Raise and bonus for out-of-unit employees

BARBARA CORBELLI-DUARTE
Asst. News Director

Out of-unit faculty and staff received a 2 percent across-the-board increase to be reflected on the paycheck for October, yet most union members already expected the same increase.

“The purpose of the decision to grant increases is to really reward our faculty and staff who are doing an outstanding job at this University,” said Jaffus Hardrick, vice president in the Division of Human Resources.

Out of-unit employees are those that do not qualify to be part of the union, so they are not covered by the collective bargaining agreement. In Florida, an employee that has an in-unit job is covered by the union contract even if he or she decides not to join the union. According to Joann Cuesta-Gomez, employee of labor relations in the Division of Human Resources, 49.68 percent of University’s employees are active out-of-unit.

“If your job is in-unit, you get all the benefits within the contract, but you are not required to pay union dues,” said Lorna Veraldi, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and member of United Faculty of Florida. In addition to the increase, few out-of-unit employers who show exceptional performance will be rewarded with a 1 percent bonus pool.

University Health Services extends hours of operation

DIANE ARIAS
Asst. News Director

The University Health Services at Modesto Maidique campus has extended their hours of operation to be more available to students. The extended hours of operation began as of Monday, the first day of classes at the University. UHS is open from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Assistant Director of UHS Mariela Gabaroni said they began by extending Tuesday night hours and saw that students were coming in. “We started one night a week last fall,” Gabaroni said.

According to the Director of UHS Oscar Loynaz, the extension of hours will benefit the students by giving students more access to health care.

UHS’ intention was to standardize the hours of operation for a “not traditional” population. “We recognize that the University is not a traditional population and we have students who work outside of school,” said Loynaz.

As stated by Loynaz, by extending their hours, one hour before and one hour after, students have more access to health services.

“We extended hours across the board,” Loynaz said. “When given our last healthy increase, students wanted access to health care services,” Loynaz said.

The decision was made by UHS’ administrative team, which was led by Loynaz. UHS provides students with access to more than just health care.

According to their webpage, healthservices.fiu.edu, UHS also “encourages healthy lifestyles” by means of health promotion, education, mentorship and research.

Loynaz encourages students to visit UHS. “If you need to use health services, do so, we’re here for the students.”

TRAILING ALONG

Philip Keoning, chief of staff of the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus and Mr. FIU, with Celene Petoli, Miss FIU, during Trail of the Torch.

ON SET

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz [center] speaks with Bayou-City Bay Campus Vice Provost Steven V. Mall (left) and Sergeant Stephen Fagan [right] on the set of a reelection campaign commercial at BBC.

University fills VP vacancy

MELHOR LEONOR
News Director

Without a permanent individual in the position for over two years, the Office of the Provost has now appointed Luisa Havens to fill the position of Vice President of Enrollment Services. Havens currently serves as Executive Director for Enrollment Services and Director of Admissions and Recruitment at the University of Texas at El Paso. She also serves as the Vice President for Access and Equity on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

“Dr. Havens will work with deans and colleagues from Undergraduate Education and Institutional Research to help us attract, retain, and graduate students essential for South Florida and US economic development,” stated Douglas Wartzok, University provost, in a memorandum to the University last Friday.

Havens will come in to take over a task currently divided between Elizabeth Bejar, vice provost, and Tonja Moore and Jeffery Gonzalez, associate vice presidents, serving in the Office of the Registrar, Financial Aid, and Admissions, respectively.

According to Wartzok, Havens’ data-based decision framework established at UTEP was “beneficial to the deans...to balance access and student academic success while meeting strategic enrollment plans.”

Havens will step in to her position during a time when FIU is reworking its own strategic plan, particularly in regards to enrollment. Associate Vice President Jeffery Gonzalez chaired the search and screen committee which yielded Havens. The appointment will be effective Oct. 15, 2012.

Panther Wire
Union welcomes 42 internationals

ZORaida PASTOR
Contributing Writer

Beginning in the fall semester, 42 students from Universidad Iberamericana from the Dominican Republic will be joining the University student community.

The UNIBE project is a dual-degree program for business administration students, designed “to increase international collaboration,” said Jennifer Hilton Montero, assistant director of the Office of International Affairs and Projects.

“The students would come to FIU with 90 credits (from) UNIBE then the last 30 to 45 credits would be finished at FIU,” explained Montero.

The students would then graduate with two degrees — one from each university as part of the University’s global learning initiative.

“It is good to see that the unprecedented is slowly becoming the new normal,” said Margaret De Pass, senior in public administration.

De Pass further explained how the “opportunity and combination” of studies benefit students.

“There are so many hats that one has to wear when being hired on a job, and most of the times the students don’t have the know-how or sufficient theory from their classes... this opportunity will give them a much better edge when they go out into the working world.”

Students must be enrolled in UNIBE to begin the transfer process.

According to Montero, the requirement to enroll in the program include a passing score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, otherwise known as TOEFL, and a 3.0 GPA upon application.

Currently, UNIBE students are taking online courses in English and will attend the University in August 2012. “It is really great for FIU to continue to open the doors to the international [world],” said Montero.

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University requests ‘just cause’ clause

RAISE, PAGE 1

“The 1 percent is what we call the merit pool, and that pool is really allocated for the super stars, those individuals who are truly going above and beyond just the normal standards,” Hardrick said.

According to Hardrick, discussions about the increase started about a year ago and the president is responsible for making the final analysis and decision.

There are five unions within the University. The three of them had a equal raise already foreseen for this same time of the year on their collective bargaining agreement.

“What the University has typically done, and I kind of understand the thinking behind this, they don’t want other employees to look at the union contract and say, ‘Jeez, I wish I had a union too,’” said Gerald.

Serald later observed that when UFF bargains for an increase for its unit members, the University has often offered the same increase to out-of-unit employees. The 2 percent raise and the 1 percent merit bonus have been seen under the UFF’s bargaining agreement since 2011.

The bargaining contracts of Dade County Police Benevolent Association Lieutenants and Dade County Police Benevolent Association also had the same increase arranged for the fiscal year of 2012-2013.

Hardrick recognized that the raise was also made to let the out-of-unit employees know that means the much the University values them. “Yes, in the collective bargaining agreement is already determined that they are getting an increase, we also want our out-of-unit staff to know that we value them,” he said.

Cuesta-Gomez explained that the unions receive almost the same increase, but because the contracts have different periods of time, the unions receive the increase in different times as well.

This is the case of the Service Employees International Union, a health care union that includes nurses and lab technicians among others. According to Cuesta-Gomez, SEIU will be in negotiations in December for a new contract.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is in negotiations with the University for a new contract.

The union has a collective bargaining session with the University scheduled for Aug. 30 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at GC 1235. When members hope to add the need for just cause to their contracts, which means an employee can only be fired if he or she has caused misconduct.

“We don’t have just cause in their contract, but we do have a disciplinary process that we follow just as if it was in a contract,” said Cuesta-Gomez.

She explained that in the disciplinary process, a supervisor cannot take any termina- tion action without coming to HR, where they will analyze the sides of the story before firing an employee. According to Cuesta-Gomez, this process provides the same protection as it did in a contract.

David Cowart, ground-keeper and president of AFSCME, hopes to get into an agreement with the University soon.

The payroll department will manage the increases. To receive the increase, out-of-unit employees must have been working since Sept. 29 of 2011 and meet the required performance standards in the most recent evaluation.

According to Cuesta-Gomez, at the moment there is no employee that does not meet the required perfor- mance standards.

“I am very proud and pleased.”

-bbara.duarte@fiusm.com

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 24, Issue 7 of The Beacon on page 4, in the column titled “Greek life may benefit some,” the writer plagiarized a sentence originally published in the FSView, a newspaper that covers Florida State University, both sentences read: “Students should not be alarmed when witnessing a mass of sundress-clad, incoming freshmen women, running barefoot down Jefferson Street with their heels in their hands.”

In the same issue on page 3, the article titled “Problems with decals begin, where others end...” it incorrectly stated students would not receive their parking decal until their parking fee was paid. Parking and Transportation does send students their decals as long as students pay their parking fee by the tuition due date.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper. Partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

The Beacon welcomes 42 internationals...
Please put on some clothes...

JENNA KEFAUVER
Staff Writer

Ladies, 1200 SW 8th St. is not the location of Club FIU. So please stop dressing like it is.

I understand it’s Miami and it’s 95 degrees outside. But that still doesn’t condone many of the things I’ve seen people wear.

There is no reason that the first thing I see on a Tuesday is you wobbling around in your 6-inch stilettos and your 3-inch “skirt.” Again, this isn’t the club. And if you’re just leaving the club…well, glad to see you’re focusing on your studies...

I’m not trying to deny the fact that I, too, wear short dresses and skirts and shorts, but there is a time and a place for these, and that time is not 9 a.m. in line at Starbucks, five seconds away from the location of Club FIU.

Another thing, lace skirts require undershirts. The point of a lace skirt is to put a cami-sole underneath it. I don’t want to look up and see your black bra underneath your white lace skirt. Or really any bra under your lace skirt. It’s just not cute. Nor does a sports bra suffice as a shirt. That’s decent but just not cute.

If you wonder if your skirt is too short or your shirt is too low cut, it probably is. So just go change.

ALEX SORONDO
Asst. Opinion Editor

Jenna Kefauver, in her argument against the University’s scantily-clad students and the obscenity of wearing egregiously revealing outfits, makes a fair and compelling argument. It isn’t professional, she says; it shows more skin than your peers care to see. All true, in many cases. Still, I have to disagree.

The impulse to wear very few or very revealing clothes is, one could fairly say, strongest among the young; under 25, let’s say; those who feel they have something inflating and agreeable to display; the boy or girl for whom responsibilities are so sparse, and of such small caliber, that his or her appearance can still be the primary concern.

It’s true that our society glorifies youth and virility, and an insidious sort of beauty that has as many economic as sexual undertones; and it’s true that, when so many people are preoccupied with how they look in the eyes of – and compared against – their peers, it lessens the focus on school.

Yet consider it a celebration, of sorts. We’re only young once, and in the end, we’ll all find ourselves staring with glossy-eyed nostalgia at pictures of our youthful selves someday.

The skin smooth and elastic, the musculature firm and defined, breasts and eyelids still triumphant over gravity. Wouldn’t you like to look back and think, “Wow, I looked good, and seeing as how I hardly wore any clothes, everybody probably knew it.”

And really, is it so awful that we should have our campus cursed by a plague of cleavage and thighs, biceps and pecs? If the arguments fail to compel you toward understanding, toward sympathy and appreciation for the scarcely-clothed, consider this: it will never change. These are the key years for narcissism.

Short on real-life experiences, and belonging to the age-bracket of greater commercial pursuit than any other, we’re not yet versed in the depths of our inaptitude, our cosmic insignificance, the vast and uncharitable expanses of our humiliating ignorance and, perhaps least of all, our mortality.

Kind of grim, I know, but grounds enough, I think, for passivity. That others should be more concerned with their beauty than the rest of us, just as our own vanity might trump that of others, should be of little concern insofar as its influence on our education.

We may as well try to enjoy it. Because however reluctant we might be to confess it, there’s a beauty to our bodies, or at least an element of intrigue for parts private and public.

So let’s parade it, acknowledge it if we wish, and maybe, at some point, try to appreciate it.

—alex.sorondo@fiusm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT

I am glad the enrollment has been indefinitely halted because it will allow the University to raise its admissions standards again.

I am being judgmental but there are a plethora of new students from Falls 2011 and 2012 that do not belong in a University of our plateau.

We’re gradually moving up but the heavy acceptance can be an anvil on our University’s respectability and potential prestige statewide and nationally.

So, the enrollment growth is bittersweet because the cause of the slow down wasn’t just but was definitely needed.

WINFRED MILLS, senior economics major
**Theatre will surprise students this fall semester**

AUFELO ARAPICO  Staff Writer

The University’s Department of Theatre will offer various performances for students to enjoy this semester.

It begins with musical "Songs for a New World," directed by Associate Professor of Theatre & Dance, Lucyck Timlick, and continuous world-premiere "Maska," directed by Marilyn Skow, chair and artistic director of the Department of Theatre.

*"Songs for a New World"* — music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown — tells of a group of friends who get together and sing about their experiences. The songs which Brown had written for other shows and venues, were brought together so that the piece is neither a musical play nor a revue.

The production will also allow the student actors to fully engage with the music instead of having their attention divided between their lines and the music.

The proposed set will be a New York apartment where the back wall will be a façade that can take on the character of the song and change depending on the experience told through the music, accompanied by a bass and horn drum.

"It’s going to be a different kind of experience than one would expect of musical theatre. The set, which is going to be neutral and allow for free movement, will be very intimate and projected as opposed to a huge production and,xبت," said Skow.

"Maska" will be based on an adaptation by Skow herself, closed the fall semester. "It’s something that I’ve been pushing to do for a while. I’ve done translations and chil- dren’s play but never an adaptation of a musical but they can get to be expensive so we have to be careful with every production. It continues with Euripides’ "Medea," which Brown had written for other productions."

The performances will be held Oct. 27-28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.

"I’m changing the structure of the play to let the audience share the experience of-stage, not in the original source material, not in the [upcoming] performance and costume," shared Skow.

When approaching the adapta- tion, Skow has remained faithful to the original source material, changing any details but keeping the play itself a true work of art, as entertainment and a vehicle for the common themes such as "Medea's life after having killed her brother and betrayed her father for him."

*"Songs for a New World"* premieres on Sept. 21 at 8 p.m. and "Medea" on Nov. 2 at 8 p.m.

**Singing a different tune this year**

EDWARE SENE

The Frost Museum will host the annual "Fall Arts Preview" on Sept. 12 from 6-9 p.m.

The Frost Art Museum will collaborate with the College of Architecture + the Arts, and the Wolfsonian-FFL to kick off the "Fall Arts Preview" during "Target Wednesdays.""The Fall Arts Preview is an opportunity for the university community to get a better appreciation of the [upcoming] performance and visual art season at the university," explained Brian Schriner, dean of the College of Architecture + the Arts. The College of Architecture + the Arts sponsors over 150 events throughout the year — from concerts and off campus events to the School of Music, to plays by student and faculty, and exhibitions to the Department of Art History. During the "Fall Arts Preview," attendees will get a taste of the upcoming events, receive a fall calendar and meet with the students and faculty.

It will be organized by Jacek Kolasinski, assistant professor of the Department of Art History and Alpede Paoli. There will also be an exhibit for the students, putting their work from their BFA program at Miami Beach Urban Studios, MBUS, an art gallery of the department located at Miami Beach, will show works by these student and the stance of imagination they used.

It will be organized by Jack Kolasinski, assistant professor of the Department of Art History and Alpede Paoli. There will also be an exhibit for the students. "It lets the university community know what’s happening in the arts and why they’re so important to the university," explained Brian Schriner.

**Architecture**

**Building a new semester this year**

AUFELO ARAPICO  Staff Writer

The Paul L. Cejas School of Architecture continues to innovate and prepare students for the future with various events this fall semester.

History in Pen and Ink will open an exhibit on Aug. 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Miami Beach Urban Studios, and will serve as a space for students to show the work they created and demonstrate their influence which the school brought to the university. In addition, music and even personal anecdotes. On Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on campus, there will be a presentation on ArchCAD9, the most eco-friendly Building Information Modeling on the market today, which allows for easier manipulation of the objects, components, and structures required for BIM. ArchCAD 9 also allows users to search, upload and create new, original BIM compo-
ses depending on their requirements and preferences.

The "Master in Fine Arts Grad Lab & Exhibition" will begin on Aug. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Miami Beach Urban Studios, and will serve as a space for students to show the work they created and demonstrate their influence which the school brought to the university. In addition, music and even personal anecdotes. On Sept. 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on campus, there will be a presentation on ArchCAD9, the most eco-friendly Building Information Modeling on the market today, which allows for easier manipulation of the objects, components, and structures required for BIM. ArchCAD 9 also allows users to search, upload and create new, original BIM compo-
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ses depending on their requirements and preferences.
Diver dominates Sun Belt, aspires for more

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

After two seasons, Panther diver Sabrina Beaupre is the most dominating swimmer in the Sun Belt Conference and it is not even close.

It was her mom who first introduced her to diving at the age of five in 1997, but it wasn’t until she joined a diving club in Canada in the province of Quebec — where she also called home — that her diving career started to take flight.

Her mom got her into Camo, a sports club. Beaupre was on the club growing up, as well as through her high school, since Lester B. Pearson High School does not have a diving program. While with the club, she won a whopping 10 national titles.

During her time in Canada, she competed with the Camo club in competitions across the nation and was even on the Canadian national team, gaining some international competition experience.

She went to four different Pan-American Games competitions, placing first in one of them, second in another, and third in the remaining two. In addition, she participated in the junior world’s competition in the 3-meter and 10-meter events.

“It was great, I got to travel, I was able to grow, and I got to compete against the world’s best,” Beaupre said.

After high school, Beaupre was recruited by FIU. She actually knew another FIU diver, Namiko Shibata. At the time of Beaupre’s recruitment, Shibata was a junior. She took Beaupre under her wing and it was Shibata who brought Beaupre to the attention of FIU.

At FIU, Beaupre’s first two seasons have been stellar.

In her freshman year, she broke the conference record in the 3-meter dive with a score of 304.80 which earned her the Sun Belt championship. She also set a school record in the 1-meter dive by scoring 295.72 points in a meet against University of North Florida. She also won the Driver of the Week award twice.

In her sophomore year, she was awarded Driver of the Week, a record of eight times and was also named Sun Belt Diver of the Year.

“She’s dominating the Sun Belt. There’s only a few that can give her a run. She really has separated herself. I feel like she is really starting to come into her own and ready to make an entrance onto the national scene,” Head Coach Randy Horner said.

Horner expects Beaupre to make the nationals this year. Beaupre also has the same expectations.

“I want to win those titles [Sun Belt Conference, Diver of the Year], and I’d like to make the NCAA championship,” said Beaupre.

As Beaupre goes into her third season, she will be working with new diving coach Río Ramirez.

“We had our first day of practice so far. I’m sure he will be a very good coach. He was a talented athlete and I’m looking forward to diving with him this year. I like his work ethic, and he is going to push us in a good way, and I’m excited,” Beaupre said.

After college, Beaupre, hospitality and tourism major, plans on traveling and wants to live and work somewhere in Europe for a couple of years.

But before Beaupre worries about her life after college, she wants to win at the NCAA qualifiers and make it to the national championship.

---

Medlock living the dream he never expected to attain

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer

As the 2012 football season lurks on the horizon, most of the Panthers’ offense success rests on the right arm of first-year full-time starting quarterback, Jake Medlock.

The redshirt sophomore finally gets the keys of the FIU offense after spending the previous two years behind Wesley Carroll as the backup quarterback. Despite this, Medlock embraced the opportunity to have a smoother transition into college football — on and off the field.

“It was a little stressful at first, but I took that time to learn a lot from him,” Medlock said. “He taught me how to read defenses, make better decisions. He would sometimes call me up and we would just talk about random things off the field and just made sure I was always doing the right thing.”

In Medlock’s two starts versus Florida Atlantic University and University of Louisiana at Lafayette, he threw for a combined 351 passing yards and a touchdown. Medlock also did some damage from the ground with two rushing touchdowns.

A Jacksonville, Fla. product, Medlock made a name for himself under the lights at Fitcher High School where it was not until his sophomore year of high school when the quarterback realized his dream might become a reality.

“My freshman year I wanted to play D-1 ball, but I wasn’t sure if I was good enough. Then my sophomore year I got my first offer from Cincinnati and I was really excited because now I thought, ‘Hey, maybe my dream will come true and I can play D-1 football.’”

Medlock has a tight-knit inner circle as he tabs his father, Ricky Medlock, as his number one inspiration because of the impact he has had on his football career, especially during the recruitment process.

“My dad was and still is my biggest help. I’ve had, ‘Medlock stated. ‘He just made sure I was taking my time and having fun during the process and making it as least stressful as possible.

Not only is his father his backbone when it comes to the mental aspect of the game, but Medlock also attributes his athleticism to his father since Ricky Medlock played professional soccer overseas in Europe.

As far as pre-game rituals go, Medlock has paid homage to his late grandfather with a personal prayer at the commencement of every game since his sophomore year of high school.

“I lost my grandfather before one of my biggest games in high school,” Medlock said. “So before every game I pray, I point up to the lord to let my grandfather know that I still love him and that I miss him and that I know he’ll always have my back.”

Besides the stresses of being FIU’s official starting quarterback, Medlock still deals with the hassles of being a regular college student as he pursues a degree in sports and recreation.

“The most stressful thing is definitely having to do mandatory study hours at the Student-Athlete Academic Center,” Medlock said. “It’s tough because as athletes, we’re always tired from working out and lifting weights and then after that, we have to

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Jake Medlock hopes to improve upon his 351 passing yards and one touchdown from last year.
FIU picked to finish third in Sun Belt’s East division

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND
Staff Writer

Despite several new faces on the FIU coaching staff, pre-season predictions are the same as always.

The preseason polls, as voted on by the coaches of the Sun Belt Conference, projects FIU to finish third in the 2012 campaign in the SBC East division behind Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee, respectively.

If all goes as planned, the championship match will be a bit of “déjà vu” since both WKU and MTSU went toe to toe in 2011 with WKU coming out on top.

In recent years, FIU has not fared well versus WKU, as they have only beaten the Lady Hilltoppers once in the past four matches. Two of those matches stem from back to back 3-0 losses in the semi-finals of the Sun Belt Tournament in 2010 and 2011.

BJELICA NAMED TO ALL-CONFERENCE

Also in the release, FIU’s star player, Jovana Bjelica, earned a spot on the All Sun Belt Conference squad for the third consecutive season. Bjelica is one of eight players to receive the honor of being All Sun Belt.

After earning All-Sun Belt for the previous three seasons, Bjelica has her mind on an even higher recognition.

“No only do I want to win Sun Belt, I also want to be an All-American,” Bjelica said after the team’s first practice of the season. “I was All-Sun Belt, so now I want to be good enough to be All-American.”

Bjelica was an All-American honorable mention in 2009, alongside FIU’s Natalia Valentin and Yarimar Rosa, but has yet to reach the first team All-America squad.

Bjelica’s numbers show she has the potential to achieve the prestigious award as the hitter is coming off a record year.

Bjelica led the Sun Belt with 479 kills and 4.52 kills per set last season. Bjelica also tallied 11 double-doubles, most than any other Panther.

Not only has she received the nod as All-Sun Belt, Bjelica earned several accolades such as SBC Player of the Week honors on four occasions, tops in the conference, and Top Performer of the Week as result of excellent outings in three matches as a junior.

In her first year of collegiate volleyball, Bjelica was named Sun Belt Freshman of the Year in 2009.

The senior continues to add on to her legacy, as she ranks third in the FIU record books with 4.05 kills per set, as well as being ranked seventh in career kills, scoring 972 career kills.

--jonathan.jacobskind@fiusm.com

FOOTBALL, PAGE 6

Quarterback uses off time to show off basketball skills

Michael Jordan behind the three-point line.”

As Medlock prepares to have a break-out year and lead the Panthers to a second Sun Belt championship and a bowl game, the quarterback realizes he’ll have the support of the people closest to him, literally and figuratively.

“My dad and my high school coach always make sure I’m doing what I’m supposed to and will tell me when I’m making mistakes,” Medlock said. “Coach Cristobal and the rest of my teammates will always have my back, and my O-line always does great job of protecting me and making sure I don’t get hurt.”

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Coverage of birth control causes religious controversy

SOMAILY NIEVES
Contributing Writer

Freedom of religion or freedom for contraceptives?
The Affordable Care Act began to cover birth control for many insured women on Aug. 1, 2012. With the commencement of this act, uproar arose from religious leaders and conservatives which find the policy to be an attack against the first amendment, particularly freedom of religion.

Controversy has ignited due to discussions on who should be exempt from offering the coverage.

Religiously affiliated companies don’t feel they should be obligated to cover birth control for their employees because of their religious beliefs.

Due to objections, religious employers will be exempt from covering the women’s preventative health services to their employees.

Isaac Lopez, a senior majoring in geography, believes the measures taken to protect religiously affiliated companies are fair.

“The First Amendment is very clear that congressmen shall make no law in terms of offending people’s religious duties or obligations,” Lopez said. “People who don’t agree with it for religious reasons should not be obligated to be forced to pay taxes for them.”

Didier Georges, outgoing president of the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and senior studying international relations, opposes Lopez’s views and suggests that, “the whole act itself, I agree is a positive thing. Specifically the section referring to birth control for me is not a deal breaker, offering stuff to make people safer. I don’t think it necessarily goes against religion.”

Georges believes the focus is not in the right place.

“They should not focus on who is getting birth control for free, but it’s a question of why premarital sex is wrong and why abortion is wrong,” he said. “That should be the focus, not necessarily what the government wants us to pay for.”

Although the mandate poses a fueled debate, it is believed to be a step in the right direction for women’s health. The act will cover an array of services that includes contraception.

The plan covers HPV screenings, STI screenings, domestic violence screenings, breastfeeding counseling and supplies as well as many other services that would aid women in living healthier lives.

Sarah Kenneally, Senior Health Educator at the University Health Services Wellness Center, believes this new mandate will benefit University women since more females will have access to services and begin getting more necessary screenings.

“College students have the highest rates of STDs. As far as sexual health they don’t know about the rates or HPV,” Kenneally said.

The price of birth control and women’s health screenings can become costly as described by Sarah Varon, junior and public relations major.

“I often pass on getting the treatments and screenings that are necessary to women simply because I cannot afford it. I am sure this applies to plenty of college students.”

The act could alter the lives of many women at the University who find it difficult to balance their college as well as their health expenses.

“If this act is well utilized by women, early detection of cancer and other diseases could save thousands of lives,” Varon said.

A considerable amount of issues have stemmed from the enactment of the Affordable Care Act that still needs to be addressed, but many changes will arise from this act as well.

Thomas A. Breslin, professor of politics and international relations believes there is one basic right for all people.

“The Affordable Care Act is a step in the right direction. But there’s a long way to go to provide all Americans with a basic human right, adequate and affordable healthcare.”

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LYING LOW FOR ISAAC

With the uncertainty of Tropical Storm Isaac, the University’s department of Emergency Management began preparing Biscayne Bay campus for the storm. Sandbags were placed in necessary locations on Friday, Aug. 24 and garbage bins were placed to the ground.

Coming home to pizza and a DJ

CONSUELO NARANJO
Contributing Writer

Half a hundred days to go

On Tuesday, Aug. 28, the Homecoming Council will host the “50 days ‘Til Homecoming” event for alumni and staff. It will take place in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m.

Abel Ramos, senator at large and speaker pro tempore in SGC-BBC, called it an extraordinary chance to meet new people and have some fun with friends.

Students and staff can interact with different fraternity, organizations and small groups while they enjoy giveaways, free food catered by Frankie’s Pizza Cafe and a DJ.

“Our main goal is to bring excitement to our Panther community. This is a great opportunity for the students to get involved with FIU activities,” said Luz Castillo, special events chair in Homecoming Council at BBC.

“Also, we are looking forward to get students pumped for homecoming week.”

The Homecoming Council organizes two events before Homecoming to generate excitement.

“FIU gives you fun options,” said Ramos, “As a FIU Student Government Association member I am looking forward to interact with new students and enjoy this amazing occasion.”

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