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,” Casas said.

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 Scekyde, 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 Scekyde. 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 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.

Additional reporting by Jona-than Jacobshkind.

-Sandin.tu.saldana@fiusm.com

SECURITY EQUIPMENT
- Cameras 1,500
- Locknetics 11 buildings
- Panic Buttons 154

Sam Raimi and James Franco talk about Oz

W ith 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. W.] 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.”

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 Supplement 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—
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 neighboring country is not sincere in efforts to fight terrorism. “Afghanistan wants a real struggle against terrorism and wants the Pakistani government to cooperate with it,” his vice president said late Friday. The Czech Republic’s conservative President Vaclav Klaus is facing high treason charges over his controversial amnesty of thousands of prison inmates and others, an unprecedented case that is tainting his final days in the post after a rocky decade in power. Lawmakers in Parliament’s upper house, which is dominated by the leftwing 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 Venezuela’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 neighboring country is not sincere in efforts to fight terrorism. “Afghanistan wants a real struggle against terrorism and wants the Pakistani government to cooperate with it,” his vice president said late Friday. The Czech Republic’s conservative President Vaclav Klaus is facing high treason charges over his controversial amnesty of thousands of prison inmates and others, an unprecedented case that is tainting his final days in the post after a rocky decade in power. Lawmakers in Parliament’s upper house, which is dominated by the leftwing 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 Venezuela’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 neighboring country is not sincere in efforts to fight terrorism. “Afghanistan wants a real struggle against terrorism and wants the Pakistani government to cooperate with it,” his vice president said late Friday. The Czech Republic’s conservative President Vaclav Klaus is facing high treason charges over his controversial amnesty of thousands of prison inmates and others, an unprecedented case that is tainting his final days in the post after a rocky decade in power. Lawmakers in Parliament’s upper house, which is dominated by the leftwing 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 Venezuela’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.
A few more words than you’re used to

MICHAEL BAISDEN
Opinion Editor

Getting the news: Generation Y bother?

ASHLEY OROZCO
Contributing Writer

If asked where our troops are currently stationed, a typical college student might not know and fewer would be able to tell you where they were stationed.

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 onto a single tweet or status update. So they post a headline or a few words that they hope will catch the attention of smart-phone users.

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

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

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

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

A few weeks ago this section printed a piece about the drone controversy that’s been in the news for a few weeks. When I discussed this with a fellow classmate, she said that “It’s hard to know what’s going on.”

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 with the assumption that this is equivalent to news gathering.

Or perhaps most of us don’t even believe it’s news gathering, perhaps most of us just don’t care to hear about world views.

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. But 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?

Some of us follow credible news sources like The Washington Post, The Huffington Post or The New York Times. But 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?

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. 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. But 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?

Some of us follow credible news sources like The Washington Post, The Huffington Post or The New York Times. But 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?

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. 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. But 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?

Some of us follow credible news sources like The Washington Post, The Huffington Post or The New York Times. But 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?

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. 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. But 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?

Some of us follow credible news sources like The Washington Post, The Huffington Post or The New York Times. But 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?

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.
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.

In order to properly encapsulate the festival, FIU; however, since October 2003 Miami Dade College (MDC) is the principal sponsor and organiser 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 Cinematrex 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 at the festival. 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.

Humbly, 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.”

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

“Describing Labor” is a documentary that explores the lives and the labors of these unsung Americans back to work.

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

One of the exhibits “Back to Life”-life@fiusm.com

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. 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.

Wolfsonian exhibits labor history in the United States

NATALIE MONTANER
Contributing Writer

FIU’s Wolfsonian museum at Miami Beach never falls short with the exhibits it puts on display to will 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 US, is a remarkable way 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 as a subject for the arts.”

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 Wolfsonian, The Martin Z. Margulies 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.
Chatting with Raimi and Franco, the new wizards of Oz

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 [Frances] 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.

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 98 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 others, 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 other.”

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.

Juan Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 movie reviews for YAM-Magazine and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University.
FIU regular season ends, postseason just ahead

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 strayed 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.

“Young people in our league haven’t had 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 Shakery Rodriguez.

Even more impressive, is that FIU finished their season with a 1-0 home record. The 10 wins at the U.S. Century Bank Arena this year is the most the team has had since the 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 getting bigger and bigger. They didn’t want to let the fans down that decided to come.”

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.

You got four categories where he’s top 10 [in the conference]. He did a little bit of everything, 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-5 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 were key in the victory over St. John’s and will be in victories in the future. His size, speed and blocks and was top 10 in the country in field-goal percentage.

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

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 uppeerclassmen from the Panthers.

The Panthers won their second straight match over the Red Storm of St. John’s University, 5-2, on Oct. 24, and will be in victories for the remainder of the season. Both matches are set for Oct. 30, against the Spartans from Michigan State University. Both matches are set for a noon start.

While there were several key 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.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 7

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 6-3.

“The main thing is practice. I feel like if I get enough practice even during the hardest moments I can still pull off the match,” Maiask said. “Serving is a big advantage, but you can do without it.”

Rita is known to always be frustrated and 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, Maiask and Holt were key in the victory over St. John’s and will be in victories moving forward.

“I talked to Giulietta that sometimes I believe in her game more than she does,” Petrovic said. “When she is confident I feel she can beat anybody. I think our upper class girls need to continue to step [up] to not only be examples to our freshmen, but also to not put so much pressure on them either.”

“I played well, I am getting more confident, but next match I would like to win my singles match in straight sets,” added Holt.

Despite the win, Petrovic thinks there is room for improvement.

“It was a grind it out win,” Petrovic said. “One of the sweetest things in college tennis is when you don’t play your best and still find a way to win. We didn’t play our best, but we had a good day of practice and I hope we do the same in our next match.”

Today, the Panthers host Georgetown University and then on March 7, they will welcome the Spartans from Michigan State University. Both matches are set for a noon start.
Basketball enters as No.4 seed in tournament

The past 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. To 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 Maryers 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 Panthers committed six errors this past weekend with half of them coming from veterans 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 second base this season, shifted over to shortstop on Sunday, booting Julius Gaines to the designated hitter spot.

Thomas was unsure if this would be a regular occurrence moving forward. Gaines, however, isn’t just how important it was to locate pitchers against this Ole Miss team.

“Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you,” Franco said. “They just don’t want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball.”

FIU has not been a four starter pitcher then you’re going to have a difficult time winning a baseball game.

Start Mike Franco, who had the best of all the Panther pitchers this past weekend, having at one point sat down 11 straight Rebel batters, understood just how important it was to locate pitches against this Ole Miss team.

“Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you,” Franco said. “They just don’t want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball.”

FIU travels up to Deland, Fla., to play Stetson University (3-6) today. The Panthers will be looking to snap a four-game losing streak and get back on track.

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 15 innings.

The FIU bats can’t rebel against Ole Miss pitching. The next two games involved more of the same for FIU, simply bad pitching and shaky defense. Rebels Mike Maryers 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 Panthers 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 second base this season, shifted over to shortstop on Sunday, booting Julius Gaines to the designated hitter spot.

Thomas was unsure if this would be a regular occurrence moving forward. Gaines, however, isn’t just how important it was to locate pitchers against this Ole Miss team.

“Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you,” Franco said. “They just don’t want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball.”

FIU has not been a four starter pitcher then you’re going to have a difficult time winning a baseball game.

Start Mike Franco, who had the best of all the Panther pitchers this past weekend, having at one point sat down 11 straight Rebel batters, understood just how important it was to locate pitches against this Ole Miss team.

“Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you,” Franco said. “They just don’t want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball.”

FIU travels up to Deland, Fla., to play Stetson University (3-6) today. The Panthers will be looking to snap a four-game losing streak and get back on track.

Panther bats can’t rebel against Ole miss pitching

FRANCISCO RIVERO
Staff Writer

The past 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 Maryers 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 Panthers 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 second base this season, shifted over to shortstop on Sunday, booting Julius Gaines to the designated hitter spot.

Thomas was unsure if this would be a regular occurrence moving forward. Gaines, however, isn’t just how important it was to locate pitches against this Ole Miss team.

“Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you,” Franco said. “They just don’t want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball.”

FIU has not been a four starter pitcher then you’re going to have a difficult time winning a baseball game.

Start Mike Franco, who had the best of all the Panther pitchers this past weekend, having at one point sat down 11 straight Rebel batters, understood just how important it was to locate pitches against this Ole Miss team.

“Ole Miss is just one of those teams that are going to go out there and battle you,” Franco said. “They just don’t want to strike out, they find a way to put the ball in play and they have a good eye for the ball.”

FIU travels up to Deland, Fla., to play Stetson University (3-6) today. The Panthers will be looking to snap a four-game losing streak and get back on track.
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 for school out of pocket. Du Jour mentioned that FIU stressed how to pay for her courses and about loans but has never mentioned the 1098-T form.

“They didn’t tell me what options I have,” said Du Jour.

Du Jour has one job that attempts to cover about “60 percent” of her college expenses and admits that most of her checks go toward her college bills. “I can’t do the things I want,” said Du Jour.

Some students receive financial aid but still have to come out of pocket for expenses.

“I have grants but it’s not enough sometimes. I have to work,” said Oscar Cifuentes, sophomore psychology major. Cifuentes, who pays 30-40 percent of his tuition bill out of pocket, believes that FIU should have “more work-study opportunities” to help students pay for their college expenses.

Some students have to accumulate debt in order to fund their education.

Jennifer Rye, a sophomore English major whose parents used to pay for her education before a sudden change in income, said she had to accept an unsubsidized loan in order to fund her education.

“I felt bad at first [about having a loan],” Rye said but mentioned later on that without her loan, she wouldn’t be able to earn her degree by paying out of pocket.

Rye also felt that FIU should post more educational material about the scholarships and grants they offer; she also mentioned that FIU has financial aid opportunities, one just has to look for it.

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 or be in case scholarships don’t come through,” said Mieses.

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

- bhc@fiusm.com

Students to “get their country on” at the bay

JENNIFER SANS  Contributing Writer

Cowboy boots may not only help warm Miamician’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 be hosting their Country Throw Down in Panther Square at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Vice President of the SPC, Cristi Mires, 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 for country music artists Chris Young and James Otto!”

- bhc@fiusm.com

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.