coercing a new member into binge drinking or putting a new member through any other mortifying or painful ordeal to join an organization. Even if a practice doesn’t result in death or serious injury, by hazing we dishonestly hide who we are to this organization.

Joining an organization should build character and make college life more fun, not break you down and cause you pain.

For those who don’t know, tuition has risen by 15 percent every year since 2009-2010 — seven percent from the University and eight from the State University System Board of Governors.

Occupy FIU needs to fall back and come up with better occupation strategies.

However, just as there are reactions, FIU and the BoG reacted and are reacting to the state Legislature’s continuing reduction in higher education funding. This fiscal year, 2011-2012, the University received $157 million from the state compared to last year’s number of $228 million. That number is down by $71 million or about 33 percent.

Occupy FIU can’t just make do with less money; it has to make the difference up somewhere. Unfortunately for us that somewhere is our wallets.

I agree with editorials. The Beacon has published in the past in which they said tuition increases are necessary evils. If, as a student, you want your academic program to receive funding but the state is providing less and less money than we’re going to have to pay they had no choice.

Saying “no” to tuition increases without taking every into prospective is an immature reason to occupy this university. A small bit of research can turn up a wide range of other reasons to Occupy, now.

To name a few: the fees students pay regardless of whether we use that money, a University-wide smoking ban that neither a majority of students nor faculty asked for, a Strategic Plan of adding 2,000 more students a year to reach 60,000 enrollment by 2020 even as the University struggles to provide enough classes and improve the services for the students currently enrolled.

I’m not saying the group should not occupy or do whatever events they want to do, but that they should come up with better occupation reasons.

The Beacon welcomes any letters to the editor within this page do not include your name, major and year. The Beacon reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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Editorial Policy
Send us your letters and opinions: have something to say? Please write to the editor in chief, manage the voice of the editorial board, and the editors of the Beacon.

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Class Dismissed is a biweekly column critiquing education in America. Email jasonm.elliott@fiusm.com

POLICY
In celebration of the Chinese New Year, students came to- gether in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square to welcome the Year of the Dragon with a variety of activities being tabled on Jan 23. (Top Left) Fang Chen, senior hospi- tality student, take part in the entertainment. (Left) Zibo Ding and Ye Chen, hospitality alumni, provide as (Top Right) hospitality professor Jinlin Zhao watches.

**Environment a key issue in GOP Florida Primary**

**MATT SEDENSKY**
**AP Staff**

Four years after the GOP’s rallying cry became “drill, baby, drill,” environmental issues have barely registered a blip in this Republican presidential primary.

The candidates’ positions on environmental regulation, global warming as well as clean air and water are all but certain to get atten- tion ahead of the Jan. 31 primary in Florida, where the twin issues of offshore oil drilling and Everglades restoration are considered manda- tory topics for discussion.

“It’s almost like eating fried cheese in Iowa,” said Jerry Karnas of the Everglades Foundation. Drilling has long been banned off Florida’s coasts because of fears that a spill would foul its beaches, Florida’s coasts because of fears that a spill would foul its beaches, and doubts research that points to oil pollution as a threat to the Everglades ecosystem.

Karnas said it was a mistake. He previously agreed with the scientific consensus on global warming and human’s role in it but now says “we don’t know what’s causing climate change.”

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich supported tougher envi- ronmental regulation early in his congressional career and appeared in a 2008 TV spot with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pleading for action on climate change. Now he’s says appearing with the San Fran- cisco liberal was “the dumbest thing I’ve done in the last couple of years” and is calling for lifting restrictions on offshore drilling and branding the Environmental Protec- tion Agency “a job killer” that must be replaced.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul said during his 2008 campaign that “human activity probably does play a role” in global warming. Now he calls the science on manmade global warming a “hoax.”

Former Pennslyvania Sen. Rick Santorum shows fewer signs of a shift on such issues. He has called for more drilling, including in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and doubts research that points to a human role in global warming, calling it “junk science.”

An analysis by the nonpar- tisan Center for Responsive Poli- tics found about $2.8 million in campaign donations were made by those in the energy and natural resources sector, according to Federal Elections Commission data, with about 84 percent of it going to Republicans.

Meantime, the EPA, which is responsible for policing envi- ronmental rules, has been singled out for Republican criticism this campaign season. Paul has called for its outright elimination as part of his plan to drastically curtail the federal government. Romney has called it “out of control.” Santorum has railed against the EPA’s limits on mercury from coal-fired power plants. And Gingrich has called for overturning the EPA, saying it should be converted to an “environ- mental solutions agency.”

Nayak says: “There’s no doubt that this kind of state of presiden- tial candidates is one of the most regressive and most closely tied to polluters that we’ve seen at least in decades.”

Some Republican presidents and nominees have been strong environmentalists. Teddy Roose- evelt was seen as a role model to environmentalists, using his presi- dency to establish wildlife refuges, preserve forests, and conserve water. Richard Nixon helped create the EPA that has been vilified by its successors on the campaign trail today. And the last Republican nominee, Sen. John McCain, was the chief co-sponsor of a bill that sought mandatory caps on green- house gas emissions.

Michelle Paatz, a political science professor at the University of Dayton who focuses on environ- mental policy, said the current slate of Republicans may not be giving much reason to applaud their envi- ronmental stance, but it may not matter much overall with the economy taking center stage. The bottom line is both with the GOP primary and looking to Obama and the general election, the green vote is a non-issue,” Paatz said. “There are too many other issues crowding out the environmental ones.”

But Tony Cani, the national political director for the Sierra Club, said taking what he calls “extreme” views on the environment won’t play well come Nov. 6.

Jim DePuy, a Republican for Environmental Protection, said he hopes to see a shift as Election Day draws closer, but that the state of politics right now has made ecolog- ical issues untouchable.

**A way to keeping New Year’s resolutions**

**BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE**
**Staff Writer**

Almost half of Americans make New Year’s resolutions, yet, after the first week of the year, only about 75 percent of this people keep their goals, according to a 2002 survey collected by the “Journal of Clinical Psychology.”

Over the past two years, the FIU Recre- ation Center and the FIU Biscayne Bay Wellness Center have been helping to keep up the common promise of health resolu- tions, promoting the New Year Get Fit Challenge.

“Every one has New Year’s resolutions, we want to provide an extra incentive for them,” said Val Butler, programming assis- tant for the Recreation Center and coordi- nator of this year’s event.

The 2012 Challenge will start on Jan. 27. Participants can do the initial weight-in from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the FIU Biscayne Bay Wellness Center located on the third floor of Wolfe University Center.

“it has always grown every year, this is an event that pulls out the staff and the faculty to come out a lot, as well as students,” Butler said. “So it’s great to see an overall competition throughout the University.”

According to Butler, participants will have the chance to receive assessments where they can find out their strength score, body mass index and body fat percentage.

Participants will be divided in groups of two.

“You can come and make a team or you can sign up with the free agents and we will partner you with someone,” Butler said.

The person that signs in will get discount for the Wrap It Up Food Truck.

“This is the first year that along with the program we have our recreation training, which is our own brand of personal training,” Butler said. “When a team regis- ters, you automatically get a free personal training session.”

The Challenge will last eight weeks. Teams will compete to lose the highest percentage of weight, not necessarily the highest amount. Every Friday, teams must weigh in at the Wellness Center.

In 2011, the winner team lost 166 lbs, which is equivalent to 11.6 percent of body fat, according to Butler.

Throughout the competition, partici- pants can receive nutrition tips from Andrew Borrego, senior health educator for the Wellness Center, and physical assis- tance from Joel Palau, Recreation Center personal trainer.

“Anyone from the community that purchase a membership, faculty, staff and students are always welcome to partici- pate,” Butler said.

The competition ends on Mar. 23. The winner team will receive a trophy and personal training benefits.

“You have nothing to lose, but weight,” Butler said.