University to be evaluated through green report card

AARON PABON
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The University is now getting graded on how “green” it is.

For the first time, FIU has decided to participate in the College Sustainability Report Card.

The Report Card is a comparative evaluation of green and sustainable activities at colleges and universities in the United States. It identifies higher education institutions that are excelling in sustainability, and provides accessible information for schools to learn from other schools to establish effective sustainability practices.

“This was the first year we were asked to provide information for this particular survey,” said Carrie Kashar, assistant director of the Office of University Sustainability at Florida International University.

If the pilot is successful, the program will be expanded.

The pilot program targets those with unfinished degrees.

Pilots head to Tallahassee for in-state series

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer
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Last October, head coach Turtle Thomas of the FIU baseball team identified the two biggest problems that plagued his team: issuing too many walks and striking out too many times.

Fresh off being swept by No. 6 Rice University, there were no signs of improvement in both departments.

In the three-game weekend series, Panther batters struck out 32 times and pitchers walked 25 opposing batters. The Owls, on the other hand, struck out 19 times and surrendered only 11 walks.

Thomas said that if he had to choose a number and make that the walks surrendered in a weekend series, it would be nine total walks, or three per game. FIU is currently averaging eight per game.

But as Thomas points out, there are reasons to be optimistic. Rice batters hit for a dismal .227 average off FIU pitchers over the weekend. In addition, the Panthers out hit the Owls 27 to 20.

Junior Rudy Flores currently leads the Panthers in hits with five and is tied with Junior Jaben Henry for the team lead in RBIs with two. Henry is the only Panther with a homerun.

TOMAHAWK SHOWDOWN

FIU (6-3) kicks off its next three game series on Feb. 24, as the team will travel about 480 miles north to Tallahassee to square off against Florida State University.

Pilot program targets those with unfinished degrees

MELODIA CACERES
News Director
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A new pilot program will give college dropouts a second chance.

Through a 2-year degree completion initiative called the Complete College Florida Pilot, the program “will help adults finish the associate’s and bachelor’s degrees that they began but never completed,” said Irma Becerra-Fernandez, vice provost of academic affairs.

“The program is aimed at adult learners with 60 to 90 credits who have some distance, time-wise, from completing their degree program,” said Becerra-Fernandez. “There are 2 million such individuals in the [entire] state.”

Becerra-Fernandez announced the start of the program along with other department initiatives in her report at the Feb. 21 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

The pilot program will run from fall 2012 through spring 2014. All deans at the University submitted requests for “workforce-relevant” concentrations to the Board of Governors. They were asked for those concentrations that had demonstrated high-demand and had no prerequisites required.

If the pilot is successful, the program will be expanded.

The state has approved $2.5 million in funding for the program.

“If the pilot is successful, the program will be expanded,” said Becerra-Fernandez.

With plans to reach out to individuals through a statewide advertising campaign, the University will provide concierge advising and get students “back into the system to complete a fully online bachelor’s degree.”

Institutions involved include the University of West Florida, University of South Florida, Florida State College in Jacksonville, and St. Petersburg College.

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Report to focus on environmental sustainability around University

GRADE, PAGE 1

Report Cards, which every one a university de-
cides to participate in, are there as a tracking mechanism, and hope-
fully help to benchmark initiatives.

Carrin Kashar, Assistant Director
Office of University Sustainability

Machine activity to be monitored

PepsiCo, PAGE 8

more heavily during Earth Week from April 2– 6. Kashar says that she, along with the OUS and Custodial Services will monitor the machine’s activity in order to evaluate which locations are most popular, and place them accordingly.

She hopes to engage students, staff and faculty and get them excited about recycling.

We have a goal to increase our recycling rate from 30 percent to 50 percent by 2015, and then hope to meet the state requirement of 75 percent by 2020,” Kashar said. “To be able to recycle 75 percent of our waste, it is going to take an effort from everybody on campus.

In order to reach this goal and promote the usage of the Dream Machines, the OUS along with PepsiCo and Waste Management representatives put on an event in the Green Library’s Breezeway where close to 1,000 students stopped by to learn more about the program.

While some may be skeptical of large corporations such as PepsiCo attempting to go green,” Sigal Segve, a professor in the Department of Advertising and Public Relations, who has conducted research on consumer behavior and “green” practices, believes that “any initiative of big or small company that decides to go green and communicates that with its various audiences is indeed welcomed.”

According to Segve, large companies, which often have huge marketing budgets, can raise awareness about environmental issues through “green” practices to larger audiences than traditional grassroots methods.

She also believes that programs such as this address the ever-increasing consumer demands for green products and pro-environ-
mental procedures that are related with the produc-
tion process. So it works on both ways: From consumer demands to the company’s practices and from compa-
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Such initiatives definitely set the tone and lead the way for others to follow, be they individual consumers or other businesses.

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Seminoles to host Panthers in tomahawk showdown

JOINING THEIR TEAM AFTER SERVING A THREE-GAME SUSPENSION FOR AN UNSPECIFIED VIOLATION OF TEAM RULES ARE SENIOR INFIELDER MIKE MARTINEZ AND REDSHIRT SENIOR PITCHER LOGAN DODDS.

Joining their team after serving a three-game suspension for an unspecified violation of team rules are senior infielder Mike Martinez and redshirt senior pitcher Logan Dodds.

Mike Martinez and sophomore Michael Ellis.

In spite of the tough competition, Thomas had bold words regarding the weekend series. “We have no intention of going 0-6,” said Thomas.

Today’s game is at 4 p.m., followed by a 2 p.m. Saturday start and a 1 p.m. Sunday start.

WITTELS GOES OUTSIDE THE LINES

Former Panther infielder Garret Wittels was featured on ESPN’s Outside the Lines on Sunday morning.

The episode focused on Wittels’ controversial rape allegation in 2010, where two women accused him and two other friends of raping them in their hotel room while on vacation in the Bahamas.

“I just never thought that anyone would ever put my name in the same sentence as the word rape,” Wittels said.

The charges were eventually dropped and he signed with the Saint Louis Cardinals’ organization less than two weeks after the 2011 MLB Amateur draft.

He played for the Batavia Muckdogs in 2011, the Class A shortstop team of the Cardinals.
Women's, PAGE 3

According to coach Melissa Applebaum-Dallau, the team's goal is to finish better than they did last season. "Our main goal is definitely to get a solid win to get back on track," Johnson said. 

"It was a little wavy because I had the knee surgery," Hutlassa said. "But after my surgery really humbled me. It really motivated me." 

"Jerica is a great player. She is full of talent," Russo said. "She has a really interesting individual. She's full of talent." 

"Fanni [Hutlassa] has been a really interesting individual. She's full of talent," Russo said. "She went out there and did her job. She loves the game. She is someone I'd keep as a friend for the rest of my life." 

"Fanni [Hutlassa] has been a really interesting individual. She's full of talent," Russo said. "She has a really interesting individual. She's full of talent."
Rapper launches career from residence hall

ELIZABETH FUNES
Contributing Writer
elizabeth.funes@fiusm.com

Aspiring student musician Joe Leon is building his music career from the makeshift studio space in his room at University Park Apartments. Surrounded by the photos of famous rappers, Leon writes, records and mixes full songs from his headquarters.

“I’ll say I’ve invested about $6,000 here,” said Leon, as he fiddles with a MIDI keyboard and various computer screens, which is all a part of the production equipment he uses to create his music.

Leon spends nearly all of his spare time filling his room with the sound of his own beats. His equipment seems to spill out onto his bed. For Leon, the music never sleeps.

“T’m lucky I have a really cool roommate,” he said. “I’m lucky I have a really cool roommate.”

Joe Leon spends hours in his dorm room and studio where he records and produces his music.

Novel blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction

CAROLINA SOURO
Contributing Writer
life@fiusm.com

“For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf” is a title that captures the attention of any passerby, yet this student-directed production captured more than simple consideration. Jeannette Galup, a senior at the University, directed the experimental play by Ntozake Shange as part of an independent study course.

After two months of preparation, Galup—along with her crew and a troupe of seven actresses, who were only identified by the color of the scarves wrapped around their waists—presented her interpretation of this well-known play last weekend in the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center’s Black Box Theatre.

“[Galup] really catered to a Miami audience in her arrangement and seemed to be very culturally aware,” said senior Franc-esca Daboub. “[The crew] wanted to show that being colored doesn’t just mean [being] African American; [as] a woman, we all go through the same thing regardless of race and skin color.”

This independent research course is one of the University’s opportunities to delve into theater directing. Galup heard about the play after a friend mentioned watching the film adaptation and subsequently read the play. The friend strongly recommended it to Galup, feeling it was right up her alley.

Galup immediately felt connected to the experimental work. Michael Yawney, her theater professor, was also an inspiration. “His advice helped complete our project,” said Galup.

Shange’s experimental play is better categorized as a collection of “choro-poems” about the struggles and triumphs faced by African-American women, including herself. The 20 “choro-poems,” often divided among seven women, cover a range of topics including love, rape, abortion, race relations and loss.

Odette Barrientos, a women’s studies and theater major, who starred in the play, felt drawn to these topics and recognized their delicacy. “There [was] a lot of truth that we had a responsibility of communicating,” she said. “[Galup] felt it was the perfect show to end her university career.”

“She is a very proud Cuban woman,” said actress Julissa Perez, the lady in blue, noting Galup’s inser-tion of Latin culture into the play.

All seven actresses of various ethnicities displayed incredible strength. Not only did they have to confront their own pain, but they also had to make sure the audience felt the weight of it all as their own. Their names and histories were not of importance but, rather, their experiences.

Several scenes certainly possessed the power to move the audience to tears. Perez connected with a scene discussing apologies and ending toxic relationships. It was about a woman finally dividing up and doing you. It’s a coming of self, and I think it’s beautiful when any woman finally realizes that they’re worth something,” she said.

Galup purposely shied away from presenting a purely feminist stance and hoped to express the notion that “we’ve all gone through some struggles, but we’ll survive.”

Joe Leon in his dorm room and studio where he records and produces his music.
Leon chose Miami because of bustling entertainment scene

The major players within the music industry inspire Leon. He idolizes superstars like Tupac, Jay-Z, Nas, Andre 3000, along with legendary pop music icons like Michael Jackson and Prince. They say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but according to Leon, he is working to develop and understand his own sound.

I could honestly tell you in some songs I've tried to sound like my idols, but after it hits post-production, it never sounds like them.

The Beacon – Friday, February 24, 2012 www.fiusm.com

"Pina" embraces spirit of famous choreographer

Wim Wenders is one of the most influential directors of our time. He is an artist who understands the art of dance that is so rarely shown in film.

"Pina" is a film for and about Pina Bausch, one of the most influential choreographers of modern dance. Rather than digging through the life of Bausch, the film is a respectful homage which allows the dancer's art to establish the person she was.

There is no real narrative to "Pina," which consists of dances, the bare minimum of archival footage, and brief interviews with the performers and Bausch herself. It is clean and consistent in its showcase of the late artist's work, and refuses to sacrifice any of the art that it features.

Wenders shows Bausch's art piece by piece in the film, focusing heavily on the choreography and performance art that she created over the past few decades. Each piece is performed and recreated by dancers who worked closely with Bausch, losing their emotions in and out of the studio. The interviews involve these same dancers simply sitting silently in front of the camera as their tales of Bausch are told through poignant voice-overs.

While many directors would have limited themselves to performing inside of a theater, Wenders takes full advantage of the world around him. Certain sequences are performed indoors, in theaters, glass houses and studios that are dressed to fit the tone of the piece. Others are taken outside, allowing the performers to utilize and explore both nature and the industrial world that surrounds them.

The film shows that there is much more to the art of dance than many would ever realize. The dedication and discipline evident in these performances can be overwhelming, as these men and women strip themselves of everything but raw passion, and its exploration of gender stereotypes is something to be seen. Whether it involves placing a man in a floral dress or having a woman carry a man on her back, Bausch shows that her art, like her life, was anything but safe and ordinary.

Those who have never found a film that uses 3-D well will take pleasure in knowing that the use of it in "Pina" is not the slightest bit gratuitous. Wenders, who had been looking for a way to capture the beauty of dance for years, finally found the right cinematic tool to document Bausch’s work.

Wenders and Bausch collaborated on the camerawork and the 3-D is a full display of textures and depth. The solid and sweat sticking to dancers' bodies, the beads of water splashing as a woman twirls in the rain, or a lone dancer surrounded by an immense collection of machinery and construction — it is all designed to enhance the experience of the audience.

"Dance dance, otherwise we are lost," Bausch once said. Thanks to Wenders' unforgettable film, many will begin to understand the beauty in dance and the freedom that it brings to those who are willing to embrace it.

"Pina" is currently playing at the Coral Gables Art Cinema.

Upcoming Weekend Events

**24 Friday**

**GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD WORKSHOP**

**WHEN:** 12-1 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free to students

**WHERE:** MMC PC 113

**ENGAGE WORKSHOP: INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING IDEAS**

**WHEN:** 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHERE:** MMC GC 314

**25 Saturday**

**WIND AND PERCUSSION ART SERIES: BOSTON BRASS**

**WHEN:** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** $30-

**WHERE:** Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

**WIND AND PERCUSSION ART SERIES: BEYOND THE WIND SCORE**

**WHEN:** 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**HOW MUCH:** $30-

**WHERE:** Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

**26 Sunday**

**FIU TENNIS vs. NORTH TEXAS**

**WHEN:** 12-7:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** AWAY

**Denton, Texas**

**FESTIVAL Vallenato**

**WHEN:** 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Klipsch Amphitheater at Bayfront Park

**TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:**

**CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM**


**HOLY SANTORUM - IS THIS REAL LIFE?**

**BROOKLYN MIDDLETON**
Asst. Opinion Editor
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Potential GOP candidate Rick Santorum’s views on abortion are not just representative of conservative views on reproductive rights, but they are representative of an ideology so extreme it renders him incapable of separating church and state as well as science from religious doctrine.

This should cause great concern not just for liberals, but for even the most moderate of Republicans.

Discussions about abortion are often so heated and so devoid of basic logic and compassion that it’s almost pointless to even have them.

However, the fact that Santorum is such an extremist and possesses such illogical, misogynistic, and anti-scientific views, the discussion should be on the topic of his ideas.

In an interview with CNN, Santorum had the audacity to assert that women who are raped and impregnated should “make the best out of a bad situation.”

This guy, in the 21st century, just stated that he believes women and/or young girls should be given no choice after experiencing what is perhaps the greatest violation of human rights: rape.

Calling a rape-created fetus, a “horribly-created gift,” and implying women and girls to “accept what God has given to you,” sounds not like a statement from a potential presidential candidate, but instead a delusional fanatic out of touch with science, reality and modern American culture.

He believes that women and/or young girls should be given no choice after experiencing what is perhaps the greatest violation of human rights: rape.

It’s so easy to become dismissive of American politics, but it’s imperative to even briefly imagine America where the leader of the free world actually believes that a woman who is raped and impregnated is actually being given a gift from God. Also, greatly reducing the need for abortion with contraception? Nope. Santorum states, “Many of the Christian faithful see a horizon that’s okay, contraception is okay. It’s not okay. It’s a license to do things in a sexual realm that is counter to how things are supposed to be.”

The “sexual realm” is a place where heathens go to do sexy things, and, according to Santorum, it is not okay. Santorum not only holds fanatical views on abortion, but also fanatical views on contraception.

It’s pointless to assert that these discussions take away vital energy from more pressing discussions like how we have no money, even though I believe because these vile, eugenics-driven evangelicals are bad for America domestically and the global perspective of America as a progressive, educated nation.

Santorum is clearly incapable of separating his extremist beliefs from American policies. We already saw how well that worked out for former President George W. Bush, who largely justified his invasion of two countries with religious proclamations.

This time, America is in a far more precarious predicament; economically and socially we are on the precipice of real crisis and Jesus is not the answer. In fact, he really should not even be part of the question.

However, it’s also important to remember that his hatefulness and extremity in both policy and words towardology should be seen by the electorate as a vote against him.

Discontent enables conservative gains

JOUETTE RE
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Florida International University prides itself in having one of the most affordable tuition rates in the country.

However, this could change because of the upcoming election in November.

Pressure has increased to raise tuition costs, but the amount of available financial aid has decreased.

The University’s financial aid office announced that the Pell Grant 2 for the summer term will not be offered anymore. This is in addition to the decreased amount offered by Bright Futures.

I feel personally hurt by this, since I was expecting to take an accounting class for the summer.

Because of the public’s concern for the national debt, most Americans feel that the economy is the number one priority for the next president.

President Obama’s article called “Economic Issues Drive Florida Voters” by Marjorie Connelly in “Economic Issues Drove Florida Voters” by Marjorie Connelly in The Miami Herald on Feb. 1, “The economy was the top issue for 6 in 10 voters, and most of them support Obama.”

This rising Republican popularity will probably not alleviate the financial situation for students at the University. Budget cuts will probably be on the top of their agenda.

Paul, according to his “Plan to Reform America,” plans to cut one trillion dollars in one year after being president by taking down the Transportation of Security Administration, and the following five cabinet departments.

Santorum plans to eliminate five trillion dollars of government spending over a period of five years by reducing, at minimum, 10 percent all non-defense federal employees and lowering non-military government expenditures to 2008 levels.

Newt Gingrich supports a “management” system called Lean Six Sigma, which, according to his campaign website, could reduce five hundred billion dollars of fiscal spending a year if applied across the federal government.

Romney plans to reduce government spending about five hundred billion per year and lower it to twenty percent of U.S. GDP.

More likely, first-year students will be more affected by these limited resources.

We must be wary of the charming rhetoric politicians use. People must be wary of whom they elect and not be persuaded by vague charming rhetoric politicians use.

In analyzing the need for an increase, the Coalition of Students for Reform cannot find it a justifiable one. For the past three years, SGA has received A&S funding in larger amounts than expected due to increased student enrollment.

Given the fact that enrollment is projected to increase once again, a mission of FIU President Mark Rosenberg, A&S funding is sure to increase again as well. More students literally means more funding.

Furthermore, SGA currently has a reserve of funds called the Accumulated Cash Balance Account in which it deposits all surplus A&S funds from the current fiscal year.

This account is gaining an interest yield every year. And while the information on the interest and how much has been gained, or even what the actual balance of this account is, has not been made public, the funds available are estimated to be at around $4 million.

This considerable amount exceeds the increased earnings from the proposed A&S fee increase.

The CSR does not oppose increases in fees or tuition if there is a real need for the increase. However, with student enrollment on the rise, naturally increasing A&S funding, the $4 million in reserve A&S funding, and the fact that each fiscal year ends in an A&S funding surplus, the CSR cannot conjoin an increase for the sake of an increase.

If there are any concerns about budget shortfalls, they should be addressed through more fiscal responsibility in the allocation process.

Organizations that historically have left-over funding should receive less this coming year, and that difference be given to organization who suffer from budget shortages.

Our Board of Trustees, including our Student Body President, already have approved a 15 percent tuition increase.

While of course used for very different purposes, it still adds up to a higher financial burden on students. That is why CSR asks the four student members of the A&S Fee Committee to vote against an increase in the A&S fee.

We do not need it.

-Coordination of Students for Reform

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Fee increase pointless**

This week, the University’s Activity & Service Fee Committee will meet to determine the fate of a proposed increase to the Activity & Service Fee.

This fee is the sole source of funding for the Student Government Association and all entities which are funded by SGA. Currently, the fee stands at $1.95 per credit hour, and the increase could be of up to 5 percent of that amount.

In analyzing the need for an increase, the Coalition of Students for Reform cannot find it a justifiable one. For the past three years, SGA has received A&S funding in larger amounts than expected due to increased student enrollment.

Given the fact that enrollment is projected to increase once again, a mission of FIU President Mark Rosenberg, A&S funding is sure to increase again as well. More students literally means more funding.

Furthermore, SGA currently has a reserve of funds called the Accumulated Cash Balance Account in which it deposits all surplus A&S funds from the current fiscal year.

This account is gaining an interest yield every year. And while the information on the interest and how much has been gained, or even what the actual balance of this account is, has not been made public, the funds available are estimated to be at around $4 million.

This considerable amount exceeds the increased earnings from the proposed A&S fee increase.

The CSR does not oppose increases in fees or tuition if there is a real need for the increase. However, with student enrollment on the rise, naturally increasing A&S funding, the $4 million in reserve A&S funding, and the fact that each fiscal year ends in an A&S funding surplus, the CSR cannot conjoin an increase for the sake of an increase.

If there are any concerns about budget shortfalls, they should be addressed through more fiscal responsibility in the allocation process.

Our Board of Trustees, including our Student Body President, already have approved a 15 percent tuition increase.

While of course used for very different purposes, it still adds up to a higher financial burden on students. That is why CSR asks the four student members of the A&S Fee Committee to vote against an increase in the A&S fee.

We do not need it.

-Coordination of Students for Reform
SUSTAINABILITY

PepsiCo Dream Machine decreases carbon footprint

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One of America's top beverage companies, PepsiCo, is leading the way in recycling with their new "Pepsi Dream Machine Program." Plastic bottles account for a large amount of waste every year, yet less than a third of plastic beverage containers are being recycled each year and only 12 percent of public spaces are equipped with recycling receptacles.

In order to decrease the amount of plastic bottles flooding landfills and increasing the rate of beverage containers being recycled in the U.S. to 50 percent, PepsiCo, in partnership with Waste Management, the largest recycling company in North America, have created a new recycling initiative with the program.

FIU has become a part of a small but increasing number of universities with Dream Machines on campus. There are currently four machines throughout Modesto Maidique Campus and one at Biscayne Bay Campus. The dark blue receptacles come in two varieties. The intelligent kiosk is equipped with a computer system that monitors usage and allows users to sign up and receive five points for every container they recycle.

They can then redeem the points from retailers. The other receptacle is a traditional looking bin.

Both systems are being used in high traffic and other busy areas such as universities. They accept all Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET/PETE) plastic bottles and aluminum cans.

According to Carie Kashar, the assistant director at the Office of University Sustainability, the Pepsi Dream Machines are a convenient way for students and staff on campus to make a significant change to the environment.

Kashar explains that the interest in the machines began two years ago, when a group of FIU GoGreen Team volunteers helped to launch one of the first Pepsi Dream machines at Dolphin Stadium in Miami.

"Large corporations, even universities, all have a big environmental footprint, but any change that they can make to help lesson that impact is a good one in my mind," Kashar said.

"You have to start somewhere, and eventually all the small changes will have big impacts." She hopes that they will become more popular and eventually more will be placed throughout BCC, in other locations such as housing and the Engineering Center.

I recently redid my home using ‘green’ appliances. I’m not going to change the world, but if everyone starts doing it, we could make a big change," said Karen Gonzalez, freshman business administration major.

According to Gonzalez, making a change in the environment begins at home.

"I think it will create a culture of recycling, and it will get you into the habit," said David Ulman, a senior and international relations major. "I think it’s good that FIU is working to promote recycling on campus."

Initiated on Earth Day 2010, PepsiCo has bought thousands of computerized recycling receptacles which people can use to deposit plastic bottles or other recyclables and in turn, gain points which they can redeem for rewards from various retailers online.

Kashar is working alongside Business Services in order to supply the machines with coupons that students can use for vendors on campus. She plans on promoting the machines to make a difference.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Organization to restructure in light of fall semester boggles

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Often times at Biscayne Bay Campus, students go to class or take the bus to the Modesto Maidique campus, and then leave, often referred to as being a commuter school. Rectifying this has all but grounded to a halt since the start of the Spring 2012 semester.

Panther Power’s motto has been “we invoke a sense of pride into each and every student of FIU by hosting events to enhance campus life as well as build a sense of community.”

Panther Power ran the organized bus rides to games and athletic picnics have been some of the attempts to raise awareness among the student base. It seems that all of those will have to be put off for some time. Currently, the organization has but a single active member and is on indefinite hold for recruitment purposes.

“The organization is currently on hold for recruitment reasons. Most of the people graduated and are no longer a part of the organization,” said Ivy Seigel, Assistant Director of Campus Life. “Some of them moved on, some work for FIU.”

Currently, there is only one candidate being considered and as a result, the executive board which the organization used in the past to make plans is offline indefinitely until its ranks are bolstered.

Panther Power came under fire during Fall 2011 semester due to the organizations negligence in submitting mandated Event Audit Reports to the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Operational Review Committee, headed by SGC-BBC Senator at Large, Olúwìbẹ́ Adékọya.

As a result, Panther Power’s funds were temporarily frozen. This was not timely documented and enforced and had no practical effect on the Winter Wonderland event, which proceeded as planned.

What seemed to draw the most attention to people was shuttle rides to FIU games; many were quite certain they would partake in any activities where transport was organized in a social and friendly manner, such as Juliana Aragon, a junior international relations major, and Ezra Mintz, a senior majoring in advertising. While both seemed rather uncertain whether they would spend a lot more time on BCC, they would likely take advantage of the bus rides.

Despite the current state of affairs, the consensus seems to be that more event awareness would be a great way to get people involved on campus. Panther Power is due for Campus Specific Activities and Service fee monies hearings and deliberations commencing on Feb. 24 to decide their financial fate for the upcoming fiscal year.

I would use the facilities if they were advertised more. Right now, we usually hear about stuff last minute.

-Channon Spencer
Freshman, advertising major

“It was a minor hindrance at best,” Seigel said.

Student support for the organization is quite high and many people seem eager to be a target audience.

“I would use the facilities if they were advertised more. Right now, we usually hear about stuff last minute,” said Channon Spencer, a freshman and Advertising major, referring to the carnival during Valentine’s Day week.