Vending machines causing headaches throughout campus

NATASHA ROQUE  Contributing Writer

Numerous complaints have been filed from students to FIU’s Business Services recently regarding several issues and instances of malfunction in regards to vending machines on both the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay campuses.

“The vending machines are completely unrepairable,” said Sergio Rubio, sophomore advertising major. “Sometimes the vending machine simply doesn’t dispense what I’m trying to buy, but also in the past when I’ve swiped my credit card I have later found incorrect charges from the machines when reviewing my bank statement.”

FIU currently houses a wide host of vending machines throughout MMC, BBC and the Engineering Campus. These machines are located throughout all campus recreational facilities, student housing areas, academic and administrative buildings.

“Periodically, customers have issues with the vending machines failing to vend products. Most complaints stem from connectivity issues with the credit card readers, which connect via cellular networks,” said Jeff Krablin, assistant vice president of FIU Business Services.

While most machines operate on cash basis, several of the machines accept credit cards. According to Krablin, Business Services is actively working with its business partners to install new readers on vending machines that will take the FIU One Card as well.

The University obtains certain income from its in-house vending machines, known as “concession funds.”

Concession funds offer financial support to on-campus activities and facilities set forth by the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. According to the official University policy, this includes academic programs, Student Life programs, and faculty, staff, fellows, students, and support activities pertaining to the university and several of its organizations.

However, reports of frequent vending machine issues with the vending machines pose a serious deterrent for the continuation of this scholarly advancement.

“I’ve swiped my card on the vending machine on the Maidique Campus. He said that the machine would not take his card when he swiped it,” said Michael Yohn, sophomore business administration major.

“Sometimes the vending machine malfunctions, and I have to go to another machine to get my item. This is frustrating.”

Kevin Palmer, sophomore engineering major, expressed frustration with the vending machines at the Modesto Maidique Campus. He said that the machine would not take his card when he swiped it.

“I have a lot of road trips during my college education and during the trip I can’t sleep well when the vending machines are malfunctioning,” said Andres Bedoy-A/THE BEACON

Match Day brings agony and ecstasy to students

ALYSSA ELSO  Contributing Writer

Sitting patiently, waiting to hear your name be called can be one of the most difficult things to do. The seconds become minutes, the minutes become hours, time seems to slow down to a screeching halt.

“I was so nervous sitting in my seat waiting, I was sweating; I was the last person called,” said medical student Daniel Castellanos.

But once your name is called, it can be the most exhilarating feeling in the world.

“Now I am going to Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles to study pediatrics, I can hardly wait,” said Castellanos.

FIU’s first-ever graduating class of medical school students celebrated their first “Match Day” on Friday, March 15.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s inaugural class of 33 medical students anxiously waited for their names to be called at Friday’s ceremony, waiting to walk on stage and open envelopes that would tell them where the next few years of their lives would be spent.

“I hardly slept this week waiting for this moment,” said Castellanos.

Match Day, the day medical students around the nation find out where they will be going for the next phase of their training: the specialized program known as residency.

Leading up to Match Day, each student lists, in order of preference, the residency program that he or she would like to attend and each residency program then ranks its applicants in order of their own preferences.

The National Resident Matching Program then uses a computer algorithm to place students in the program that is right for them.

“Match day is an important day for the College of Medicine and for students alike, it is the first match day for FIU, and will determine the Kovens Conference Center front desk. FIU’s Engineering Campus keeps its one refund bank at Engineering Center 2425.

“Business Services is continuously working to improve the quality of service to the community,” said Krablin. “To improve the connectivity of the credit card readers, we are working with our business partners to upgrade the software and hardware to better capture the already limited cell reception across campus.”

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Elections code changes brings booths and parties

PHILIPPE BUTEAU  Editor-in-Chief

With campaigning underway and voting five weeks away, there are new rules regulating both old and new aspects of student government elections: political parties and voting.

A new aspect of elections is the ability of a group of students to form political parties, and for those parties to support one or multiple candidates.

While political parties were technically already accounted for in SGA’s statutes since April 2011 because of an amendment, there weren’t regulations on forming parties, membership of parties, their campaigning for and money spent on candidates.

“I see nothing wrong with it, so there’s nothing I would particularly change,” said William-Jose Victor, president of Coalition of Students for Reform in an interview with Student Media in fall 2011 about the reform to the elections code.

“That said, the issue at hand with political parties is not whether there should be, but how they will be registered.”

Victor’s issue is no longer at hand as reforms to the elections code specify how students can form and register political parties.

Students can freely form political parties, but they must follow the registration processes for all student organizations to form one. Parties must register with the Elections Commission and the Council for Student Organizations at the Modesto Maidique campus.

There is no membership requirements for political parties such as a minimum number of chairpersons or candidates. Political parties are bound by the same limitations and periods established for candidates; no new or special rules need to be made.

In terms of financing campaigns, political parties can only donate up to $5,000.

After candidates spend their campaign money, it will be time for students to vote. Unlike in previous years, voting will take place at designated voting booths at various locations around MMC.

The Elections Commission Reform Act of 2012, SB 1210, designated seven polling locations for votes to two or five volunteers to oversee the voting process.

The elections does not explicitly outlaw students voting online, while at home or in class, but it does say to vote students must present valid student identification to the poll worker.

A few students thought the addition of voting booths is more responsible and would make elections more fair, others feel it takes away from the convenience of voting online and wouldn’t change anything.

“It gets rid of the convenience but it ensures a more honest process,” said Deyas Abraham, freshman and business administration major.

“As long as people know, I think the change overall would be good,” said Gabriel Rubio, freshman and computer science major.

Anthony Francisco, senior and international relations major, believes voting booths is a good addition because of who would vote.

“The people who vote are more informed and they are the people who follow government,” Francisco said.

Joshua Mullenite, senior and geography major, “conscientiously abstained” from the 2012 elections, only voting for the green energy fund. He doesn’t believe the addition of voting booths will have any changes on student government.

“Regardless of changes to voting rules it will still be a popularity contest,” Mullenite said. “They will still have their friends voting for them and they will push people to vote.”

-philippe.bateau@fiu.edu
The Pakistan Taliban on Monday with drew their offer of holding peace talks with the government, saying that the authorities were not serious about following through with negotiations.

The Taliban statement came as a pair of suicide bombers attacked a court complex in the northwestern city of Peshawar. One of the attackers was shot to death, but the other detonated his explosives in a packed courtroom, killing four people and wounding over 40 in the attack.

Central African Republic rebels threaten new fight

A coalition of rebel groups that signed a peace accord with the Central African Republic govern ment two months ago is now threatening to take up arms again if a list of demands is not met by Wednesday, a move that threatens to derail efforts to stabilize the country.

The ultimatum came as the rebels also decided to hold back their five government ministers from returning to the capital following weekend talks about the peace process in the town of Sibut.

Delicate diplomacy: Pope meets Argentine president

Pope Francis’ diplomatic skills were put to the test Monday as his political nemesis, Argentine Pres ident Cristina Fernandez, asked him to intervene in the dispute with Britain over the Falkland Islands.

There was no immediate comment from the Vatican as to whether the Argentine-born Francis would accept her request, which was made during his inaugu ral audience with a visiting head of state on the eve of his installation as pope.

For more world news, check out www.FIUSM.com.
Women’s History Month – it’s a necessity

ADRIANNE RICHARDSON Contributing Writer

Whether you know who that March is, Women’s History Month, or if you just don’t care, you should be aware of its existence. It is important to recognize the importance of a month established only 26 years ago.

Most importantly, if it wasn’t for a woman you might not have been here, which is a good enough reason to respect Women’s History Month in my opinion.

Women also suffered tremendously in the late 1800s and early to mid 1900s. The term “all men are created equal” may include women today, but at one point it didn’t.

Throughout history women were seen as inferior to men and evil temptresses, most popularly in the biblical story of Adam and Eve.

A piece of Greek mythology described a woman named Pandora, who opened the forbidden box and forever plagued mankind with unhappiness.

Early Romans viewed women as children – forever inferior to men.

In 1900, Elizabeth and Eliz-abeth Cady Stanton created the American Equal Rights Association in efforts to gain attention to their cause which was gaining women the right to vote. Anthony was arrested in 1872 because she casted a vote which was then deemed “illegal.” Stanton was known for her grit as a writer and using it to gain support for women’s rights.

Anthony and Stanton also worked together on a newspaper called Revolution which was solely based on the unfairness women experienced because they were seen as the weaker sex. Stanton’s life influenced her daughter to continue within her mother’s struggles because women still weren’t seen as equal in the 1900s.

In 1915 Carrie Chapman Catt was the director of National American Woman Suffrage Association and she fought for women’s suffrage on state and federal levels. Her efforts and those before her finally brought about the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

In May 1919 Congress received a vote of two-thirds and thus women had the right to vote.

Women’s History Month is just as important as Black History Month because it is important to never forget what women in the past went through so that we as mothers, sisters, daughters and grandmothers don’t have to suffer today.

Education was also another issue because at one time women weren’t allowed to go to universities.

The first college in the United States to admit women was Franklin College in Lancaster, Pa. which was established in 1787. The first enrollment class consisted of 78 male and 36 female students.

At this point, women could finally receive an education, but the stereotype that they were inferior was still heavily recognized and difficult for them to escape from.

I could only imagine how some women must have felt during those difficult times. If they weren’t respected in society, they probably weren’t respected at home by their husbands either.

Today the law has helped women to receive equal education, the right to vote and the right to work, but society is still trying to find the balance of gender equality.

According to Women’s History Month’s website, in 1878 Women’s History Week was turned into Women’s History Month and since 1995 presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama have a series of proclamations designating March as the celebration of women’s history.

Women’s History Month should be respected by everyone with common sense. You don’t have to agree with it but you must respect it. You.

The University has taken a few steps of its own to recognize the contributions of women and to also bring awareness to the gender divide we still see today.

FIU’s Global Water for Sustainability Program (GLOWs) and the Women’s Studies Center will host “Women and Water: The Role of Gender Equality in Defining Sustainability of Water Resources Management” at 3 p.m. Thursday March 21 in the Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall in the College of Law at Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

This event will celebrate women as well as Water later on.

I highly recommend anyone with doubts towards Women’s History Month and its importance, and those who support it, to come out and be a part of this event. It is open to all FIU students.

Women are important to society. They always have been and always will be.

Maya Angelou said it best, “How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!”

-<opinion@fiusm.com>
Video game violence is debated among students

AARON PADON
Staff Writer

“Absolutely not!” Eric Hernandez, art major, retorted when asked if video game violence causes children to become violent. “I’ve been playing games forever, and the most violent I get is when I drive in Miami,” said Raymond Broder, an English major, after being asked the same question.

“Video games cause violence among youth” is a common phrase heard from the public during the aftermath of many tragic shootings. The same goes for the question of whether or not violent games cause violence.

The debate is as old as the video games themselves – their rise began in the 1980s. In the aftermath of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., the question has risen again and again, leading to the debate and an impasse.

“The only way it could be harmful is unless the environment surrounding the player is equally as harmful,” said Rebecca Scott, a psychology major. “If the player has grown up in an environment of abuse or neglect and uses [video games] as an escape outlet, they might assimilate themselves into the game and have a tough time understanding the real world! Adam Sessler, editor-in-chief and executive producer of Revision3 Games, appeared on Fox News to discuss whether violent video games played a role in the thoughts and actions of children becoming violent.

When asked if the video game industry holds any responsibility in children becoming violent, Sessler said not every game is made for children, and that there has been no official proof that the games desensitize violence.

On the web show, “The Juxtaposition,” host Jim Sterbakoff viewed the video of the 1987 suicide of former treasurer of Pennsylvania, R. Budd Dwyer, as an example of how people are not desensitized to violence. Several viewers complained about the graphical nature of the video and Sterling responded saying that “this proves that video games don’t desensitize players to violence because they have an understanding of reality, versus a fictional world.”

David Wong, an undeclared freshman, recently visited the on-campus Gamestop to pick up copies of “Dead Space 3” and “Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance.” “I have been playing video games since my parents got me a PlayStation 1, and I have played all kinds of video games since then. I will admit that many games in my collection are violent, and I even played them as a kid, but I have never been in a fight, and have never thought about harming another person.” When asked how come he has never been violent, he responded that “his parents taught him “right from wrong.”

Sessler cited moments in history that the argument and blame on a select media was considered dangerous. According to Wertham, Superman was considered a communist and a fascist hero because he was above all mortal beings and was unstoppable. Batman and Robin were possibly homosexuality and Wonder Woman was considered a lesbian for only fighting males, coming from an island of only females, and a possible underlying fact of its own. Even though we didn’t pass out flyers until a couple of days before the show, word of mouth was already out,” said Desorme.

The fashion show began with music by Cameron Claasen, also known as DJ Cam, and “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was sung by Brianna Woods. There were also dance performances by Stevens Clae and Kim Avendano. The first line presented, named “Walk Fierce,” was created by shoe designer Alejandra Smith. The featured bright colored women’s high heels that contained bold designs and patterns. Smith was also a model in the first BSU fashion show, and a good friend of Desorme.

The second line of the night was “Black Cotton Apparel” created by Jude Case. There were also dance performances by Stevens Clae and Kim Avendano. The first line presented, named “Walk Fierce,” was created by shoe designer Alejandra Smith. The line featured bright colored women’s high heels that contained bold designs and patterns. Smith was also a model in the first BSU fashion show, and a good friend of Desorme.

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The video game industry has undergone a similar situation with the founding of the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) which assigns a rating to a video game based on content in the U.S. and Canada, and enforces advertising guidelines for a game as well.

Many large retail stores like Walmart, Best Buy and Gamestop prohibit the sale of unrated video games. Core system owners like Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo will not license games to stores unless they carry an ESRB rating.

“One of the biggest misconceptions is that games are made for kids, which they are not,” said Robert Padres, a history major. “The ESRB rating tells you what the game is for. For example, if it’s not kids buying these games, their parents are. A kid can’t walk into a Gamestop and buy “Dead Space 3” unless they carry an ESRB rating. For, and it’s not kids buying these games, they’re parents are. A kid can’t walk into a Gamestop and buy “Dead Space 3” unless they carry an ESRB rating. For, and it’s not kids buying these games, they’re parents are. A kid can’t walk into a Gamestop and buy “Dead Space 3” unless they carry an ESRB rating.

In a short time, however, the Comics Magazine Association of America was founded to start the Comics Code Authority. The CCA’s job was to edit and censor any and all comic books published in the US to make sure that the material was safe for children. However, in the late 70’s and early 80s, many comic companies abandoned the CCA in favor of an in-house rating system.

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Kiarostami’s film is an intimate glimpse into the idea of romance

Taking his time to set up his film as per usual, Abbas Kiarostami spends the first portion of “Like Someone in Love” introducing Akiko, played by Rin Takanashi, a young woman in Japan who works as a call girl.

The same limited camera techniques for back and forth conversations that once bothered me in “Taste of Cherry” are brought back here, and yet they’re endlessly more engaging this time around. In the opening scene alone, the atmosphere of the club from one angle to another is nicely contrasted against Akiko entirely on her own in the other. The bright backdrop of Japan shows nicely in long takes within cars focused mainly on Rin Takanashi’s face.

Glimpses of Akiko’s life are revealed through the simplest things: stories she tells, voicemails she listens to, and even the way her expression and mood change in the presence of different people. It’s a role that gives Takanashi a wide range of emotions to explore. Her first encounter with her client alone shows her at ease in a new place. It’s a big difference to the guilt ridden woman she was mere hours before while driving past her grandmother, who has become only a frustrating memory of the life she once knew. “Like Someone in Love” begins to unfold nicely after Akiko arrives at her esteemed client’s apartment. When she tries to coax her client, Watarabe Takashi, played by Tadashi Okuno, into bed, the immediate lack of comfort is clear in his expression and body language. The way Kiarostami shoots the long take in his bedroom in particular is amazing, only focusing on his disinterest in anything sexual with Akiko, while she remains shrouded in the reflection of a television screen.

This is followed immediately by Takashi moving around his apartment, reflecting on his feelings for the woman in his bedroom, who looks so familiar to other women he once knew, as Ellis Fitzgerald’s “Like Someone in Love” plays. From this point on, character focus changes from Akiko to Takashi, and what was once assumed as a sexual relationship between the two turns into something entirely different.

Takashi respects her and Akiko respects him, and he finds himself caring for her as a member of his own family. The emphasis of this relationship comes when confronted by her overbearing and abusive fiancé, as he even takes on the false role of her grandfather.

The ambiguity of a relationship is something that Kiarostami explored in “Certified Copy,” but the lines of this one in particular are far less blurred. Regardless, it’s fascinating to watch the view the two interact and have an effect on each other’s lives.

Kiarostami takes a slow and steady approach to everything within his film, closing things out with an abrupt and impressive final act. It’s not a directional style that everyone is fond of, as I haven’t been a fan of some of his former works, and interest in “Like Someone in Love” is ultimately reliant on the story and characters presented. This study of relationships and romance is an appealing one, especially as it deals with ideas and feelings rather than concrete facts.

Everyone in this little story that Kiarostami presents is under the idea that they are in love. This illusion of romance drives the characters and their interactions, no matter how crazy they are, placing them all in the compromising but fascinating position of someone in love.

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JUAN BARQUIN

Black Student Union has successful fashion show

The Beacon – Wednesday, March 20, 2013

The Black Student Union had its first fashion show of the semester on Wednesday, March 13, at the Student Union Ballroom. The fashion show was a great success, bringing together students, faculty, and staff to support the BSU.

The event started with a speech by BSU President Andrelle Johnson, who thanked everyone for their support and encouraged them to keep the BSU active. Following the speech, the fashion show began with a series of runway shows featuring models from the BSU, as well as visitors from the FIU community.

The fashion show featured a variety of outfits, including dresses, suits, and pantsuits from different designers. The outfits were designed by students and faculty members, and they showcased the diversity of styles and cultures at FIU.

At the end of the show, there was a Q&A session where the audience had the opportunity to ask questions about the fashion industry and the BSU. The session was moderated by BSU Vice President Samantha Jackson.

The BSU fashion show was a great success, and it was a great way to kick off the spring semester. The BSU is planning to have more events throughout the year, and they encourage everyone to support them and their upcoming events.

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JUAN BARQUIN

FASHION, PAGE 2

The clothing that I observed at the fashion show was very versatile and stylish. The outfits were designed by students and faculty members, and they showcased the diversity of styles and cultures at FIU.

The fashion show featured a variety of outfits, including dresses, suits, and pantsuits from different designers. The outfits were designed by students and faculty members, and they showcased the diversity of styles and cultures at FIU.

One of the highlights of the fashion show was the line created by Jabian Jenkins, which was called “The Clothing That I Observed.” The line featured high-end fashion for both men and women.

Another line that caught my attention was “The Black Student Union Fashion Show,” which was designed by Reginald Joseph. The line featured custom pieces from designer Geoffery Skeete, such as funky blazers and jackets for both men and women.

The fashion show received a lot of positive feedback from audience members.

“The clothing that I observed at the fashion show was definitely something I could see myself wearing, there was a nice blend of different styles,” said Reginald Joseph.

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JUAN BARQUIN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Health Fee Committee will be holding public hearings on

Thursday, March 28, 2013

GC 150 at 10:00am

Thursday, March 28, 2013

BBC 155 at 2:00pm

The objective of these meetings will be to give interested individuals an opportunity to hear arguments pertaining to the proposed increase to the Health Fee. The amended fee will become effective in the Fall 2013 term. Students and other interested individuals are invited to attend these meetings.

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JUAN BARQUIN

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com

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JUAN BARQUIN
Tennis still mired in slump, drop fifth straight game

STEVEN ROWELL Contributing Writer

Throughout the season, one of the constant messages tennis Head Coach Katarina Petrovic drills into her team is that every player needs to give 100 percent effort out on the court. On Sunday, March 17 that wasn't the case against Winthrop as the Panthers fell 5-2 and to their best when they see their doubles partners not trying their hardest.

I'm still happy for the way we played, but it's still not fair that we try in doubles and not in singles.

Katrina Petrovic Head Coach FIU Tennis

I used to play with her [Maisak] in the fall and in my freshman year, and we used to always play well together and today we played well too," Boha said. "The first set I did not play well at all, I was not happy with it. I told myself, 'What games, ages and positions in singles as senior Magali Holt and freshman Michelle Sabado both lost in straight sets. "It's tough for players to try to play their best when they see their teammates not trying as hard as I am. But I'm still happy for the way we played, but it's still not fair that we try in doubles and not in singles."

It's awesome and honestly he's been the number three position. Jenkins' ERA is also good for seventh in the SBC against Grand Canyon University, FIU sand volleyball has shown signs of promise after finishing off a grueling west coast road trip despite a 2-3 record. The Panthers' sub-.500 record does not accurately reflect their level of play, with two of their three losses separated by just one point. In addition, the Panthers faced three top-5 ranked teams over spring break including No. 1 ranked Pepperdine, No. 2 ranked Hawaii, and No. 5 Pepperdine. Jenkins' ERA has been an exception as they have topped 9.22 innings, only eight fewer than the pitcher in first place. She's tied for first in the SBC in wins and third in strikeouts.

Jenkins was clobbered in her next game by a North Carolina State team that won the season opening tournament. FIU lost the game 11-3 in just five innings after the mercy rule was applied. She gave up six runs in just the first inning of the game.

Not good," Jenkins said. "I definitely helped me, as soon as that game was over I was like, 'Alright, I'm going to sit here and figure it out before the next game. This is not happening to me again.' Ever since then I've been reading this book. It's called "Ten Minute Toughness", it's all about getting my mind the right place and just really feel like it's helped me a lot."

Jenkins can also count on great support from teammate Nick Jenkins, who is the Assistant Pitching Coach for the Cincinnati Reds. Mack was a pitcher in the Reds' Double AA team in the 1980s.

"I remember some games he's been such a good influence on me because he's hard on me, but at the same time he's helped me so much with the mental aspect of it," Jenkins said. "I know I can always talk to him, good or bad, he has something good to say that helps me. When I first started actually, he read some books on softball pitching and first helped me get started with it. He's got a really good eye for mechanics and pitching, so he can always help me with that."

Jenkins is first on the team with an ERA of 2.42. She's also pitched more innings than the next closest pitcher and more than twice as many as the other two pitchers on the team.

In fact, Jenkins is third in the SBC having pitched a total of 92.2 innings, while looking.

Jenkins' ERA is also good for seventh in the conference. But of those pitchers who are ahead of her, only one has pitched more innings than her. She leads the team in winning percentage, wins, innings pitched, strikeouts, appearances, and put batters out without walking.

But her recent rise to success is only a beginning step to what she wants to accomplish. Her main goal is still to win the conference and play for a championship.

"I'd like to win all the conference games that I pitch this year," Jenkins said. "That's a big goal of mine.

Jenkins attributes much of her success to the diligence paid to her by her coaching staff. Head Coach Jake Schumann has done nothing but praise the young pitcher since even before the season started.

With 10 games going this season, Jenkins will look to continue her stellar play and help lead the Panthers to a conference title and a chance at an NCAA championship. -sports@fiusm.com

No.8 sand volleyball is off to a solid start

DANIEL BREY Contributing Writer

Win first game in FIU sand volleyball history: Check. Rank top ten in the nation: Check.

After serving up a 5-0 season-opening sweep against Grand Canyon University, FIU sand volleyball has shown signs of promise after finishing off a grueling west coast road trip despite a 2-3 record. The Panthers' sub-.500 record does not accurately reflect their level of play, with two of their three losses separated by just one point. In addition, the Panthers faced three top-5 ranked teams over spring break including No. 1 ranked Pepperdine, No. 2 ranked Long Beach State, and No. 5 Hawaii.

Much of the Panthers' early season success can be attributed to the exceptional play of Kate Stepanova and her dual partner Maryna Samodow. The duo have won three of their last four matches in duals competition. Stepanova, a former FSU sand volleyball standout, is no stranger to success on the sand courts. During the First American Volleyball Coaches Association Collegiate Sand Volleyball Championships in 2012, Stepanova led a first year Seminoles team to a third-place finish in both overall team and duals categories.

Her transfer to FIU brought much needed expe-
Panthers eye home opener against Tulane

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The year of service to a first-year Panther squad, which, accompanied by her unique leadership ability, has proven beneficial to a roster of consisting of mostly freshmen and sophomores.

“Stepanova is our team leader,” Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett said. “She’s been there, and understands what to expect during a season... Her experience is priceless.”

AN ALL-FIU FINAL IN HAWAII

FIU ended their five-game road trip dominating the Hawaii tournament on March 16, which resulted in an exciting three-set finals matchup between Stepunova/Ksenia Sukhareva, and Jess Mendoza/Samoday, both FIU teams.

Out of a pool of sixteen duals teams hailing from four different schools, both FIU squads dismantled the opposing competition on route to an impressive finals performance. Stepunova and Sukhareva, the winners of the Hawaii tournament, easily handled their first match-up against Chaminade University’s Brenda Walker and Regina Johnson defeating the duo 21-7, and 21-5.

The quarterfinals match was no walk in the park for the duo, as University of Hawaii’s Ali Longo and Karlee Riggs took the match to three sets.

In the semifinals, Stepunova and Sukhareva defeated yet another UH team to reach the finals where they eventually beat Mendoza and Samoday 21-13, 19-21 and 15-7.

BUCK-CROCKETT MIXING AND MATCHING

In hopes of establishing a consistent top-5 duals team, Buck-Crockett has been extremely active in re-arranging players in duals team competition. Buck-Crockett is so active in her role that in every match played this season, not one duals team has stayed intact.

Buck-Crockett has even separated her most effective duals team in Stepanova and Samoday, which evidently, proved successful during last weekend’s Hawaii tournament. As the season prolongs, it will be interesting to see what players Buck-Crockett will pair with freshman standout Emily Podschweit, as the Panthers travel back to Miami to face Webber International University on March 23.

Podschweit, the first recruit out of Colorado in sand volleyball history, has been matched with four different players throughout the season.

Schmidt: Team USA needs to go ‘all in’ to win WBC

MIKE SCHMIDT
AP Staff

Captain America used to be Derek Jeter. Now it’s David Wright, and he had been the star for Team USA until a rib strain ended his stay in the World Baseball Classic.

Wright said he could have played, but the New York Mets said no and demanded he go for tests. That is normal procedure, as Team USA is forced to honor all wishes of a player’s parent club.

Minus Wright, his team mates lost twice and went home. With the U.S. elimination went TV ratings in this country. It also opened a door to study the relevance of the WBC, at least in its current form.

Relevance, maybe. Or need — that may be a better question.

The WBC tournament, as we are led to believe, is designed to promote baseball throughout the world. Asian teams, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands get national TV coverage.

What the world needs from Major League Baseball is not more high-profile competition — rather, its help at the grass-roots level, helping form youth leagues and getting kids interested through proper instruction.

Now, the big question: Why can’t the USA Dream Team walk through this tournament with ease?

With so many Dominican big names playing, he felt obligated.

Team USA was definitely formidable, with high-caliber players at all positions, but not an All-Star roster by any means. The catcher, third baseman, shortstop, right and left fielders would be on an All-Star roster, as would the 1-2 starters and a reliever or two, but that’s about it.

It was basically the same for other competing teams. The Dominican and Puerto Rico had top players, but not MLB All-Stars at all positions. The talent level was very similar, that’s why Team USA loses.

After 2006, the U.S. was pull out all stops to win in 2009. After a loss in the semifinals to Japan, same thing. So the U.S. brought in the heavy artillery this time with Joe Torre & Co.

The U.S. got it done for 3 in 3 WBC opportunities. And maybe it’s time to face the music.

Until Team USA and the MLB clubs vested in winning the WBC by motivating — in some way — the best American players to compete. Team USA will be no different than its competition.
BBC is home to Motorboat Operator Certification Course

MADISON FANTOZI AND STEPHAN USECHE
HUSM Staff

Biscayne Bay Campus serves as the prime location for the Motorboat Operator Certification Course that is offered to both novice and amateur boaters.

The course has been offered for 12 years and is necessary for researchers to drive and assist in operations on a boat. Becoming MOCC qualified allows students to drive motor boat vessels for state and federal programs and agencies, schools and universities.

MOCC is a two-week course, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. divided into theory and practice.

With an average of six students per class, the course offers plenty of one-on-one and hands-on experience. On-water exercises are performed with three students per instructor.

“When students get through with this course, they will have the confidence to take command,” said Captain Robert Weissman, FUU boating safety officer and instructor of the MOCC course.

Weisman teaches the course alongside BICC Marine Operations Manager Captain Bill Chamberlain. According to Weissman, 78 percent of students pass the course.

The students’ final examination consists of three components: a trailer exercise, a boating exercise and a written test.

Before the students can get out on the water, they must undergo a checklist of preparation and procedures.

“There have been cases where students forgot to put in the boot plug and the boat sank at the dock,” Weissman said.

Weisman said patience and decision-making skills are important to be a good crew chief.

“If the weather changes quickly, you have to be able to make that decision to come in and wait for another day,” Weissman said.

The second part of the exam is an on-the-water practical.

“We used to drive to U.S. 1 and 163rd Avenue and have to navigate through all the traffic,” said Weissman. “We would go to the public boat ramp that is very popular.”

BBC is now the home of MOCC’s boat yard and a boat ramp that it shares with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Once on the water, the students undergo simulated scenarios to test their boating and safety skills. These include maneuvering through five buoys in a star-shaped formation, rescuing a dummy and performing CPR and successfully avoiding unexpected obstacles in the boat’s path.

The course appropriately named the dummy Wilson, after the volleyball ball that becomes Tom Hanks’ pal in “Cast Away.”

“We have to pretend that this is a person who fell overboard,” said Sara Jarossy, a student at Nova Southeastern University who works with the U.S. Geological Survey.

“As we are driving, Bob will throw the dummy over the boat and we have to notice.”

The students have to retrieve the dummy from the water and perform CPR while the driver of the boat calls for help and drives to the dock.

Another component of the exam is the student’s driving and team-working skills. One student maneuver a truck, trailer and boat through a “cones course” and another student “spots” the driver.

“If someone is used to driving a VW Bug, putting them behind the wheel of a truck, a trailer and a boat can be quite intimidating,” said Weissman.

Alex Carreno, MOCC instructor trainer said he explains what he expects and wants students to recognize and fix problems themselves.

“If he hits a cone, that’s where I’ll stop and say ‘Hey, you hit the cone. Stop and do it over again,’” said Carreno. “But other than that, I can’t tell him how to do it because he should know at this point.”

The students need motorboat operator certification in their current jobs and for future careers.

MOCC student Kelsey Chambers works with USGS and the University of Florida.

“Right now we rely on other people [to drive the boats], but we want to become self-reliant,” Chambers said. “I am taking this course because I am going to be driving airboats and conducting bird surveys in the Everglades.”

MOCC student Daniel Vega is an FIU sophomore and served four years in the U.S. Coast Guard.

“I am taking this course so I can be able to take scientific researchers out on boats and take them driving to do their research,” Vega said.

The course is currently offered free-of-charge, but does not offer a commercial license or college credit.

In order for MOCC to be a three-credit course, it would have to be proposed to The Office of Academic Affairs and reviewed and approved by academic boards. Weissman said this would take about a year.

“It is the course for people to do their jobs and do it safely,” said Weissman.

SPC’s “Do you think you can dance?”

VINSON PRESSLEY
Staff Writer

So you think you can dance? The Student Program Committee of the Biscayne Bay Campus is having its first dance competition called Do You Think You Can Dance? The deadline to sign up is Friday, March 22.

The competition is open for student solo and group acts and will take place on April 9 at 6 p.m. in the Wolfe Theater at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The event is open to all students and members of the community.

Students who participate in the competition will have the option of working with choreographers for preparation of the show.

According to Judisha Chetty, graduate assistant for Campus Life-BBC, students will have the option of working with choreographers from the Dancing with the Wolfe series but it isn’t mandatory for preparation for the show.

However, students must have their choreography ready and attend the orientation on Friday, March 29 in ballrooms 223-223 in the Wolfe University Center.

There are clear parallels between SPC’s dance competition and the talent shows viewers tune into every week.

“According to Chetty, this event was born out of ‘pop culture’ and talent shows such as ‘So You Think You Can Dance?’ SPC’s event will be similar to the popular TV show; there will be judges and prizes given to the winning contestants. SPC plans to have a host and DJ but it has not been determined who will fulfill those duties yet according to Chetty.

None of the students have choreographed before or been part of a competition. Murali believes that students will have a chance to showcase their talents and express themselves through dancing while also having the chance to receive recognition.

Jade Martinicuk, freshman business major who also danced with Hip Hop Kids for six years, likes the idea of FUU having its first dance competition.

It will give everyone a chance to “work and play together,” said Martinicuk, “I dance to let loose and enjoy myself.”

Nikoufar Firoozit-Baadoory, a sophomore biology major who also knows how to belly dance, thinks SPC’s dancing competition will be interesting and fun.

It is the people who least expects, Firoozit-Baadoory said, who will compete. Given that FUU is international, the competition will probably have very diverse acts and performances.

SPC is aware of how popular these shows are and encourages students to express their ideas for shows and events.

Chetty recommended that students voice their opinions about what they want to see and that SPC is open to all suggestions.