SGA reforms elections code

MELHOR LEONOR
News Director

Following a partly inactive summer, the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus has begun to lay down the law. In the senate's first session of the year, SB 1209 and SB 1210 were presented to the senators and passed unanimously without much debate.

Both SB 1209 and SB 1210 are part of a 12-bill series designated to revamp the elections code known as the "Elections Code Reformation Act of 2012." The first item was SB 1208, an amendment that outlines the new index for the elections code.

SB 1209, also known as 'The Elections Code Definitions Act of 2012', outlines 44 new definitions added to section 6.02 of the SGC-MMC elections code.

Previously, the elections code only contained nine definitions. Among the additions are "ballot," "beyond reasonable doubt," and "third party violations."

According to Alex Castro, vice president of SGC-MMC, the reason for the additions is to eliminate "vagueness." He also added that many of these definitions were compiled from other Student Government Associations across the state.

Another addition is "Political Party," a source of debate during the 2012 elections. "I see nothing wrong with it, so there's nothing I would see bills, PAGE 2."
Campaign to eliminate distractions

ALEXANDER SUAREZ
Contributing Writer

Texting captures the attention of a driver’s eyes for an average of 4.6 seconds, according to research released in 2009 by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. According to this research, this “equates to a driver traveling the length of a football field at 55 mph without looking at the roadway.”

The Florida Department of Transportation District Six will prompt young drivers to reconsider their use of cellphones while driving in their revamped “Put It Down” Distraction Driving campaign. In past events, Community Traffic Safety Program Coordinator Carlos Sarmiento asked students to close their eyes for about eight seconds and then open them. He follows this exercise by asking students if that time is worth losing their life or someone else’s.

This local initiative targets students ages 16 to 24. The campaign’s purpose is to present the dangers of distracted driving, especially due to cell phone usage while driving.

According to a study released April 2012 by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, young 18-year-old to 20-year-old drivers “have the highest incidence of self-reported crashes or near-crash experiences compared to all other age groups and the highest incidence of phone involvement at the time of the crash experiences,” according to Sarmiento. Drivers under 25 are “much more likely to text while driving than all other age groups,” according to the NHTSA study.

According to Sarmiento, representatives of partnering organizations—such as AAA, Miami Dade County and Florida Highway Patrol—will attend the event and manage individual tables with informational and interactive material to bring distracted driving awareness to students.

The University will open up the library at the Biscayne Bay Campus, across the GC ballrooms on Thursday, Nov. 1.

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News briefs

According to Castro, this outreach program hopes to educate more in journalism and mass communications, said, “This outreach program will help open up the children’s minds to whole a new realm of countless possibilities.”

“Many of these students have no idea what research is and have probably never stepped into a research lab. With this project, we will be able to expose our students to science and nanotechnology, creating a new generation of researchers,” said Bhansali.

According to Bhansali, these FIU graduate and undergraduate students will be the key players in determining what will come out this project. For FIU, the main goal is to get students more involved in researching.

ASSIST is partnering with these secondary schools within the relative area of the partnering universities. FIU will work with schools like Miami Coral Park Senior High School and Rockway Middle School to give these students the opportunity to be a part of this project.

The purpose of ASSIST’s partnership with these secondary schools is to create a new generation of researchers who are aware of science technology and the impact it can have on society. According to Bhansali, the students will understand how they can use these resources to benefit society.

Valerie Aleman, sophisticated in journalism and mass communications, said, “This outreach program will help open up the children’s minds to whole a new realm of countless possibilities.”

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Good things come in small packages

NANO, PAGE 1

Bill puts elections one month closer

WASHINGTON POST

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It’s time!

Open Enrollment for the FIU-Sponsored Student Health Insurance Program has begun.


ENROLL BY SEPTEMBER 21st

Plan features:

• Enroll annually or by semester
• Online Payment Plan Available for Annual Coverage
• $250,000 annual maximum per condition with low deductibles & low copays
• Prescription Drug Coverage
• National network of providers
• Worldwide Coverage
• Preventive care & Wellness services
• Also available: Dependent Medical Insurance and Dental Insurance
• Student Personal Property Insurance also available

Medical Insurance underwritten by United Healthcare Insurance Company
Bike shop has merits, but needs its own tune ups

MARC RAPPAPORT
Contributing Writer

While parking seems to top the list of problems toward which FIU needs to point its attention, those that choose to ride their bikes to and around school will be pleased with the University’s most recent addition of a bike shop.

The conveniently titled FIU Bike Shop, which employs students to make repairs, is, in some ways, a promising venture. Encouraging students and faculty to ride their bikes to school would only lessen the University’s traffic, but ultimately open up more parking spots on campus.

However, most of the students I have met who ride their bikes on campus tend to live in the dorms. In my three years at this University, I have never once seen someone park their car, take a bike off the top and continue along their way. Thus, the shop will most likely cater only to, at least predominately, to those who live on campus.

While this is not a bad thing, I don’t feel that now, because there is a bike shop on campus, someone from Homestead will be any more inclined to ride their bike to school. So, would the bike shop ultimately pave way for a better parking situation?

No, probably not.

With the school creating bike paths all throughout campus, as well as the county’s installation of bike lanes along 8th Street and 79th Avenue, it seems as though bikers are having their needs met.

Prices at the bike shop are quite reasonable. A standard tune-up for students runs at $25 – $30 for non-students. While other services ranging from brake and wheel adjustments, tube installations, or a more inspection, inspections are actually free for students, will cost you anywhere from $5 to $15 and up to $20 for non-students.

Recreation services and the Office of Sustainability, those who fund the Bike Shop, have actually begun installing air pumps on bicycle racks around the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses.

The shop’s only real shortcoming, so far as I can see, is its strange hours of operation: Monday from noon to 4 p.m. and Tuesday 9 a.m. to noon.

All in all, the shop is a great and economical resource to anybody in search of nearby bike maintenance. My only concern is whether it has much of a customer base; and, to that extent, any purpose.

-opinion@fiusm.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: SMOKING BAN

Your editorial on the campus smoking ban compares the deleterious effects of nicotine to that of soda consumption. You are missing the point. Those who drink soda are harming themselves. Those who smoke in public are harming themselves and others. I am an asthmatic and my number one asthma trigger is cigarette smoke.

I shouldn’t have to endanger myself by the simple act of coming to work. You can drink all the soda you want and I’ll still be able to breathe.

-Mike Rosenthal, senior instructor, Department of Mathematics & Statistics

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com.
With tight budgets, students debate whether the new iPhone 5 is worth the money

We live in a nation of consumers. Every new gadget or device receives wide attention, with people to incredible lengths to get their hands on the latest technology. On Wednesday, Sept. 12, Apple’s new iPhone 5 was announced, but with college students tight budgets how many will take the plunge and re-up? To Apple fanatics everywhere, the new iPhone doesn’t bring any surprises; instead the iPhone 5 is just a little bit more updated to the phone everybody already loves. The screen is taller, and with its new “Retina Display,” it is the brightest and highest definition iPhone screen to date.

The old connector is out and in its place Apple introduced a smaller and faster one called Lightning. The Lightning connector is 80 percent smaller and is also reversible, meaning you will never have to guess which way to plug in your iPhone. And it is this preference for Apple’s brand that will make the difference for potential buyers. iPhone users do not choose to buy this particular product only because it is faster or more powerful. Other qualities make the iPhone stand out.

Ultimately those qualities are ease of use, reliability, and “the cool” factor, which matter more than the size of the processor or the camera’s megapixels. In the end, those most likely to buy the new iPhone are those who like the brand, regardless of whether or not the iPhone 5 is “the biggest thing to happen to iPhone since iPhone,” as Apple is claiming.

**Katherine Lepri**

Women are gross and slimy. They slither in dirt by their feet and squirm as Buckminster Fuller once wrote. Earthworms also generate the same reaction. Gross? But don’t let their appearance deceive their importance.

Despite their reputation, earthworms have been eating up nutrients and plowing the soil for millions of years. In fact, earthworm soils are more productive than plowed or tilled soils.

The burrowing annelids are independent of space and time and are so abundant that they outnumber all plants and animals that have ever lived on Earth. They are a major component in the soil food web and are well understood.

The demonstration will take place in the Organic Garden at 1 p.m., and has expanded into an invaluable part of the FIU community.

The demonstration at the Garden on Sept. 21, 2012, has engaged an audience of more than 1,000 so far this year and will continue to come.

This process of vermicomposting using worms to decompose food yard waste and paper waste, into rich by-products such as worm castings and worm tea.

Worm casts, or worm poop, are a rich soil amendment and often beneficial that regular “hot composting” does not.

**Katherine Lepri**

**Organic Garden brings to light the value of worms**

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Forward adjusts to American lifestyle, thrives in new system

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

A 4-year-old Quentin Albrecht approached his mother and told her that his dream was to play soccer. She was surprised, to say the least.

“She was quite shocked because I was the only son, I have three more sisters, and she never asked me if I wanted to play any sports,” Albrecht said.

Ever since that day, Albrecht worked hard to become the best soccer player he could be, even if that involved playing against kids that were twice his age and size.

“The streets, I played with a lot of my friends after school, on a little field that wasn’t even a soccer field. It was more like a track field but we played there every day,” Albrecht said. “You can learn the most when you play against older people. I was like 6 and the other kids were between 15, 16 and 17.”

Albrecht, a native of Hessen, Germany, currently leads FIU men’s soccer in goals this year with five which matches his total goals from last season.

Albrecht also has a number of favorite players ranging from Zinedine Zidane to Mario Gomez. But when it comes to the forward position for Albrecht, there’s only one guy he can pick.

“From my position, I really like Wayne Rooney because he’s a really strong player, he tries to keep the ball and creates a lot of chances,” said Albrecht.

As Albrecht got older, he got the chance to play for a university. It required him to leave his friends and family in Germany, but he decided to accept FIU’s offer given for one simple reason.

“The good opportunity I could have to get a degree and play soccer. I always wanted to get a degree but I never wanted to quit soccer,” Albrecht said.

“You have to choose either between studying or playing soccer [in Germany] and here I can combine both and that’s really important to me.”

During Albrecht’s freshman year, the young forward had problems off the field. Albrecht had to adjust to the social change of life.

“The language was the hardest challenge, at the beginning I was a very quiet guy because of the language,” Albrecht said. “Normally, I like to talk and joke around with my teammates but at the beginning it was tough, because I couldn’t say jokes and stuff because of the language.”

As Albrecht steps into his second year, already having adjusted to the social change and having learned the language, fans and teammates can already see the change.

With Albrecht’s five team-leading goals, he has become a main point in the Panther offense. That’s something Albrecht’s teammate, sophomore forward Colby Burdette, has taken notice.

“He’s been big, the way we have to adjust to the social change and having learned the language, fans and teammates can already see the change.

With Albrecht’s five team-leading goals, he has become a main point in the Panther offense. That’s something Albrecht’s teammate, sophomore forward Colby Burdette, has taken notice.

“He’s been big, the way we play our game we need someone who can finish our chances that we have,” Burdette said. “Our style of play is really good for attacking so having him up top being able to finish the plays is really a big deal.”

Burdette has also been able to see the changes in Albrecht’s game from the very beginning when they both played for FIU as freshmen.

“The team chemistry has to be the biggest change,” Burdette said. “He’s brought all of us together as one team and we’ve been able to play with each other, we know each other’s instincts like we’re one solid team instead of separate groups.”

As FIU looks to continue its great season Albrecht’s message to the Panther fans is quite simple.

“I hope that all of them are coming to our games because I think we are doing something great this season,” Albrecht said. “There’s a change, everyone can feel the change and I hope everyone is coming out to see us play because we love to play in front of a big crowd.”

Albrecht has a team-high five goals so far this season.

Construction of new courts marks new era for sand volleyball

JEFFERY SODUSTA
Contributing Writer

It was not long ago that FIU added women’s Sand Volleyball as part of Division I. In January of this year, sand volleyball was introduced to FIU and it was announced that it would become a sport for the school in spring 2013.

In anticipation of the sport, new courts are being built near the FIU tennis courts just west of the Panther garage adjacent to the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Kenneth Jessell, chief financial officer and senior vice president of Finance and Administration, explained the process of construction of the sand volleyball court.

Construction began on Aug. 14 after the addition of women’s sand volleyball. The project should be completed by the end of September. According to Jessell, Athletics asked FIU Facilities Management to assist with the design and construction. The cost of the new sand volleyball court is $99,387 and is paid for by Athletics.

The court is 11,213 square feet and runs north to south to mini-
New schedule highlighted by road tests

KEVIN CASTANEDA
Staff Writer

This season, FIU men’s basketball schedule is daunting. Going against five postseason teams from a year ago, the Panthers will face the tough task of rebuilding an 8-21 record from last year.

The quality of opponents is not the only thing working against the Panthers this season. The team plays 29 games this year, with 16 of those on the road.

The 13 home games are by no means easy either. Seven of the 13 opponents coming into the U.S. Century Bank Arena had winning records last year.

Change is another challenge FIU must overcome this season. Only six players from the 2011-2012 roster are making their way back this year, along with 12 new additions.

New Head Coach Richard Pitino’s experience and non-conference knowledge is the fresh change FIU needs.

“We are going to face a lot of good programs this year and we look forward to the challenge,” Pitino said in a press release. “Our non-conference portion of the schedule should get us prepared for what I expect to be a very competitive Sun Belt Conference.”

The Panthers begin their season on the road Nov. 11 at Boston College. The Eagles lost 11 of their last 13 regular season games, finishing with a record of 9-22.

The Panther’s home opener on Nov. 17 is against Stephen F. Austin, a team that has put together four 20-plus winning seasons in the last five years.

The most notable game happens on Dec. 19 versus Rick Pitino, Richard Pitino’s father, and his Louisville Cardinals team.

This will test FIU considering that the Cardinals not only finished 26-9 in the regular season, but tacked on four more postseason wins in the NCAA Tournament to reach the Final Four.

The last time Louisville and FIU matched up was in 2010 when the Cardinals defeated the Panthers 92-55.

The last game of the season will be on March 2 at Florida Atlantic.

New facility will be 11,213 square feet

SAND, PAGE 6

mize the sun glare. Athletics hired four contractors for the project. The first step was to dig up a pit inside the perimeter area, and then covered the pit with a layer of gravel.

The next step was to install the drainage pipe in a winding pattern to allow water to flow and exit.

An edge guard was installed to keep dirt or grass from mixing with the court and help prevent injuries. The last step was to lay the sand.

Seating is not included in the project, but bleachers will be built before the start of the sand volleyball season. Other universities have sand volleyball courts. In fact, there are 38 sand volleyball teams in Florida. “We are very excited about the new courts,” said Rita Buck-Crockett, head sand volleyball coach. “It’s our home.”

Currently, the team is practicing at Tamiami Park.

The sand volleyball team trains eight hours a week, but in October will begin training for up to 20 hours a week. The team will have a Blue vs. Gold scrimmage in their new court on Nov. 30.

The team will practice from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The first game of sand volleyball will begin in the spring 2013 season. Going into the inaugural season, the team has one goal in mind and that is to win. They want to bring a national title to FIU.
Abortion: a cause of ‘legitimate’ debate

SOMAELY NIJEVS Contributing Writer

Abortion has been a controversial issue for many years and while this election year is no different, Rep. Todd Akin has added a new and controversial wrinkle to the debate.

Akin, Missouri’s Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, caught the attention of some students when he made comments about the issue in an interview broadcast on St. Louis television station KTVI on August 19.

“It seems to me first of all, from what I understand from doctors, that’s really rare,” Akin said. “If it’s a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down.”

Grace Ingbire, a junior studying biology, was outraged by Akin’s comments.

“I don’t know what is going on with him but, I mean every woman knows nobody wants to be raped you know and to tell somebody, ‘Oh your body is going to automatically shut down if the conception happens right.’ That doesn’t make sense.”

She said that rape victims who decide to abort shouldn’t be judged.

“I mean for women it’s a hard choice especially if you’ve been raped it’s not the kids fault but you’ve been through this really, really bad experience.”

The source to Akin’s statement was John C. Willkie, a general physician who wrote an article published in Life Issues Connector on April 1999 titled “Rape Pregnanacies Are Rare.” In the article, he explained how rare it is for a woman who is sexually assaulted to become pregnant.

“To get and stay pregnant, a woman’s body must produce a very sophisticated mix of hormones,” Willkie wrote. “Hormone production is controlled by a part of the brain that is easily influenced by emotions. There is no greater emotional trauma that can be experienced by a woman than an assault and rape. This can radically upset her possibility of ovulation, fertilization, implantation and even nurturing of a pregnancy.”

According to an article published in The New York Times on Aug. 20, experts on reproductive health dismissed the comment.

Nathaly Ossa, senior studying biology, psychology and criminal justice, agreed that Akin’s comments did not make sense.

“You don’t need to be educated to know that our body can’t know whether or not it’s a legitimate pregnancy. It doesn’t work.,” she said.

Ossa said that girls as young as 9 or 10 years old can be victims of rape. These young girls may not be physically or emotionally capable of giving birth to the child.

“Other students believe abortion isn’t the answer,” said Jimmy Pettit, junior studying biology and president of the Impact Movement, said that Akin was “totally wrong because it offends women around the world.”

But Pettit is against abortion even in the case of rape.

“I’m a Christian and… I truly believe that if you do get raped and get pregnant; abortion is not the option,” he said. “Instead, you can give your child up for adoption.”

Sharon Aaron, licensed clinical social worker and director of the Victim Advocacy Center at the University, said that what was most distressing about Akin’s comments was that it gave the false impression that women were responsible for being raped.

“Legitimate rape” is only seen as this stranger jumping out of the bushes with a weapon. And it’s also still only seen as, if a woman puts up a fight,” she said.

Aaron said that according to Florida law the victim does not need to prove that she or he fought back. The victim needs only to prove lack of consent.

The VAC helps students who have “experienced actual or threatened violence.”

Students don’t need to pay for the service at the center because it is covered by the health fee. The center keeps the identity of students who look for help confidential.

Aaron said that the center does “whatever it takes to get that person re-stabilized. So they can regain and recover their normal functioning.”

Akin later clarified that he “misspoke” during the interview and it didn’t reveal his true feelings on the matter, but the damage was already done. His words offended many victims of rape.

Aaron said that only when people are informed about issues like abortion and rape society will “stop re-traumatizing people and restricting their access to care.”

A talk with Madeleine K. Albright

Stephanie Useche Staff Writer

Madeleine K. Albright, former secretary of state, spoke to Student Media about recent attack to the United States consulate in Libya and immigration policy.

FMFS: What’s your position on what’s happening in the Middle East?

Madeleine K. Albright: Well it’s obviously a difficult situation and I think that we have to recognize that this is being carried out by a small group of people who are justjubbed and determined to destroy things when in fact most of the people in these countries are working very hard to develop new governments for themselves to get away from authoritarian dictates and to develop institutions that will allow people to have a voice.

There are some people who don’t want progress; those are the ones that are creating the violence, but I think we need to remember that the majority of people in these countries want to live a normal life.

Q&A

Have some hospitality with a glass of wine

Aaron Pabon Staff Writer

Students will take on the roles of chefs and slice, chop, saute, and serve food to understand how to manage a restaurant.

The first dining event will be on Tuesday, Sept. 18, at the Kovens Conference Center at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Lunch and dinner will be served on Tuesdays through Fridays. Lunch begins at noon and dinner begins at 6 p.m.

Mark D’Alessandro, a visiting instructor, believes that the events are crucial to help students gain the necessary experience.

“Our job in teaching these courses is to prepare students to be managers in the hospitality industry,” said D’Alessandro.

“As such, there is no better way to expose our students to management than to actually have them manage a live restaurant.”

The Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management is hosting events to help students of the Advanced Food Service Management Classes.

Anna Renteria, hospitality major and participant in the dining events, at first questioned how this would help her as she worked toward her degree but then realized that it helped her build leadership skills.

While the University does not have a culinary program, CSHTM offers culinary courses to teach students so they can have a well-rounded education in the hospitality and tourism industries.

“I am getting pretty excited about my group luncheon event where I will be playing the role of General Manager for my group,” said Renteria.

“Knowing that I am managing my colleagues to succeed in our common goal of having a great event has helped me build my leadership skills and taught me more lessons on working with others in a professional environment.”

The cuisine for the events will vary between Mexican, Italian, Chinese, and Spanish Tapas. The cost for dining is $18, which includes an appetizer or salad, your choice of an entrée, dessert, coffee, and a glass of wine.

“I am hoping for the best outcome possible for our event” said Renteria. “I am also excited to see how the rest of our class delivers on this major project.”

Business-casual attire is recommended for the events.

Dining Events Schedule

• Tuesday Lunch: Sept. 18, Oct. 9, Oct. 30, and Nov. 20.
• Wednesday Dinner: Sept. 26, Oct. 17, Nov. 7, and Nov. 28.
• Thursday Lunch: Sept. 27, Oct. 18, Nov. 8, and Nov. 29.
• Friday Lunch: Oct. 5, Oct. 26, and Nov. 16.

Reservations are suggested and can be made in advance. To make reservations, call 305-919-4526.