Senator plays role in $13 million budget process

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The first of eight meetings regarding budget hearings and deliberations will proceed as scheduled today, though a new body will have approval power.

The Senators from both the Modesto Maidique Campus and Broward Bay Campus Student Government Councils now have the responsibility of approving the allocation of $13 million of Activity & Service fees that will affect around 60 student organizations and facilities.

“Because the SGA Constitution defines the legislative branch as the MMC/IBC Senates, the Court finds that the University-wide Council is not the final legislative body that should be approving the University-wide budget,” according to the SGC-MMC Supreme Court ruling.

“You [the Senate] will now have more of a say,” said Sanjeev Udhnani, SGC-MMC vice president, at the Jan. 6 SGC-MMC meeting.

The legality of the previous budget allocation process was first questioned by the Coalition of Students for Reform, a self-proclaimed political party, through a petition of Students for Reform, the SGC-MMC Supreme Court on Jan. 27.

According to Florida Statute chapter 1009.24 (10) (b), the legislative body of SGA must give the final approval of the allocated funds, instead of the nine members of the U-wide council.

After reviewing the petition, the SGC-MMC Supreme Court, without input from the SGC-IBC Supreme Court, ruled in favor of the writ filed by Velez, with the decision being released on Feb. 4.

At the meeting on Monday, Mohamed Al-Darsani, Associate Justice of the SGC-MMC Supreme Court, expanded on the ruling and the effects it has the structure of SGA’s judiciar branch.

He stated that the SGC-MMC Supreme Court “does have jurisdiction over cases concerning that SGA Constitution and is not required to establish an ad hoc court with members of MMC to hear such cases.”

“[Having] the power to do something, doesn’t mean that you must do something,” said Al-Darsani, referring to the SGC Supreme Court’s power to create an ad hoc court composed of justices from both campuses to address University-wide cases. “The executive branch has the power to create a cabinet but that doesn’t mean that they must.”

SGC-MMC Associate Justice Alexander Williams added that at the time of the ruling “there was no other supreme court.”

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Mohamed Al-Darsani, Associate Justice SGC-MMC
Krippendorff promotes thinking ‘out of the box’

The purpose of the event [was] to expose the FIU community to a set of tools that will help students who want to start businesses...and help professors teaching business enable their students to think more expansively and creatively about business building.

I wish they taught this in school,” said Reina Canizares, director of professional development at the International Business Honor Society at the University.

Krippendorff has published four books, teaches, owns his own consultation firm called Outhinker. He gives workshops and speeches for companies such as Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Ryder, L’Oreal, GE and Wal-Mart. “There is a new generation that thinks differently than their bosses,” Krippendorff said. He hoped his book could reconcile the conflict between them.

As Krippendorff went through some of the key stratagems, he asked students to consider using them in the workplace. “It has nothing to do with intelligence,” Krippendorff said. It was a matter of overcoming “mental limitation.” Throughout the lecture, Krippendorff pushed for students to “write down one crazy idea” and not to worry about the “how.”

Professor of Entrepreneurship

Kaihan Krippendorff

The Board of Governors is looking for individuals to serve as university trustees who are interested in higher education and interested in taking in our university to a level of excellence that helps both the institution and the goals of the State University System,” said Morteza “Mori” Hossein of Daytona Beach, chair of the Trustee Nominating Committee of the Florida Board of Governors in a news brief.

The application for the position is available online, and must be completed by all those interested in filling the vacancy. Applicants can find the paper work on http://www.fibog.edu/aboutus/abt.php, and should be mailed upon completion to Talahassee for processing.

The deadline for the applications to be completed is March 1. Any questions related to the appointment may be addressed to the BOG.

University Board of Trustees seeking to fill vacancy

LAUREN ROVIRA
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The Trustee Nominating Committee of the Florida Board of Governors has released a statement saying that they are on the lookout for an appointment to the Board of Trustees for the University. The Board of Governors is the body in charge of directing the missions of the individual institutions as well as ensuring the coordination and operation of the system. The BOG does this in part by appointing members to individual Board of Trustees to run the universities, as does the Governor of Florida. The Florida university system serves more than 320,000 students which makes it the fourth largest public university system in the nation.

The BOG of the universities in the system are responsible for creating processes for the University to adhere to state policy, budgeting and education standards.

Each of the 11 state universities has a BOG made up of 13 members who are responsible for cost-effective policy and maintaining high quality education programs within the system. The term of services for the individual who takes up the position will last through Jan. 6, 2013.

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The streak is over. Five consecutive losses to Florida Atlantic dating back to 2009 ended on Feb. 4 at FAU Arena as the Panthers relied on a 13-2 run mid-way in the second half to defeat the Owls 76-56.

Phil Taylor finished with a strong second half as he scored 22 points. Jeremy Allen followed with 20 points. Dominique Ferguson added 14 points inside the paint for FIU (7-15, 4-6 SBC). The Panthers finished shooting at 48.1 percent from the field.

"I thought the first half was a typical between the two teams. I thought our team played well in the second half," Head Coach Isiah Thomas said. "We did some good things on the defensive end. We rebounded the basketball better and the competition [with FAU] has made us better."

After trailing 29-28 at the break, the Panthers began the second half on a 9-1 run to take a 37-30 lead. After the Owls countered with a run to trim the lead to 44-42 with 10 minutes remaining in the game, FIU pushed the lead back up to 13, via a 11-0 run, which was capped off by a slam dunk by Allen off a steal to give the Panthers a 55-42 lead.

When the Owls attempted to make a run with less than five minutes remaining, the Panthers continued to attack the basket. "We just felt like everything was going for us," Allen said. "We played the way we wanted to play. It was good for us."

With the game in hand for FIU, the sold-out, rowdy crowd at FAU arena began to empty the arena.

"It felt good," DeJuan Wright said. "After how the last game went, it felt good to be up that much and seeing their crowd leaving."

Defensively the Panthers did not allow Florida Atlantic (9-14, 5-5 SBC) to get into any rhythm offensively. The Owls finished the game shooting 34.4 percent from the field. Although Greg Gantt finished the game with 21 points, defensively the Panthers were able to contain the other Owls from scoring.

"We knew he was going to get his but we were trying to maintain and contest his shots," Allen said.

Although Wright did not have his typical game scoring from field, he was able to contribute in other areas while Allen, Ferguson and Taylor were scoring.

"I wasn’t trying to get in the way of their flow," Wright said. “I knew we needed a lot of help on the glass. I took it upon myself to get rebounds." Wright finished with nine points and 11 rebounds.

At the end of the game, the Panthers were able to convert on its foul shots to ice the game. Taylor was the catalyst for the Panthers in running the offense for FIU in the second half.

"I just kept being aggressive. I just found another way to get myself involved in the game," Taylor said.

"We came out and were patient. [We] work the ball, set screens and cut [to the basket]." For the Panthers, the win was notice to Florida Atlantic that the rivalry was not over.

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The definition of insanity is repeating the same thing and expecting different results. Many people find themselves committing this kind of action in their everyday lives, but rarely do you see a sports team continue to figuratively bang their head against a wall trying to make something happen.

Over the past few weeks, head coach Cindy Russo has emphasized the Panthers’ need to improve their rebounding on both ends of the floor. However, there has not been a great difference seen on the boards. The only team that the Panthers were able to out-rebound in the past five matchups was a team that has managed just one win this season, Troy.

This week, the Panthers will face off with a North Texas team that currently leads the Sun Belt in rebounding offense, averaging 41.7 rebounds per game. The Panthers are...
Coley looks to end offensive woes

Currently seventh, with just 35.9 rebounds per game.

COLEY ROLLING DOWN HILL

After having one of her best shooting performances of the season, going 11-16, all-American hopeful Jerica Coley had perhaps her worst of the year. At FAU, Coley did not score a single point in the first half, shooting 0-10 from the field. She still managed to score 12 points in the game, keeping her streak of reaching double figures in every game this season alive.

Her scoring average took a hit, going down to 24.3 points per game. However, she still ranks second in the nation just behind Elena Delle Donne of Delaware.

Even though she struggled in her last game against FAU, Coley doesn’t believe that the pressure is getting to her.

“No, it’s the same way it has been all year,” Coley said.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

This will be the only time all year that the Mean Green and the Panthers square off. The Panthers will have to contain Jasmine Godbolt, who just reached the 1,000-point mark for her career in North Texas’ loss to Middle Tennessee last week.

There are several other Panther seniors who will have an impact on the game. Britney Hudson and Tamara Torru are also in the top 10 in the Sun Belt in steals, three point percentage and free throw percentage.

Those two senior guards will provide the bulk of the offense for the Mean Green in their matchup against the Panthers on Feb. 9.

With the loss to the Owls this past weekend, the Panthers are now fourth in the Eastern Division (5-5), back two games from South Alabama (7-4) and two and a half to FAU (7-3). They have six games left to make up ground against those opponents before all the teams head to Hot Springs, Arkansas for the Sun Belt Tournament.

After North Texas, the team will face Denver at U.S. Century Bank Arena on Feb. 11 for their only meeting of the season.
Challenged faith
Professor done with organized religion

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At a young age, Whitney Bauman, assistant professor of religious studies, gave up on religion.

Reared in an Episcopal Church, Bauman became very involved with the youth group and choir. But he challenged everything he was taught, questioning theology and the idea that Christianity was right and all other religions were wrong. Things got worse when Bauman was 16.

“Growing up in the South—if you’re different at all—religion is not very nice to you,” Bauman said.

The choirmaster, who Bauman was very close to because of his involvement in the choir from such an early age, was fired for being gay.

Bauman said the priest at the time accused the choirmaster of doing things he had never done. Bauman was in awe as the church community split in two.

“After that, I was kind of done with organized religion,” Bauman said. “I decided that whatever existed was definitely not to be found in any church.”

About three years later, while studying psychology at Hendrix College in Arkansas, Bauman found himself reading philosophy. The questions these readings asked and discussed inspired Bauman to look for answers.

“They asked and taught me in ways that didn’t necessarily involve some sort of long, grey haired guy in the sky,” Bauman said. “Before he knew it, he was enrolling in a religion course called “Religion, Animals, and the Earth.”

This course addressed how religious ideas—whether Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, or Jewish—shape the way we think about and treat other humans, animals and the rest of the natural world.

For the first time in a long time, Bauman found himself thinking that “perhaps religion isn’t all that bad.”

He continued to study religion, graduating with a master’s in theological studies with an emphasis on ecological concern from Vanderbilt, and then earned a doctorate in theological and religious studies from the Graduate Theological Union.

“We all question religion. People have a natural tendency to wonder and question things in life,” said Danielle Kong, one of Bauman’s current students. “If we didn’t, science wouldn’t exist.”

Kong and Luis Figueroa, a current youth leader at a local church in Miami, say it is better to question your religion, no matter what religion that may be, than to just believe what you are told and take it as is.

“By asking questions about religion, we’re able to better understand our own as well as other religions,” Figueroa said.

Bauman recently went to Jakarta, Indonesia, where he taught and studied the hybrid nature of religion in the largest Muslim population in the world.

Bauman said the people in Indonesia practice a form of Islam mixed with Buddhism and Hinduism as well as local practices.

The mixture of religions has occurred over time through globalization, he said. This process of globalization has become one of Bauman’s main focuses.

While teaching globalization to American students, Bauman tries to get across the fact that we are consuming the world around us.

While discussing globalization in Indonesia, the students have inadvertently taught him as the ones who have lost their trees, rainforests and natural resources in the globalization process.

However, this process is “not all that bad,” Bauman said. It allows us...
Recyclemania hits campus

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For the third year running, the University will be competing with over 400 other universities and colleges in Recyclemania to help the school go green.

Recyclemania is a series of events hosted by the Office of University Sustainability, which will occur between Feb. 5 and March 31. The events are intended to promote awareness and action that will help the University improve its recycling habits and reduce its waste stream.

Throughout the competition, the University will not only be judged on how much recyclable material can be collected, but also on how much waste can be reduced in general.

The University has been part of the movement for three years now and is actually a fierce competitor. “Last year, we came in second in the state of Florida and first in the three years now and is part of the movement for general.

much waste can be reduced in tion, the University will not aware of events hosted by the Office of University Sustainability, of University Sustainability.

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Recyclemania hits campus

Global effects on religion

BAUMAN, PAGE 5

to connect and share our ideas with people from around the world.

Globalization and reli gious hybridity are both impor tant topics Bauman covers in his classes, but his job is not done unless he has sent a assistant at the Office of University Sustainability. “We recycled 30 to 40 tons per week, and about 2,000 tons throughout the academic year.”

Currently, the University is working towards a mandated goal of recycling 75 percent of its waste stream by the year 2020 and is currently recy cling at 30 percent, but the Office of University Sustain ability has been working to help the school improve its recycling habits for some time.

“Af ter hearing a lot of input from students,” said Dutton, “we felt recycling was important and wanted to help the school go green.”

Recyclemania will feature several Dream Machines throughout campus, which can only be described as reverse vending machines. Students can deposit recyclable mate rial into the Dream Machines and collect points that can be redeemed for coupons, gift cards and other prizes. It also features other events which all students are encour aged to attend. “Black Out, Green Out!” is the first event on Feb. 7 at 6 p.m. at the Housing Quad. During this event, students should turn off their lights and electronics to conserve energy and enjoy a party featuring a DJ, perfor mance and giveaways.

On Feb. 9, there will be both men’s and women’s basketball games, and a Dream Machine will be at the arena, so bring your recyclables.

Feb. 15 will feature more Dream Machines being placed around campus, and Dream Machine partners will be present at the Green Library breezeway to teach students how to use them.

The movement is not just for the students, though. “Clean Out Your Fives Week” will take place during spring break, which encourages faculty and staff to recycle their paper waste.

The University is well on its way to achieving its goal by the year 2020, and the events promote student involvement in the process. “By hosting Recyclemania and other events, we hope to increase our recycling rate,” said Dutton.

Students show work at three day theater festival

KEDNEY, PAGE 1

“The production design by Dreet kosen, Galaska, Spitzer and Figueredo was so strikingly innovative that I am sure the KC ACTF committee felt it had to be seen by other students around the region. I also think their work raised the bar for the staging, and forced me to innovate as well,” Yawney said.

In addition, 12 of the students in atten dance were competing for acting honors in the Irene Ryan competition, which is a national program that rewards acting excellence among theater students. Students show their work through scenes and monologues, which are evaluated by judges over the course of an intense three days,” said Yawney.

The students receive nominations based on their work in the department’s productions and then select a partner to work with them. In preparing to reassemble the set, Yawney described the experience as a “military operation.”

All the production designs had to carefully plan the whole process since the competition offered a limited time in which the production could be reassem bled at KC ACTF.

“A small army of students rehearsed loading the production into the theater since any misstep could mean a loss of valuable time. Thanks to the planning, we got it all in and up and had a terrific performance,” said Yawney. “Everything from when the lights go in the truck (packed like championship Tetris) to who sweeps the floor at the end of the

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Web-based sex education worthwhile

A college student shouldn’t have to take a sex ed course in order to receive crucial information.

By JASMYN ELLIOTT

Although the Internet may be used for general research, demographic-specific information will offer a more specialized perspective, hence why colleges and universities should develop their own sex ed websites.

If the University were to develop such a website, campus- and city-specific information would most likely include a special focus on HIV/AIDS prevention, as Miami ranks number one in new HIV/AIDS cases in the nation. I would imagine a special focus in LGBT issues would be of interest as well. Even without a web-based presence, I applaud the University for not burying their heads in the sand in regards to sex education.

University Health Services and the Victim Advocacy Center offer presentations on sexual health, sexual assault and additional topics upon request. Furthermore, they host events with other campus offices such as Sex Carnival, World AIDS Day and Take Back The Night where students have access to well-researched information. Additionally, several student-led clubs and organizations help raise awareness in regards to sexual health.

Even so, I would imagine a sex ed website would be an easily attainable enhancement to these initiatives, especially with our in-house website-building department. As I have lamented in past columns, sex education in America is severely lacking in the department of forthrightness.

With a majority of students implementing abstinence-only curricula in their elementary and secondary schools, students enter college ignorant of sexual health in regards to sexually-transmitted diseases and sexual disorders.

Often times, the only access to a comprehensive sex education is through taking a course on the subject. While these courses are necessary for their respective curricula, a college student shouldn’t have to take a sex ed course in order to receive crucial information.

Instead, this information should be easily accessible to all students by way of web-based sites of information provided by their respective colleges and universities, in addition to national sex ed resources.

“Class Dismissed” is a biweekly column critiquing education in America.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Petition approval opens way for change

On Feb. 4, 2012 the Student Government Council - Modesto A. Maidique Campus Supreme Court released its decision on the Ex Parte Velez SC 001 case. In it, it sided with our argument that the Activity & Service Fee approval process was contrary to Florida Statutes and, therefore declared the unlawful provisions in question from the SGA Constitution.

What this landmark decision implies is that for the first time, the Senate from each of our campuses are going to be able to assert their legislative power to allocate and approve the budget. This means that the process by which $12 million in Activity & Service Fee funds are allocated is going to be more open and accessible to students.

Now, we can have our directly elected student representatives make the decision as to where the money we pay is going to go. Instead of the same officials drafting a budget, and then approving it themselves, we can have a more respectable, logical and democratic procedure.

The funds in question determine how much money student organizations receive, how much the Homecoming Council can spend for the Homecoming Concert, and how many allocations can be given to graduate students for their research and conferences.

Because of this reason, it is essential for students to engage and pay attention. We can all do our part to make sure these funds are spent more efficiently, addressing the priorities that we as student have.

We may want more events at the Engineering Center, more study areas around campus, or better services at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Getting involved is the way to make sure that these become a reality.

It is up to us to ensure that SGA represents us, our interests and needs, by running for office, voting and holding our officials accountable.

In order to make that a reality, the Coalition of Students for Reform is here to serve as the mechanism for students to engage with and lobby student government, making sure all government officials represent the collective interests of our 44,000-strong student body.

This case, addressing the budget approval process is one way of reaching that goal.

The decision by the Supreme Court presents SGA, and particularly the two Senates with an opportunity.

Let’s take advantage of this potential, and adopt a process by which there is direct student input about the budget proposals. Both Senates should have their Operational Review Committees hold public hearings where students can directly express their thoughts on the draft budget for the following year.

In order to make it is considered by each Senate. CSR is proposing a new approval course, that incorporates this idea, to be posted on our website at csr.fiu.edu. This should be the first step towards a truly transparent and open government.

The budget hearings and SGA Elections are right around the corner, so the timing is ideal for those who want to step up and shape our reality. If you want to change our student government, lead; if you want to change our university, lead. It’s time to take a stand, to take action.

—William-Jose Velez, President of FUU Coalition of Students for Reform

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Feel free to write to us! Call in at 305/348-9757 or send a letter to the editor at iu@fiu.edu

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CONTRIBUTIONS

Guest Contributions, Opinions, and Commentary

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and online at iuFM.com

The Beacon – 7

www.fiu.edu

Wednesday, February 8, 2012

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editors-in-chief, the Beacon’s Editorial Board, and the editor of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorial stance. To submit a letter, please email neda.ghomeshi@fiu.edu.

EDITORIAL

The decision made by the Student Government Council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus Supreme Court serves as a further reminder of the contentious division that comes with the two campus council system.

According to an article published on Feb. 6 in The Beacon, Senate Speaker Pablo Hasek felt that SGC- BBC’s exclusion from the decision in Ex Parte Velez exemplified the ongoing “lack of communication” between both councils.

The creation of a single Supreme Court would shift the focus from campus specific issues to that of the entire University community. This case emphasized that any matters petitioned to the court ultimately affect the entire University—not just one campus.

Furthermore, the single Supreme Court will serve as a stepping stone towards a unified University by having it structured with four associate justices from both BBC and MMC, with the Supreme Court being jointly recommended to both campus specific senates as a means of having the Court’s leadership remaining neutral towards the campus specific-ego that Ex Parte Velez has brought forth to the public eye.

A single Supreme Court, with knowledge of both campuses’ issues and concerns, would be the needed impartial presence in legal matters.

Even though the University is divided into two campuses and multiple centers, they still form FIU. Court rulings should be handled the same way; as a unified voice.
Shoppers weigh in on the possibility of a state online sales tax

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According to a global report by the Nielsen Company in 2010, 85 percent of Americans have shopped online before. The same report states that books and clothing are the two most purchased items online, followed by airline tickets.

In most states in America, there is no taxing on online purchases, as opposed to going to a physical store and buying the same product. Customers are usually looking for the better bargain.

“I’ve bought a few things online, mostly books, usually because they’re hard to find,” said Dr. Charles G. Macdonald, a professor of International Relations.

But this could change this year, as Florida State officials are considering adding a six percent tax on online transactions in the state of Florida, hoping to help small businesses compete with large retailers that have a bigger selection of goods online.

Online shopping has gained popularity due to the convenience and the bigger selection of products. Using the Internet to shop is a trend which could become the de facto way to do shopping.

Gena Zapata, a sophomore and psychology major at FIU, is one of those who prefer doing her shopping online.

“I hate shopping malls. I hate going in crowded places,” Zapata said. “Online is where I go to shop. I feel more in control while shopping online.”

But then, there are those who usually do not shop online.

“I still like to see, touch and feel whatever I’m buying,” said Mabel Abreu, office manager for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

She says she prefers buying technology online, such as printers, hard drives and such. But also agrees that such tax could instead drive customers away from buying online.

“[Customers] will rather go to a store instead,” Zapata said.

“I shop usually twice a month, but I spend close to $300 in that month,” said Amelia Gutierrez, senior, a journalism major and a self prescribed online “shopaholic.”

While she doesn’t really like the idea of being taxed, Gutierrez doubts she, or many of those who do use the Internet to purchase products, would stop because of the tax.

“I’m smaller, so buying clothes for me can be a pain when I go to a store,” said Gutierrez. “Online, I know which size I am, and I can choose exactly what I want. I would say I only go the mall when I need to return something.”

This feeling is shared by her friend, and fellow journalism major Madeline Szwed, senior.

“I’m not really an Internet person, so I don’t do my shopping online,” said Abreu said. “But we’ll have to see what happens.”

Whether the bill passes or not remains to be seen, but a bill like this has been proposed for years, slowly gaining more momentum, and if it does get passed, it would make choosing that birthday gift for that friend or family member a little more difficult.

CAMPUS LIFE

Professional sports have an effect on students, even in their fantasies

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Nylon or Pigskin. Hardwood or the gridiron. A fast break dunk or a touchdown bomb. As both leagues are cash cows, the National Football League and the National Basketball Association both entered lockout ending seasons. There are many desires to the North American sports, but since the last competitive ball from the prep to professional level, some have engaged fans in a unique way.

Fantasy sports, a game where participants build a team of players to compete with other teams, has engaged fans in a unique way.

“It helps media coverage because when games are being played there are more people watching,” said Jesus Cruz, a junior biology major. “When Dwyane Wade is playing, there is a lot more media coverage then if it was just the Miami Heat playing against the Atlanta Hawks.”

Although Florida is known for its football from the prep to professional level, some FIU students enjoy playing fantasy basketball.

“I enjoy basketball more because I am a Miami Heat fan,” said Langston ‘Stone’ Teijeiro, a senior criminal justice major. “I would like to put some of the players, such as Lebron James and Dwyane Wade on my team. I’d rather play fantasy basketball because [the Heat] are better than the Dolphins.”

Although football is the most popular sport in North America, one of the biggest perks to being an owner in a fantasy football league is time.

“It’s more popular to play and more of my friends play it. It only two days to keep up with,” said Grundy Ghaneem, a junior finance major, about the fact that the majority of football games are played on Sundays and Mondays. “In a week for basketball there could be a lot of games being played so it’s more difficult to keep track with.”

To die hard basketball junkies, the inspiration of playing fantasy basketball only helps progress their knowledge in the game.

“We get to see the players develop as the season progresses and it helps the focus on one sport more in general.” Cruz said, “It’s competitive against friends and also co-workers, it creates a fun environment to be around.”

Football and basketball are both popular North American sports, but since the last decade, fantasy sports were introduced online as the new way to interact and engage with one particular sport at FIU, and the new king may be basketball.