Police auditing security measures in University

DIEGO SALDANA  
Staff Writer

As on-campus safety continues to be an issue, the University’s police department is making sure it’s ready for the worst case scenario.

The University’s police department has begun to investigate some of its own security measures.

The department is currently conducting an internal survey of security measures on campus including cameras, panic buttons and locknetics according to Chief of Police Alexander Casas.

There are currently 1,500 security cameras on all campuses including the Engineering Center, the Wolfsonian and Pines Charter. There are also 121 panic buttons at the Modesto Maidique Campus, 32 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and one at the Engineering Center.

As of press time 13 panic buttons were deemed inoperable by University Police on MMC campus said Casas.

“As we were evaluating our emergency response ability, we realized that there was a disconnect between the systems we had,” Casas said. “We are trying to figure out a way to make it easier for our dispatchers to use what’s available for them, connecting the legacy systems with the newer systems, we figured out that we weren’t really 100 percent certain of what we had. No one had ever actually gone and checked the panic alarms.”

Because of this, police service technicians were forced to check each alarm to see which ones were malfunctioning.

Each panic button was installed and is maintained by facilities management.

Chelsie Calvo, a grad student in speech therapy, noted that these issues raise concern for her.

“I don’t feel safe especially considering I have classes at night,” Calvo said. “That’s not exactly reassuring.”

Saurabh Voharg, a chemistry graduate student, also thinks that such malfunctioning security measures present a danger to students.

“It’s quite unsafe,” Voharg said. “I’ve never encountered a mishap, [but] for now I’ve been safe.”

Since 2012, there has not been a single user to press the panic button for help, according to Casas. There are also 31 cameras paired with panic alarms around campus.

Viola Sckeyde, a sophomore international business major, has never noticed there were security cameras at MMC.

“I think it’s a bit weird when everybody is watching you all the time but I think for safety reasons it’s good,” said Sckeyde.

Most of the time, cameras are placed in areas where there is high foot traffic or money distribution such as the cashier’s office.

Another new technology that Casas has been working with at the University is locknetics.

Locknetics are electronic key locks that allow for police dispatch to lock doors and close off entire buildings. As of now, 11 buildings are currently equipped with the system.

In addition, all new buildings constructed at the University will have this technology, including the Academic Health Center 4.

However, not all the locking mechanisms were functioning properly.

University Police is still ongoing in its review of the locknetics program.

Casas plans to move the University safety systems forward by providing more camera and panic button integration and easier to use controls for University Police dispatchers.

All audits started in November and have been of no cost to the department aside from man hours put in.

These audits will become a yearly check up that the department will conduct in the upcoming semesters and years.

“The Wizard of Oz,” specifically the character’s sense of love that they have for each other. How friends come together and that very soulful sweet message that comes at the end of the picture when we learn from the Wizard that all of us are complete, all of us broken, lonely individuals are complete, we have within us the thing to make us complete if we only recognize it.”

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Sam Raimi and James Franco talk about Oz

With yet another Oz themed film, everyone is wondering what exactly makes this one different. Sam Raimi, director of films like the genius “Evil Dead” series, “Drag Me to Hell” and the “Spider-Man” trilogy, is a man who rarely disappoints. We can only imagine what he’ll bring to the table with “Oz the Great and Powerful,” especially with actor James Franco at the lead.

FIU Student Media was lucky enough to get a chance to participate in conference calls with both Raimi and Franco. Questions were thrown at each of them and the responses were honest and enlightening.

When questioned about what inspired his version of Oz, Raimi responded by saying, “Well I drew it all from the great author L. Frank Baum, his vision of Oz, that he had written about in 14 some books. And then, I was also inspired by the illustrator, [W. J.] Denslow, he was the original, the original illustrator of the L. Frank Baum books.”

He also added that one of the greatest sources of inspiration was from “The Wizard of Oz,” specifically “the character’s sense of love that they have for each other. How friends come together and that very soulful sweet message that comes at the end of the picture when we learn from the Wizard that all of us are complete, all of us broken, lonely individuals are complete, we have within us the thing to make us complete if we only recognize it.”

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University starts to feel effects of budget cutbacks

MARIELLA ROQUE  
Staff Writer

Now that the nationally discussed sequester is no longer an abstract idea, the parties affected have to deal with the fallout, including university students receiving financial aid.

A series of federal spending cuts went into immediate effect on March 1, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2011 as the Budget Control Act, having failed as a means to force a more balanced, bipartisan, spending cut agreement.

The sequestration produces automatic cuts for each of nine years, totaling $1.2 trillion.

One of the areas affected by the sequester is student financial aid, including federal grants and loans.

The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators calculated what universities could expect to see as a result of sequestration. NASFAA found that the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant, offered exclusively to Pell Grant recipients, would see an $85,000 cut, effective immediately. According to Director of Financial Aid Francisco Valines, this would mean 100 less students receiving the FSEOG.

“About 100 students— who would’ve gotten it, might’ve gotten it—aren’t going to be able to get the FSEOG,” said Valines. “We’re going to have about 100 less awards to make.”

NASFAA also found that federal work-study would also receive a hit—
World News

Czech lawmakers charging president with treason

The Czech Republic’s conservative President Václav Klaus is facing high treason charges over his controversial amnesties of thousands of prison inmates and others, an unprecedented case that is tainting his final days in the post after a rocky decade.

Lawmakers in Parliament’s upper house, which is dominated by the leftist opposition, voted Monday to file charges at the Constitutional Court.

Marking the country’s 20th anniversary of independence on Jan. 1, Klaus used a traditional tool of Czech presidents and ordered the release of more than 6,000 inmates serving short prison terms.

Venezuela says Chavez receiving chemotherapy

President Hugo Chavez has been receiving chemotherapy since recovering from a severe respiratory infection in mid-January and “continues his battle for life,” his vice president said late Friday.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro suggested the chemotherapy was continuing in the government’s first mention of it as among treatments that Venezue-

a’s cancer-stricken president has received since his Dec. 11 cancer surgery in Cuba.

Maduro made the disclosure after a Mass for Chavez in a new chapel outside the military hospital where authorities say the socialist leader has been since being flown back to Caracas on Feb. 18.

Afghan president lashes out at Pakistan

Afghan President Hamid Karzai lashed out once again at his supposed ally, Pakistan, saying Monday that a statement by a Pakistani cleric endorsing suicide bombings in Afghanistan shows the neighbor-

ing country is not sincere in efforts to fight terror-

ism.”Afghanistan wants a real struggle against terrorism and wants the Pakistani government to realize that both our nations are burning in the same flame,” the Afghan leader said, speaking at a press conference with visiting NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.

TAMARA LUSH
AP Staff

Authorities hope to get a better look at a sinkhole that swallowed a man in his Florida home once demo-

lition crews knock down the remaining walls of the house Monday and begin clearing away the debris.

The remainder of the house and its contents will be dragged toward the street so crews can recover items inside and keep debris from falling into the hole, Hillsborough County spokesman Willie Paz said Monday morning. Authori-

ties were still not certain exactly how big the sinkhole is.

Crews on Sunday razed more than half the home, managing to salvage some keepsakes for family members who lived there.

The opening of the sinkhole has been covered by the home, but once emer-

gency officials and engi-

neers can see inside more clearly, they could begin planning how to deal with it. They also need to decide what will happen to the two homes on either side of the now-demolished house. Experts say the sinkhole has “compromised” those homes, but it’s unclear whether steps can be taken to save them.

Jeremy Bush, 35, tried to save his brother, Jeff, when the earth opened up and swallowed him Thursday night.

On Sunday morning, Bush and relatives prayed with a pastor as the home — where he lived with his girlfriend, Rachel Wicker, their daughter, Hannah, 2, and others — was demol-

ished and waited for fire-

fighters to salvage anything possible from inside.

The home was owned by Leland Wicker, Rachel’s grandfa-

ther, since the 1970s.

The operator of the heavy equipment worked gingerly, first taking off a front wall. Family belong-

ings were scooped onto the lawn gently in hopes of salvaging parts of the family’s 40-year history in the home.

As of Sunday afternoon — when demolition had stopped for the day and the earth crumbled, including the sinkhole, Jeremy Bush tried to save his brother by jumping into the sinking hole but had failed to pull out the other two homes on either side of the ground collapse, including Jeff Bush, the man now presumed dead.

The search for Jeff Bush, 37, was called off Saturday. He was in his bedroom Thursday night in Seffner — a suburb of 8,800 people 15 miles east of downtown Tampa — when the ground opened and took him and every-

thing else in his room. Five others in the house at the time escape unharmed as the earth crumbled.

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thing else in his room. Five others in the house at the time escape unharmed as the earth crumbled.

Budget cuts begin to impact students

A cut of about $142,000, meaning 50 less students could be selected for work-

study opportunities. "Anything that’s going away, away from students is important," said Dean Williams, founding chairman of FIUnite. "The sequestration limits the funding for low-income students who rely on grants and ends up staying at school an extra two years because they can’t get funding."

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thing else in his room. Five others in the house at the time escape unharmed as the earth crumbled.
A few more words than you’re used to

MICHAEL BAISDEN
Editorial

Generation Y lives in an unbelievable time where distance does not limit a person’s ideas, thoughts, feelings and creativity, allowing them to be heard and seen by thousands of others. The amount of connections that can be made is nearly inconceivable.

But in my experience, this constant stream of content we receive every day is often filtered, leaving out the important details or quickly glanced over.

What most often gets dismissed is hard news.

In 2012, the Newspaper Association of America Foundation conducted a study on young people to determine their newspaper readership.

To my surprise, 74.9 percent of the subjects, who had spent one to three years in college, said they had purchased a newspaper within the last 30 days. However, they did not actually explore how much content an age group is actually getting.

A few weeks ago this section printed a piece about the drones controversy that’s been in the news for a few weeks. When I discussed this with a fellow classmate, their initial reaction was “What’s that?”

I don’t think that my face read, “Are you serious?” but I quickly briefed her about the article which discussed the drone situation in Pakistan.

My overall point here is not only that we aren’t reading the news, but the question, how are we so completely disconnected?

We have, more or less, grown up in a world where you have to explain your thoughts in 200 words or less, because if you don’t you’ve lost your audience’s attention.

The pace at which we try to get news information is equivalent to a teaser trailer, and that’s entirely too fast to get anything of substance. It barely works for movies, how could it work for news?

Sure, some of us follow credible news sources like The Washington Post, The Huffington Post or The New York Times, and I’m glad we’re going to several sources for news content, but are we clicking the link to their site to read the rest of the story?

Probably not.

So often we talk about changing the world. But how could you even think it feasible if you have no idea what’s going on in it?

ASHLEY OROZCO
Contributing Writer

Getting the news: Generation Y bother?

If asked where our troops are currently stationed, a typical college student might not know and fewer would be able to tell you what’s occurring there.

Despite the fact that news outlets worldwide have been covering this for quite some time, few from our age group actually take the time to invest their own time to find out.

This is our generation.

Though news outlets have gone digital, for the most part they can’t project full stories into a single tweet or status update. So they post a headline or a few words that they hope will catch the attention of smartphone users.

However, that headline is the only thing our generation will read and they will feel as though they’ve been fully informed.

This trait of ours speaks volumes about our generation as a whole. We’ve grown up with constant technological advancements and learned to keep up with the ever-changing times. In our accelerated lifestyle, we only take what we believe is necessary and continue to move forward.

This goes for news as well. Since we’ve become addicted to checking updates on the Internet, we find that short bursts of text are enough and we continue with our daily routines.

Sad, I am too guilty of this.

On Twitter, I follow a fair amount of the BBC accounts as well as the New York Times. I followed them with the intention of being able to click the link to full articles since going on their websites can sometimes be a nuisance and I check my Twitter feed a lot. But, I only go through my feed skimming headlines or whatever updates they can squeeze into 140 characters or less; rarely do I click the links for more information.

In high school my English professor assigned weekly articles. We had to analyze and then write a reflection. If professors followed this example and assigned two or more news articles a month, I think it would boost our generation’s appreciation of news content and also help us to become more aware.

At the same time, we are adults now, and since we should be doing this kind of thing independently, without having it assigned as work. It should be something we do on our own time as a citizen.

There are always things happening in all of our communities. There is plenty of content, just not enough readers.

Sometimes as simple as picking up The Beacon every other day could make a difference.

I would argue that our generation’s great folly is not entirely our own fault. It’s how we were brought up. But we do have the capacity to be an informed generation.

It’s not that we don’t want to be informed, it’s just something we’ve not used to.

In the long run, we will end up with a society of entirely ignorant people, so it’s best that we fix this now rather than sooner than later.
Miami International Film Festival

MIFF celebrates its 30th anniversary in the film industry

CONSELUO NARANJO
Staff Writer

Bright lights warmed up Gusman’s Olympia Theater in downtown Miami. This is where film lovers gather on the red carpet for the opening inauguration of the 2013 Miami International Film Festival, celebrated from Friday, March 1 until Sunday, March 10.

Remarkable characters from a variety of countries arrived to the land of cortaditos and palm trees to share their most creative work. This year the MIFF celebrates the 30th anniversary of the world’s finest film industry. This celebration, which introduced important foreign directors, actors and producers to the United States, was founded by the Film Society of Miami, Inc. in 1983.

With the main objective of providing cultural understanding, encourage artistic development and excellence through film, the MIFF gained recognition from the best and most exclusive directors and critics within the film business, globally.

In the 1990s, the Film Society transferred the administration of the festival to FIU; however, since October 2003 Miami Dade College (MDC) is the principal sponsor and organizer of the gala.

Enthusiastic founders, excited viewers and 140 loyal sponsors such as American Airlines, HBO Latino and the Knight Foundation hosted one of the important parties in the industry. Jaie Laplante, executive director of the MIFF, welcomed the public and presented “Twenty Feet From Stardom” by director Morgan Neville at the Ultimate Opening night party.

“This is a documentary about the life of backup singers. These are groups of people who are some of the most incredible artists that you have never heard from, except in the background,” said Neville. Regal South Beach Cinemas, Olympia Theater at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts, Tower Theater, O Cinema, Coral Gables Art Cinema and Miami Beach Cinematheque are the venues of 117 feature-length films and 12 shorts representing 41 countries.

Students are one of the principal ingredients for this international mix of art. Julissa Perez, a senior in theatre performance, is managing the tower theatre event. She describes the MIFF as a unique occasion with amazing benefits. “FIU students working or volunteering in the event have a great opportunity to watch films, and enjoy events that are different from the usual film festivals,” Perez said. “Especially for my fellow theatre majors, it is lovely to be able to expand our artistic views and really eat up what Miami has to offer in terms of visual and artistic stimulation.”

Art experts and dreamers should not miss any element of the festival. That is the case of American actor, and Academy Award nominated actor, James Cromwell.

Humblly, he shared his excitement for his performance in “Still Mine,” by Michael McGowan.

Also, he shared some expert advice to FIU students: “Don’t give up and be creative. The movie industry is a hard field but you can reach your objectives with hard work and dedication.”

SEE FILM, PAGE 5

NATALIE MONTAñER
Contributing Writer

FIU’s Wolfsonian museum at Miami Beach never falls short with the exhibits it puts on display to willing patrons and art enthusiasts. Among the various exhibits there are two that encompass the work and labor that historically propelled the United States forward.

Shining light onto the hard work of those who currently are, and have always been, this nation’s understated backbone, “Describing Labor” exhibits the talents, ambitions, and determination of laborers throughout history. This exhibit, which reminisces on the industrialized success of the U.S., aims to adequately show appreciation and give thanks to those who dedicated their life towards their careers.

In a Wolfsonian press release, Esther Shalev-Gerz, the artist behind this exhibit, is quoted saying, “I realized that this was more or less the last time in our recent history that images of workers conveyed a sense of heroism. Since the end of the period represented in the collection [1885-1945], the image of the worker fell out of favor because of something else.”

She added, “It made me think about how we do not know the faces of the people who create the things that surround us. We know other faces—politicians, celebrities, criminals—but not the worker, the one who makes the lines, curves, shapes, and volumes of the items in the collection give image to the interests, passions and quests of an epoch and those who produced it.”

Shalev-Gerz chose to portray the labors of these unsung Americans through many different forms. In order to properly encapsulate the diversity of the workers and the wide range of goods and services they produced for this country, it only seems logical to include anything and everything that can adequately exhibit these labors.

She collected 41 objects, ranging from sculptures to photographs to paintings, as well as others objects from The Wolfso- nian, The Martin Z. Marguilies Collection and The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Private Collection, in order to do so.

“Describing Labor” made its debut on Nov. 29 and will run until April 21.

One of the exhibits “Back to Work: FDR and Labor’s New Deal” depicts the visions and programs proposed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt that ultimately helped the nation overcome the Great Depression of the 1930s.

This exhibit showcases the various propaganda – pamphlets, periodicals, and other prints – that highlighted FDR’s plan to restore the failing economy and put Americans back to work.

CONTRIBUTING WRITTERS

Sana Ullah
Contributing Writer

The Miami International Film Festival is holding its 30th annual festival from Monday, March 1 to Sunday, March 10. Academy Award nominated actor James Cromwell was present at the event, celebrating his performance in “Still Mine,” by Michael McGowan.

Wolfsion exhibits labor history in the United States

I realized that this was more or less the last time in our recent history that images of workers conveyed a sense of heroism.

Esther Shalev-Gerz
Artist
“Describing Labor”
Chatting with Raimi and Franco, the new wizards of Oz

During the casting process, Raimi claims he "was looking for that actor or actress that had the qualities of the character they’re going to portray." In scoping out an actress for Theodora, two films sealed the deal for Mila Kunis. Forgetting Sarah Marshall and Black Swan. When it came to Michelle Williams, he joked that he "needed an actress with a good soul" and "that ruled [out] about 90 percent of the actresses in Hollywood.”

James Franco, who saw the role as something he "could have a lot of fun with and be fairly creative with," has always been a big fan of L. Frank Baum’s Oz books. His initial hesitations went out the window after understanding what would distinguish this version of Oz from other versions, notably the fact that "they weren’t just gonna redo it."

He liked that his character was a "con man that was stumbling through Oz, pretending to be something he’s not. He gets into a lot of awkward situations that could be played for comedy and I thought that comedic edge would help distinguish this version of Oz from others.” Franco not only addressed his role as Oz, but also touched upon his diverse acting and directorial career. When asked about how he balances his work in Oz with something like Harmony Korine’s “Spring Breakers,” he replied by saying, “They’re made on very different scales and they have very different subject matters, but there are essential things about making movies that are in place in both films.”

Franco added that he goes into different projects by “trying to figure out what the tone of the film is, what [his] place in the film is, and how [he] can best fit into that world.” With Oz he plays a magician and con man and with “Spring Breakers” he plays a gangster, mystic-rapper, and he “had to figure out how to play each of those roles as realistically as possible.

If these interviews are anything to go by, we can expect a fun film out of “Oz: The Great and Powerful.” At the very least we can keep our hopes up, as even James Franco praises Sam Raimi as one of the best directors around.

Juaran Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 film reviews for YAM-Magazine and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University.

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Film Festival brings film lovers together

James Franco [left] stars in the new upcoming film, “Oz the Great and Powerful,” directed by Sam Raimi [right], who is known for his work in the “Evil Dead” trilogy, “Drag Me to Hell” and the “Spider-Man” trilogy. The film follows circus magician Oscar Diggs [Franco] into the Land of Oz where he encounters three witches [Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams] who doubt he’s the great wizard everyone’s been waiting for. In a quest to prove himself, Diggs ultimately transforms into the great and powerful Wizard of Oz.

James Franco praised Sam Raimi as one of the best directors around.

"OZ THE GREAT AND POWERFUL"

When: In theaters on Friday, March 8

Genre: Action, adventure, fantasy

Inspired by author L. Frank Baum and illustrator W.W. Denslow.

From unraveled love to enjoying some of the 23 categories that the MIFF offers to the public. Rodriguez is also applying to the Film Studies certificate at FIU, directed by Richard Schwartz and Barbara Weitz from the English department.

"Movies are my second love. They represent genuine expressions and some are pure art when they allow you to truly connect with story," Rodriguez said. Spectators are able to support these films and enjoy the many after party events that the MIFF is sponsoring. For more information visit: http://miami.festivalgenius.com/2013/

"The MIFF gives you the opportunity to enjoy independent movies from all around the world. I am looking forward to enjoying Spanish speaking movies," Figueroa said. Originally from Venezuela, Rodner Figueroa was delighted by Spanish language submissions. "I deeply enjoy Hispanic films, I feel closer to them, and I love hearing my native language on the big screen.”

From unraveled love stories to topical social problems, the MIFF presents No, an Academy Award nominated foreign film, starring Gabriel Garcia Bernal.

White Elephants, A Gun in Each Hand and Eenie Meenie Miney Moe are also the most featured movies at this festival.

Stefany Rodriguez is also a sophisticated major in psychology and a cine-ophile, is looking forward to enjoying some of the 23 originality,” Crowne said.

Mauricio Parra, Miami personality and official DI for Vogue magazine and MTV events, lit up the inau- guration party with a fusion of vibrating and energetic rhythms.

This FIU alumnus also encouraged future musi- cians to follow their dreams: “This is a hard field with ups and downs, but if this is something that you are passionate about, keep working towards your aspira- tions,” Parra said.

All forms of art expres- sions were on display at the Opening Night Contest, of the MIFF, the most unique submissions.

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Panthers stomp through the Red Storm

**STEVEN ROWELL*
**Contributing Writer**

While the win streak continues for FIU tennis, so does the recent surge by three upperclassmen from the Panthers.

The Panthers won their second straight match over the Red Storm of St. John's University, 5-2, on March 1 at the FIU tennis courts, securing their second setback of the season.

In doubles, junior Giulietta Boha and freshman Carlotta Orlando, who has been on a hot start in singles play, suffered only her second setback of the season in singles, losing in straight sets 6-2, 6-7, 6-4.

Boha and senior Magali Holt prevailed in her singles match in straight sets 7-5 and 6-3.

With the freshmen not at their best, it was the upperclassmen that carried the Panthers once again.

One of the sweetest things in college tennis is when you don’t play your best and still find a way to win.

-Katarina Petrovic
Head Coach, FIU Tennis

Maiask struggled with her serve and frustrated showed on the senior’s face, but still pulled through, winning her singles match in straight sets 7-5 and 6-7.

“The main thing is practice,” Petrovic said. “I feel like if I get enough practice even during the hardest moments I can still pull off the match.”

Maisak said, “Serving is a big advantage, but you can do without it.”

“Rita is known to always be frustrated and she is a senior, and she struggled with her serve, and that’s the thing in college tennis, sometimes you have to change your game plan when something is not working,” Petrovic added.

Boha and senior Magali Holt also enjoyed success against St. John’s.

Boha won her second straight singles match in straight sets, and Holt prevailed in her singles match that went the maximum three sets. Boha, Maisak and Holt were key in the victory over St. John’s.

While there were several cogs in the men’s basketball success this season, Tymell Murphy, left, provided the rotation with superb numbers to boost the team to the No.4 seed in the conference. He led the team in points, rebounds and blocks and was top 10 in the country in field goal percentage.

KEVIN CASTANEDA
**Staff Writer**

On Oct. 24, the Sun Belt Conference Coaches’ Poll for men’s basketball was released. The coaches picked FIU to finish second to last in the SBC and dead last in the East Division.

Head Coach Richard Pitino shrugged off the preseason prediction and went to work with his hard-nosed team. The first-year head coach and young roster defied all expectations as they ended the season above 500, securing the No.4 seed for the SBC Tournament.

“People in our league didn’t have high expectations for us, I don’t think anyone did. But that was justified,” Pitino said. “I thought the guys really exceeded expectations in the regular season.”

The Panthers finished the regular season with a 16-13 overall record and 11-9 in SBC play. The last time the Panthers had 16 wins was during the 1999-2000 season, when the team went 16-14 under Head Coach Shyke Rodriguez.

Even more impressive, is that FIU finished their season with a 10-3 home record. The 10 wins at the U.S. Century Bank Arena this year is the most the team has had since 1999-2000 season, when the Panthers went 10-6.

“It’s just the mentality of playing at home,” said Pitino. “It’s better to play in front of your own fans. Our guys saw each game the crowds were bigger and bigger. They didn’t want to let the fans down that decided how it’s going to go.”

Pitino does not like singling out one player on his roster as the best. Even with his reluctance to name a star, a few names really stood out this season.

The first player to jump off the stat sheet is sophomore Tymell Murphy. The 6-foot-5 forward averaged just above 15 points and nearly seven rebounds a game. Besides those statistics being team-highs, he finished the season ranked seventh in the SBC in points per game and sixth in rebounds per game.

Murphy not only ended the year with seven double-doubles, but scored in double-digits in 20 consecutive games. The most incredible part about Murphy’s ability to score was his efficiency. He shot 58 percent from the field which ranked him first in the SBC and eighth in the nation.

“Think you had more energy than every-thing, he had a great year for us,” said Pitino.

“When things broke down he was able to get things done for us. I would say he’s definitely just scratching the surface.”

It is difficult to follow up what Murphy did, but Jerome Frink sure added a punch to the Panther lineup. The freshman finished the season third in scoring and second in rebounds for the Panthers. Pitino knew he had something special in his 6-foot-9 forward when Frink opened up the season against Boston College, with a 22-point and 10-rebound performance.

“I think he was probably the best, it was the upperclassmen that going into the season was to be the best three-pointer shooter in the conference. He accom-
plished just that as he ranked first in three-pointers per game, with nearly three a contest.

His remarkable shooting netted him an
Basketball enters as No.4 seed in tournament

The last weekend series against No.8 University of Mississippi was a battle of David versus Goliath, but unlike the original story, David got a reality check.

Coming into the Ole Miss series, FIU (7-5) had scored 69 runs while winning four of their last five games. Freshman first baseman Edwin Rios was leading the way with a .400 batting average along with 14 runs batted in.

However, the Panthers would have to deal with a Rebel team (11-1) whose top three pitchers have a total earned run average of 3.96. Add to the fact that the last time FIU defeated a Southeastern Conference team was in 1996, and it was easy to tell they faced a long weekend.

First up was Rebels’ ace Bobby Wahl, who came into Friday’s game with a staggering 0.79 ERA. Although the Panthers scored four runs off the Ole Miss ace, with the biggest contributor being Rios who ended the game with 3 RBIs and a homerun, FIU still fell short as they lost by score of 11-9.

The next two games involved more of the same for FIU, simply bad pitching and shaky defense. Rebels Mike Mayers and Sam Smith pitched sharp games, combining for 11 strikeouts and only two earned runs.

“Our guys battled their rear ends off and they battled hard,” said Head Coach Henry Thomas. “We just got to play better defense, we have to do a better job of making the plays on the field.”

The word to describe this weekend’s series is simple: errors. The Rebels committed six errors this past weekend with half of them coming from veteran second baseman T.J. Shantz.

“We are not playing very clean baseball right now,” said Shantz. “We just need to come focused to the ballpark every day and practice, we really need to get after it on defense and work well with the pitchers and really just stick to the fundamentals.”

The bad defense galvanized Thomas to make a change on the field. Rios, who has been a fixture at the designated hitter spot.

Thomas was unsure if this would be a regular occurrence moving forward. The bad defense galvanized Thomas to make a change on the field. Rios, who has been a fixture at the designated hitter spot.

FIU’s inconsistent pitching is also another looming concern for this Panther club. After the series against Ole Miss, where FIU pitchers allowed 27 runs on 37 hits, FIU now ranks in the bottom of most Sun Belt Conference pitching statistics.

FIU has the worst era in the SBC, second most hits allowed, most earned runs allowed, most walks allowed and most home runs allowed.

“We haven’t had a good outing from our starting pitcher since last Saturday,” Thomas said. “If you don’t have a good start from your starting pitcher then you’re going to have a difficult time winning a baseball game.”

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Panther bats can’t rebel against Ole miss pitching

The FIU starters couldn’t handle the Ole Miss bats this past weekend, giving up a whopping 14 earned runs and nine walks in only 1.5 innings.

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Staff Writer

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Financial relief for students paying out of pocket

VINSON PRESSLEY
Contributing Writer

Students who do not receive enough scholarships or grants to cover the cost of their education may qualify for tax credit by filling out a 1098-T form.

The 1098-T form allows students who cover their educational expenses out of pocket to claim tax credit for those expenses and receive extra funds when they file to receive their income taxes.

This is made possible by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which allows more parents and students to qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit according to www.irs.gov.

Individuals who qualify for this tax credit can receive a maximum of $2,500 per student. Although this information is available on the my.fiu.edu portal, knowledge of this tax credit is not common and students are paying out of pocket without realizing their college expenses are tax deductible.

Malynda Point Du Jour, junior nursing major has not heard of this tax credit and pays $3,000 out of pocket for expenses.

“Some students have their tuition expenses fully covered by financial aid but still understand the impact it could have if they didn’t have it.”

If I didn’t have the scholarships, I wouldn’t be in school. I wouldn’t be able to afford it,” said Catherine Mieses, freshman mass communication journalism major.

Despite having scholarships, Mieses still feels the need to have a job to prepare for any changes in the future. “I still have to keep working just in case scholarships don’t come through,” said Mieses.

The Financial Aid Office at Biscayne Bay Campus refused to comment.

Hips don’t lie

While students enjoyed the free glitter tattoos, relaxation session and hearing about their fortune from a psychic, belly dancers shook their hips around Panther Square for the International Women’s Day Celebration. International Women’s Day is a global awareness day on March 8, but since it will fall during spring break, the International Student and Scholar Services is hosting a Women Awareness Week from March 4 to March 6. ISSS is collaborating with several organizations on campus throughout the week, such as the Black Student Union and the International Students Club.

Students to “get their country on” at the bay

JENNIFER SANS
Contributing Writer

Cowboy boots may not only help warm Miamian’s feet during the few cold days this March. Keep them on for the Student Programming Council’s Country Throw Down.

Tomorrow, March 7 from 12-2 p.m., SPC will hold their Country Throw Down in Panther Square at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Vice President of the SPC, Cristel MiraBalle said, she wanted to coordinate this particular event because she really likes country music. She also said that there were other students who thought doing this event would be a good idea because they also like country music.

A country event has not been held at the BBC yet. Students can listen to country music and learn to square dance.

The DJ, who is from the Roundup Nightclub in Davie, Florida, will be teaching participants how to square dance to different country songs. All students passing through Panther Square are welcome to participate in the event.

Kaytien Franco, public relations assistant at Campus Life, said, “The purpose of this event is to reach an audience of students we haven’t reached before. Any students that like country music and haven’t seen an event at BBC targeting the genre will now get the chance to be a part of it.”

To many students, country music is not their first choice of music, but there seems to be a body of students at BBC who think the country theme is a great idea for the event.

“I think it would definitely be a fun event to participate in. The square dancing sounds like a lot of fun and I love country music,” said Natasha Perez, senior English major.

“I’ve been to the Roundup Nightclub before and the DJ plays country music along with other styles of music. They also teach line-dancing there.”

Jazmin Felix, a freshman majoring in nursing and English, said she loves country music and she actually listens to it a lot.

“I think this is going to be such a fun event. I once tried square dancing in high school and it’s a lot of fun. Most people are surprised that I like country music so much. I can sing songs word for word by country music artists Chris Young and James Otto!”

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