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Cuban-Americans in Congress reclaim battle on Cuba

FRANCO ORDONZE
 McClatchy Washington Bureau TNS Staff

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio’s presidential flame-out was a big blow to Cuban-Americans who want to reverse the U.S. rapprochement with Cuba. But his Cuban-American colleagues in Congress promise they’ll carry on the fight against President Barack Obama’s maneuvering around the U.S. embargo with Cuba.

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart acknowledged that Rubio, the most prominent critic of the White House Cuba policy, quitting the race had hurt hopes that, if elected president, he could reverse the unilateral steps already made.

But Diaz-Balart said he and his congressional colleagues had never stopped working to ensure that the public understood the reality of life in Cuba.

“Rubio is going to be missed because of his talent, because he’s been extremely effective,” he said. “But we’ve been winning these battles pre-Rubio. We’ll continue to win them post-Rubio.”

South Florida Republicans such as Diaz-Balart and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen have long maintained their uncompromising positions against Cuba, but questions remain whether they and other Cuban-American politicians have the political capital to stop Obama and his aggressive push to end more than a half-century of hostility with the island nation.

Rubio’s loss in the Florida primary and the lack of outcry over Obama’s policies reflect changes in how much of the population, including in Florida, sees the Cuba issue.

“They still have their constituencies,” said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue research center in Washington, said of the South Florida politicians. “Their voices are there, but they don’t have the following that they once had. Now they’re alone.”

The once dependable hard-line community has softened on Cuba.

Polling by Florida International University’s Cuban Research Institute has followed that evolution from 1991, when 87 percent supported the embargo, to 2014, when 52 percent favored lifting it.

Shifter noted that only a small crowd gathered in protest in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood, the heart of anti-Castro sentiment, after Obama and Cuban leader Raul Castro announced the start of bilateral relations on Dec. 17, 2014.

Since the announcement, the administration has relaxed travel restrictions, eliminated limits on remittances and allowed American companies to sell to Cuba on credit.

Ben Rhodes reiterated Wednesday that the administration aimed to make “innovations of relations with Cuba irreversible.”

William LeoGrande, a Latin America specialist at the American University School of Public Affairs, argues that Diaz-Balart and Ros-Lehtinen can no longer count on as many Republican colleagues as they did.

It is not clear to whom they can turn to support their own business constituents interested in doing business on the island.

“Just don’t think there are any major national Republican events that have not stake in going back to the old policy,” LeoGrande said.

Diaz-Balart disputes that there is a lack of congressional support for stopping the Cuba rapprochement. In the past two years, he said, members of

NADINE MATAS
Staff Writer

This month the Men Achieving Leadership Excellence and Success posed a question to FIU students: “Are You Smarter than the Opposite Sex?”

The same name was hosted in GC 316 on March 7.

“M.A.L.E.S. is an outlet for growth. It strives to instill a sense of personal and professional development in minority men,” said Rorey Cowen, a senior information technology major. He helped organize the event as the CSO Representative on the M.A.L.E.S. executive board.

“The event title is not meant to insult anyone, or cause issues, if anything it will help us in starting a conversation,” he said.

The game was divided in three rounds: The Brain Teaser, Jeopardy, and the Family Feud round.

The room was split into men and women who then would have to work together, within their teams, to win the challenges.

Rorey Cowen, a senior majoring in information technology, and Cassandre Joseph, a second year nursing major, table for the M.A.L.E.S. “Battle of the Sexes” game night.

He says that seeking male involvement on campus is difficult. According to Cowen, for every one male that comes out to an event there are 10 females.

The main reason they used the name was to “ignite a sense of friendly competition.”

Cowen says that though they have no promises, by participating in M.A.L.E.S. events, they would like to increase the number of men who are a part of their organization.

“We wanted to get guys out [to this event],” he said in reference to picking the event name. He believes it was also a friendly “dare” for students to take the challenge and would inspire more men to prove their intelligence while developing team working skills.

“We try to tailor to the standard guy’s needs. We work with them to help them develop from the bottom up. We don’t expect them to come in a three piece suit from the start, but at the end of the experience we hope we can help them reach that goal,” said Cowen.

According to Cowen, M.A.L.E.S. has casual meetings, with no compromises, to get participants to stay with organization with the goal to develop themselves into a professional and well-rounded individual.

“We always welcome women as well, they keep us grounded,” he said.

Cassandre Joseph, a second year nursing major, spoke about the challenge of participating in the event itself.

She said, “I think the guys may have learned not to underestimate the girls,” who participated in the event.

Avoiding eye contact and even then I won. They know now to not underestimate us. It was a lesson in teamwork for all of us. And it was fun to learn new things about the opposite sex.”

Throughout the evening, more students showed up to partake in the event.

Rashaad Perry-Patterson, a junior in political science and law, reflected upon the aftermath of the event. As Vice-President of the organization, he told Student Media that he and the M.A.L.E.S. executive board were content with the results of the evening.

“This is a prime example of the type of atmosphere we can have when we set aside ‘gender wars,’ and just come together as one community. There was tension in the air, but good tension, because both teams respected the other side, to the inner emotion of wanting to win was shown,” said Perry-Patterson.

“Men and women can be in the same space, learn together and grow together, even events that are not considered ‘educational’ but social,” said Joseph.

The only reason we should ever split ourselves according to genders, should be to play games,” said Parry-Patterson.

He said, “However in our everyday experience, it will only take a combining effort from all men and women to progress and achieve. Encouraging the ‘gender wars’ mentality within our community, outside of this event, will have a negative impact on how we view each other, respect each other and maybe even work with each other in the future. I view myself as someone who supports women, in addition to someone who would like to see more cohesive interactions like the one we experienced at Battle of the Sexes.”

M.A.L.E.S. hosts Battle of the Sexes

Cuban-Americans in Congress reclaim battle on Cuba
California seeks more minority college grads

In 15 years, California expects to be about 1.1 million college graduates short of the number needed to fill jobs that require at least a bachelor’s degree. Already, the nation’s most populous state is a minority-majority state, one in which racial and ethnic minorities comprise more than half the population. And blacks, Hispanics and American Indians not only are less likely to go to college, but their graduation rates are also lower than that of whites. California is a bellwether for a nation that is becoming more diverse, whose economy is demanding a better educated workforce, and whose state colleges and universities are increasingly pressured to deliver it, which means making sure minorities, especially African-Americans, finish school and get degrees.

Free Speech conviction upheld

MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Washington Bureau
TNS Staff

The nation’s highest military appeals court has upheld the court-martial conviction of a Missouri man whose racist-sounding diatribe against President Barack Obama raised tough free speech questions.

The former soldier, who at one point claimed to have considered blowing up Missouri’s KC Link station, forced a closely divided U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to clarify the government’s ability to censor and silence soldiers.

“The right of free speech in the armed services is not unlimited and must be brought into balance with the paramount consideration of providing an effective, cohesive force for the defense of our country,” Judge Kevin A. Olson noted.

In a 3-2 decision released Friday, the military appeals court rejected defense arguments that the First Amendment protected Eric L. Rapert, of Sikeston, in southeastern Missouri, when he railed against Obama on the night of the 2012 election.

In ruling against Rapert, the court also distinguished the Uniform Code of Military Justice from federal law, whose ambiguities prompted the Supreme Court in 2015 to dismiss the conviction of a Pennsylvania man who posted racist-sounding statements on his Facebook page. The military court found that the military justice code already required a determination of Rapert’s state of mind, something the U.S. Supreme Court said was lacking in the Pennsylvania case, where the defendant had alleged his postings were fictitious.

“The [military’s] requirement that the government prove that an accused’s statement was wrong before it was not made in good faith, or for an innocent or legitimate purpose, prevents the criminalization of otherwise protected free speech conduct,” Olson wrote.

Rapert was an Army enlisted man with the rank of specialist who was serving in Hawaii at the time of the 2012 presidential campaign. On election night, he voiced increasing dismay about Obama winning re-election.

“Specialist Rapert was convinced by the fact his home state could vote for someone other than Romney, given how important gun rights are to Missourians and the favorable rating Missouri’s state of mind. This avoided the ‘infirmities’ in the federal law, which required a state of mind,” Olson wrote.

In dissent, Judge Scott W. Stacey wrote that in the military justice code, “wrongful” has not been used to refer to state of mind but has been predominantly defined to mean either “without legal justification or authority” or “contrary to law, regulation, lawful order or custom.”

With Rubio out, the battle on Cuba continues

CUBA, PAGE 1

The house of Representatives roundly supported legislation against the changes in Cuba policies that would fund for certain commercial flights and licenses of marine vessels.

“They’re not doing anything to help those poor people.” Panorama said of the changes. “This is the bottom line. Look at the facts. What they’re doing is incentivizing and doing business with the Cuban military.”

While Republican presidential candidate Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, whose father is from Cuba, also has spoken out against Obama’s Cuba policies, Cruz said yes, then pivoted to other foreign policy issues such as Iran.

But the Cuban-Americans in Congress are largely united.

The day after Rubio bowed out of the presidential race, Sen. Bob Menendez D-N.J., and Ros-Lehtinen took to their chamber floors to voice opposition to Obama’s planned trip to Cuba. Next week, Obama will become the first U.S. president to set foot in Cuba in almost 90 years.

“The president’s meeting with civil society is such a low benchmark, the official Cuban newspaper Granma stated of Cuba’s visit destroys the myth that Cuba violates human rights,” Ros-Lehtinen said on the floor. “The leader of the free world has chosen a legacy-shopping photo op over a baseball game with a murderer and a thug.”

Menendez spoke nearly 40 minutes on the Senate floor Wednesday giving a point-by-point critique of Obama’s policy changes.

Menendez told McClatchy that he is the president of violating his promise not to visit Cuba unless there were tangible improvements in respect for human rights.

“The president has the bully pulpit of the nation, so he can paint broad pictures but that picture is totally inaccurate,” Menendez told the judge. “And in many cases simply not true.”
The Bachelor sets unrealistic standards

The hit reality television show “The Bachelor,” which made its debut March 25, 2002 has captured the attention of millions across the nation. Following a successful first season, several spin-offs have been created including “The Bachelorette,” “Bachelor Pad” and “Bachelor in Paradise.”

After watching quite a few seasons of “The Bachelor,” the more convinced I am that the “reality” show perpetrates unrealistic standards of beauty and relationships to not only viewers, but also to the contestants themselves.

“The Bachelor,” hosted by Chris Harrison, focuses on one eligible bachelor and his journey to find “love.” Typically, a pool of 25 women is selected to partake in this process, which is probably the reason the show has garnered controversy over the years.

Throughout the season, the bachelor ventures on a series of group, one on one and eventually hometown dates with the remaining women. In addition to the series of dates, the bachelor eliminates candidates typically during the infamous “rose ceremony” which gathers all the contestants together.

Much of these eliminations, however, occur outside of the rose ceremony. Among the overwhelming fact that there are around 25 women participating in this process, the eliminations of the show initially stirs the pot. This is where my critique begins. From the very first episode, the women and the bachelor are almost always made up and well dressed. This suggests that both women and men must always appear their absolute best at all times in order to meet, engage and sustain a relationship with their significant other.

In terms of the dating process, contestants go on extravagant dates with the bachelor in exotic locations, attend cocktail parties and are essentially competing for a potential husband in the midst. All are dynamics, which do not in any way reflect what an average couple may experience. Essentially the contestants experience a heightened reality dictated by the bachelor himself and the producers.

Although the luxurious locations, latest clothing styles and the carefully casted contestants may seem interesting, I urge viewers to be more aware of the many dynamics at play.

On the Scene is a commentary on the hottest pop culture topics. For further commentary, contact Gabrielle Garcia at gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com.

Elephant in the room is a column where issues affecting students, Valentine Del Pino is a contributing writer for the Beacon. For further commentary contact Valentina at opinion@fiusm.com.

Regulations killed the hoverboard trend

A few months back, hoverboards were all over FIU’s campus. With or without loud speakers, zebra print or regular plain paint, hoverboards could be seen rolling to and from class, crossing the streets or being ridden in the elevators.

This board, manipulated by the weight put in the heels or toes, goes as fast as 12 miles per hour. A fall from it can lead to severe injury.

The trick is simple: Get off the board by taking a step back, not forward because that’s how you lose your balance and fall.

When cheaply made hoverboards started catching fire, exploding while being charged or even while being used, these balance boards made it into national news.

The public was advised not to leave them charging overnight since houses were catching on fire while families were asleep. Even though this scared people big time and videos of hoverboards exploding surfaced like crazy on the Internet, this didn’t keep the public from buying them. It did spark controversies about safety though, going as far to having them banned from being carried on airplanes.

With this “hover-boom,” regulations had to be made in order to keep it under control.

Some cities have decided to treat these boards as if they were skateboards while others, like Florida, decided to put age regulations in place and require a helmet in order to use them. If these regulations aren’t followed the culprit could be fined up to $250.

FIU also passed regulations on the hoverboards, prohibiting students from charging them on campus and having them in the dorms.

When I received my hoverboard for Christmas, it took me two days to trust the machine. To my little cousin, it was a matter of 15-20 minutes.

When I finally got comfortable with the board, I realized how difficult it is to use outside. A little rock in my path would send me flying a few feet away.

This board is extremely heavy, 22 lbs on top of a book bag to carry with you all day is a lot to take care of.

Indeed, it’s a cool gadget to have if you live in a one floor house without a carpet. It gives you a cool sensation of levitation but it’s definitely not worth the $400 to $800 dollars.

The weight of the board makes it difficult to transport and you have to have good equilibrium to be able to handle it outside.

This spring semester, the trend has definitely dissipated with all the regulations by FIU and the State.

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Nature Preserve vote breeds distrust and disappointment

This editorial board is thoroughly disappointed with FIU.

Monday, March 21, FIUSM published the news that the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the construction of two practice fields atop one-third of the Nature Preserve.

This decision came about in the midst of student protest, petition and controversy. As students of this university, we wonder if this institution has our best interests at heart or whether our desires fall on deaf ears.

This entire process was, from the start, a losing battle. Students and faculty were informed too late to properly address the issue, and President Rosenberg tried too late to quell resentment from student protesters.

Although there can be value found in the new practice fields for student athletes, it seems to us more evidence of FIU’s prioritization of sports over education, conservation and other forms of life-enrichment. We wonder if all athletes will benefit from these new fields, as well, especially the FIU track team, which still has no place on campus to call their own.

Understanding that the Preserve will eventually be expanded to the south in order to replace the reallocated land, we have concerns regarding the potential approach for quantity over quality. The Nature Preserve has an established ecosystem of diverse wildlife. Any construction could disrupt current systems to the detriment of the entire Preserve.

Wildlife relocation, especially when regarding the relocation of a major water source, is complex. We can only hope that there are plans in place to mitigate the change to the environment so that there is not too much stress on the ecology of the Preserve.

These kinds of occurrences are cause for distrust in a university by its students. We can only hope that FIU can rebuild that trust.

Until then, FIUSM will continue to keep readers updated on the progress of the construction, as well as other pressing matters in the university community.
getting through the day on little to no sleep

Laura Lea Goldberg
NotSoSelf.com

As a certified holistic chef, it’s humbling to admit that one major aspect of health continues to elude me: sleep. I’ve battled insomnia for the last 10 years, trying every Western, Eastern, prescription, OTC and home remedy imaginable. Some work for spas of time, but ultimately, I’ve accepted that my sleep is consistently inconsistent.

I’ve also become fed up with the innumerable articles, books and expert opinions about the importance of sleep. The people who benefit from this barrage of literature are those who can sleep well but just don’t make or have the time. For us insomniacs, it’s all just salt in the wound. Trust me, no one understands the importance of sleep better than an insomniac.

That’s why I’ve decided to approach my sleep struggles with a new tactic. Instead of spending precious energy on fixing my sleep during the night, I’ve turned my attention to the best ways to manage my sleeplessness in the morning.

Through research and ample personal experience, I’ve gathered countless tips for optimizing productivity and happiness when I’m suffering from exhaustion. I certainly don’t advocate skipping your zzzs if you can help it, but I’ve also learned that poor sleep doesn’t need to ruin your life.

Following these suggestions won’t make your fatigue disappear completely, but it can seriously combat the damage and help you get through your day.

1. Veto Coffee

Don’t shoot the messenger. Coffee has the tendency to jack up our stress hormones, which exacerbates the less-than-ideal condition of exhaustion. Plus, coffee can suppress appetite, encouraging you to rely on its “fake” form of energy instead of real nourishment from food.

If you’re die-hard about having it, drink a small cup paired with a healthy fat or protein. Adding a little almond or coconut milk can also mitigate some of the jittery effects.

2. Make This Refreshing Concoction Instead

OK, this is technically something to do the night before, but I swear by it. In the evening, steep 2 cups of hot water with your favorite herbal tea, add the juice from one half of a lemon, and 1 to 2 drops stevia (optional). Refrigerate overnight, and this cooling, hydrating beverage will invigorate you in the a.m.

Caffeine isn’t the only way to be energized. Check out the uplifting benefits of some of my favorite herbal teas:

- Ginger’s “zing” factor wakes up your senses.
- Licorice has been shown to replenish the adrenals, which can increase energy.
- Rosehip and gingko can also have a rejuvenating effect.

3. Blast Your Favorite Upbeat Music

When you wake up, switch your phone off the airplane mode setting (that you should be using while you sleep!) and hit play on your favorite Spotify jam. When you’re feeling crummy, hearing a song you love can instantly boost your mood and put a reluctant smile on your face. It’s like getting tickled, but in your ears.

4. Take a Shower and Finish with 30 Seconds of Cold Water

If you can bear it, a short stint in a cold shower will get your blood flowing and increase your alertness. Bonus: Cold showers have also been shown to improve your tolerance to stress and boost circulation. And really, you can do anything for 30 seconds!

5. Eat Within an Hour of Waking Up

When you’re wiped out, your body is automatically in a state of stress, pumping out cortisol and adrenaline to make up for a natural lack of energy. Waiting too long to eat is going to force those hormones to work even harder, and this is a one-way ticket to carb cravings, foul moods, and energy crashes all day long.

6. Make a Blood Sugar-Friendly Plate

If you nail these guidelines when choosing your breakfast, you’ll have sustained energy to power your sleepy self through the morning.

- Keep sugar content moderate to low, even the natural kind from fruit and honey.
- Add healthy fats from foods such as avocados, coconut, or grass-fed butter.
- Include protein from pastured eggs, organic nut butter, grass-fed lean meats, or quality protein powders.

Some ideas:

- 2 pastured eggs fried in grass-fed butter with a side of leftover veggies
- Smoothie with avocado, frozen banana, handful of spinach, splash of vanilla extract, 2 to 3 drops stevia, 1/3 cup almond milk and a cup of water
- Apple sprinkled with cinnamon and dipped in almond butter
- 3 table spoons chia seeds mixed with 1 cup light coconut milk, 1 teaspoon honey and set overnight. Top with berries in the morning.

7. Fake It ’Til You Make It

I know it can seem like an impossible task to put on makeup when you can barely stop yawning long enough to brush your teeth, but it’s worth it! Blow dry your hair, put on a blazer, spritz your favorite scent — whatever makes you feel fly. When I take the time to put myself together, looking the part (even if you don’t feel like it) can help bolster flagging spirits.

Darius Dupins / The Beacon

The Beacon – 4

Darius Dupins / The Beacon

Protesters impatient with Dr. Luke

Kesha’s fight for her life: “Tik Tok” and “Blow,” is going through one of the worst moments in her life.

The worst part about it is that it’s public to everyone with access to the internet, but perhaps that’s a good thing.

According to 35 fans gathered at Sony Headquarters Friday, March 11 and delivered a petition demanding Sony drop music producer Lukasz Gottwald, known professionally as Dr. Luke. 35 fans sounds like a small group of people, especially if they go to a major label and demand to drop a successful music producer because of his gross sexual misconduct with artists.

However, the petition presented to Sony had accumulated over 411,000 signatures. If Sony thought before that this issue could be ignored, that time has passed. It’s grown far too large to be ignored. The tumultuous relationship between Dr. Luke and Kesha, born Kesha Sebert, started when she signed a six-album deal to his Sod Records imprint, Kemosabe Records, in 2005. Later that year, she went to a party hosted by Paris Hilton and claimed she was given “sober pills” by Dr. Luke after a night of drinking and woke up nude at his home.

In 2010, “Tik Tok” was released and embarked on a nine-week reign on the music charts. Numerous artists have spoken out in anger against Dr. Luke after he won the February 18 hearing. The judge’s ruling was that if Kesha wanted to leave her contract with Dr. Luke she’d have to release three more albums.

Artists such as Lady Gaga, Ariana Grande, Halsey, Lily Allen, Leorde, Bethany Cosentino of Best Coast, Wale, Demi Lovato, HAIM, Snoop Dogg and many more have offered their condolences. Some have even cited similar behavior when working with Dr. Luke in the past.

Kelly Clarkson, winner of the first season of American Idol, has contested to how demeaning he is in the studio and that he is not a good person, further fueling the flames.

Notes About Notes is a column focusing on music news and live events. For commentary or suggestions, email life@fiusm.com.
Ytamo album makes the case for 2016 being a year of optimistic music

SOREN ANDERSEN
The Seattle Times
TINS Staff

“Creative Control” is a twisted tale of technological excess

 Amid all the pill popping, coke snorting, dope smoking and boozing that goes on in “Creative Control,” it’s the technology that’s the drug giving the main character his highest highs. And, not surprisingly, the pernicious combination of all those intoxicants leads to some very low lows.

It’s a pair of super-high-tech, virtual-reality spectacles that unpleas the life of David, a speedy New York ad executive played by the picture’s director/co-writer, Benjamin Dickinson. One is a screaming, emotional saxophone and Ytamo’s ethereal singing, reminiscent of early Grimes from her first album, “Geidi Primes,” along with a strong percussion style. Trumpets come in, perhaps announcing the arrival of something greater. Ytamo sings, welcoming us into the comfort of her constructed universe by her ethereal, sing song rhythm of “hajimemashite,” which is a phrase to welcome newcomers to Japanese.

My favorite track is “100 Birds.” It uses one of the most universal symbols of the natural world as a place that perhaps isn’t so chaotic after all, birds replicating their flight pattern in the real-life world as a place that even the most chaotic has its moments. That cuteness extends itself into the more Moog synth heavy “Human” that sounds like patty cake. On “You Me,” we find Ytamo singing, welcoming newcomers into the comfort of her constructed universe by her ethereal, sing song rhythm of “hajimemashite,” which is a phrase to welcome newcomers to Japanese.

Selected Analyzed Works is a column that discusses selected works of the RPM genre. For suggestions or comments email life@fiusm.com

THE DEAL

Hey, kids! I’m urving the panther and I’m here to talk about the nature preserve.

I’ve negotiated a new plan for it! Instead of simply building a soccer field over it, we’ll simply build the soccer field aand move the preserve slightly to the left! How does that sound?

But I don’t think that’s how nature works...

I don’t think they really care.

Selected Analyzed Works is a column that discusses selected works of the RPM genre. For suggestions or comments email life@fiusm.com

On the final track, “Sensational Area,” Ytamo asks us to unite to the idea that the future isn’t so scary after all, with sunshine as opposed to snowy winters.
SANTIAGO ARCHERI  
Staff Writer  
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The softball team packed their bags and set on their way to their first road game against Conference USA opponents this season.

On Saturday, March 19, FIU was set for a double-header against the Lady topppers from Western Kentucky, a that was playing their first conference matchups of the season.

The first two innings were defensive battles as neither team was able to get on the scoreboard.

However, Western Kentucky got off their slump on quite a note, as a two-run third inning sparked a fire in the Hilltopper bats and they went on to score in every inning afterwards en route to 10-2 victory.

The first two Lady Topper runs were off FIU errors, who committed three for the game.

Two home runs by Jordan Mauch was just part of the problem that FIU had to face because the Ladytoppers had four total homerauns for the entire game.

The loss was the first conference defeat for FIU in the season, dropping to 3-1.

Corrine Jenkins (4-5) dropped back under the .500 mark for the season after allowing six hits, three earned runs, two walks and a lone strikeout.

The Panthers had to regain their composure for the second game of the double-header and it came right down to the wire.

FIU was down 2-0 heading into the final inning of play, but five hits and four runs gave the Panthers a 4-2 lead.

Gabby Spalone hit a two-RBI single to give FIU their first lead of the game and Dani Mowry provided some cushion with an RBI single of her own.

However, the Lady topppers would match the FIU comeback. The Panthers have had a problem all season long thus far allowing unearned runs to cross home plate and it was a fitting way for the game to come to an end.

Rachel Dwyer (2-2) took the loss, although she faced only one batter as a reliever and committed a walk.

Megan Kugelmann allowed three runs in six innings on the mound, with two strikeouts and two walks.

On Sunday, March 20, the Panthers had one last game in Bowling Green against the Lady topppers. After averaging three runs in the first two games, FIU burst out with a 16-7 win over Western Kentucky to close the series.

The win marks the Panthers first conference road victory of the season.

The game got off to a hot start for FIU as they recorded six runs in the opening inning. Stephanie Teixeira recorded the first RBI of the game with her single.

The Panthers added some runs with a combined nine runs in the third and fourth inning. The 16 runs by FIU matches a season high and is the most since the 16-9 win over UAB in April of 2015.

Jackie Schott leads the Panthers while Ashley Leon batted in three. AJ Belans also had a great day, going 2-2 with four runs and two RBI’s.

The win went to Megan Kugelmann. The freshman is now 6-2 for the season, finishing the game with just two earned runs.

The win also put FIU at 18-14 for the season and 4-2 in Conference USA.

Their next task will be at home, where the Panthers are undefeated in conference play, as they take on the UTEP Miners Friday, March 25, for a double header and Saturday, March 26.

LOUIS' HACKS  
After a quick road trip up the east, Alex Demchak and the Panthers took on the Jackson-  
ville University Dolphins.

The two teams exchanged runs in the first two innings and pleasantness between the home-team's hecklers.

Some of the FIU players, namely Kolby Folis, known what is known as a "Golden Sombrero”, that's when a batter goes 0-4, with four strikeouts in one game. The heckling can’t have been helpful to him with that going on.

Folis said after the game, “Anyone who tells you they can’t hear anything on the field is lying. They’re full of it.”

The cheering from the Dolphins’ side got louder than in the bottom of the third when they put one on the board with a wild ground out to the shortstop into an infield single that would have loaded the bases, if not for a poor piece of base running that got FIU’s lead runner out to end that half of the inning.

Not much else happened until the bottom of the third when a lot of speed and a little more luck scored two more for the Dolphins.

JU had a 4-1 lead, up until the first inning of play, when, with two runs, when the Panthers chose to get a large portion of their hitting favor.

Jack Schauf sent a three-run opposite-field homerun over the right field wall, after fouling a ball off his knee and striking out the previous-at-bat.

Willy Fabra came in to relieve Michael Agis to start the bottom of the 4th.

Another run would come across before the end of the first inning as Kolby Folis’ first attempt at coming back from his golden sombrero. He managed to turn an inning ending ground out to the shortstop into an infield single that would have loaded the bases, if not for a poor piece of base running that got FIU’s lead runner out to end that half of the inning.

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Jack Schauf sent a three-run opposite-field homerun over the right field wall, after fouling a ball off his knee and striking out the previous-at-bat.

Willy Fabra came in to relieve Michael Agis to start the bottom of the 4th.

Another run would come across before the end of the first inning as Kolby Folis’ first attempt at coming back from his golden sombrero. He managed to turn an inning ending ground out to the shortstop into an infield single that would have loaded the bases, if not for a poor piece of base running that got FIU’s lead runner out to end that half of the inning.

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**SAND VOLLEYBALL**

**PANTHER PROFILE**

Boulanger looks to help lead Panthers to national title

**STEFANO RIVERA**

**Contributing Writer**

**sports@fiu.edu**

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The women’s beach volleyball team has increased its win total each season since its startup in 2013. Beginning with only five wins in 2013, reaching 20 last season, the Panthers are a model of a rising program.

Junior, Marina Boulanger, has had a similar trend throughout her years competing for the program. Before FIU, Boulanger attended Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta, California, where she played volleyball all four years. She was also part of the USA U19 National Team.

During her freshman campaign for the Panthers in 2014, Boulanger posted a record of 9-8, just above .500. She also competed at the No. 1 spot in the AVCA National Championships in Mobile, Alabama. In 2015, her record (19-8) improved drastically, increasing her win total by 10, while finishing with the same amount of losses.

Due to many of the seniors that developed to be the heart of the team, Boulanger only competed in the No. 3, 4 and 5 positions. However, in the 2015 AVCA National Championships, then senior, Darija Sataric and Boulanger defeated Florida State University’s No. 3 duo.

“My sophomore year, I took everything that I learned from my freshman year and tried to really implement it into my game, that’s probably why my game has doubled in wins,” said Boulanger, “this year I plan to do the same thing, just use all the skills that I’ve learned the past years. She played her best when paired with graduate student, Tina Tophiyani, an almost going unbeaten with a 9-1 record.

“We are very loud and have very big hearts for the game,” Boulanger said, “I think that together we care so much that our love for the game just really gave us that will to win and succeed in our games.”

Due to the Panther’s deep roster, Boulanger has only been called to participate in three matches this season, all coming in the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational. Paired with junior, Anabela Sataric, she has gone 1-1. Together they dismantled the University of New Orleans 2-0, but dropped a tightly contested, three-set match to Louisiana State University 21-19, 18-21 and 13-15.

Against Jacksonville University and paired with graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz, Boulanger swept the competition 2-0 with a dominant win. Although the sample size, three games, has been small at the start of this season, she features to be a vital aspect of the team moving forward.

The Panthers are currently ranked No. 10 in the AVCA Collegiate Beach Poll, but have fallen the past two weeks. Boulanger knows the road to the top will not be easy, “but a process that will require patience.”

“My goals are being first in the East coast, getting to Nationals, everything is a step process, and then winning Nationals,” said Boulanger. “personally, being the best player that I can be, helping my teammates and winning my games.”

Boulanger, along with the Panthers, will be in action this weekend, Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26, as she looks to improve her record at the Stetson Invitational.

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**REINALDO LLERENA**

**Staff Writer**

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The No. 57-ranked FIU women’s tennis team broke a school record and faced tough competition over the past week at the FIU Tennis Courts.

The Panthers (13-2) extended their win streak to 10 games in their conference-rival match against Florida State University defeated Butler University and UTEP to break the record for most consecutive wins, the streak was snapped when Columbia University defeated the Panthers, 4-3, on March 15.

“I’m proud of my girls,” said coaching assistant Jacki Alawi after a Thursday, March 17, win over Yale University. “They have shown more character this season and are more willing to fight for wins.”

As of March 17, the Panthers are 2-2 when losing the doubles point in matches. The Panthers remain undefeated on the season when they win the doubles point.

“Doubles are never the end of the match,” said junior Nina Nagode after the Tuesday, March 15, match against Columbia. “Sure, it makes the singles matches easier, but it’s not the end of the match. Anything can happen in singles matches.”

The Panthers made quick work of Butler Tuesday, March 8. The Panthers claimed the doubles point to start the match up 1-0. Then, the Panthers won every singles match in straight sets to close out the struggling Bulldogs, 7-0. The win against Butler was the Panthers’ sixth straight win of the season.

“We’re all on the same page,” said redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro after the match. “We’ve improved on our doubles play this season and we’re all focused on our main goal, winning the conference tournament and making the NCAA tournament.”

To break the school record of most consecutive wins, the Panthers had to go through conference-rival UTEP Friday, March 11.

The Panthers blanked the UTEP Miners, 4-0, on their way to their 10th-straight win, a new school record. The win was the seventh straight win of the offshore for the Panthers. “Breaking the school record doesn’t feel like anything,” said head coach Katrina Petrovic after the match against the Miners. “I’ve been waiting for this to happen since last year. This is the best team I’ve ever coached and we have the right people around this team to make it as successful as we’ve been this season.”

After shutting out the Miners, the Panthers faced their toughest opponent to date, the No. 41-ranked Columbia Lions.

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The Panthers lost the doubles point when senior Carlotta Orlando and Lazaro lost to Carolina Vaidya and Adi Milshtein, 7-5.

The duo of freshman Maryna Veksler and Nagode defeated conference-rival No. 59-ranked doubles team of Rima Asatryan and Alexandra Solovyev, the only doubles win for the Panthers.

However, the Panthers came back strong in singles play. Lazaro clinched the Panthers’ first point when she defeated Columbia’s Katein Brozovich got FIU’s second point. The senior defeated Trivian Cheng, 6-0, 6-3, and improved to 14-8 on the season. Nagode chipped in with her win against Asatryan in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3.

But Columbia came back strong after being down 3-1 versus the Miners. Vaidya (No. 52) defeated Veksler in straight sets and sophomore Nerma Caluk lost in three sets to Kevakian, which tied the match at three. Orlando fell to Makarome in her third and final set, giving the Panthers their first win at home opener on Jan. 29.

“It’s not frustrating that we lost,” said Nagode after the match, “our main problem is that we stopped believing in ourselves, that’s the frustrating part. The little things killed us.”

Two days after the loss to Columbia, the Panthers rebounded versus Yale University. The match came down to the final match again, but Caluk would pull out a straight-set victory versus Courtney Amos to win the match for the Panthers.

The Panthers won four singles matches to top Yale, 4-3. The Bulldogs won the doubles point and carried a 1-0 lead heading into singles play.

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The Panthers lost the doubles
Dolphins’ Ryan Tannehill finally has coach who ‘has my back’

ARMANDO SALGUEIRO
Miami Herald

Ryan Tannehill was the picture of health Monday afternoon. The NFL’s most-sacked quarterback the past four years spent weeks over the 2015 season recovering and rehabilitating from his latest round of beatings. He no longer urinating blood as he was after one particularly savage beating. The bruises he wears throughout the season have mostly faded.

But when the Miami Dolphins quarterback says he’s “happy” and “excited,” it’s not just because the Dolphins have re-signed him, but not because the pain from without has taken a pause.

Ryan Tannehill was also smiling because the obstacles from within his own organization have stopped.

Tannehill’s coaches are no longer abandoning him, stopped setting him up for failure, or otherwise throwing him under proverbial buses.

One teammate’s wife who called him a “bum” in the most public of forums is gone because the teammate, Brent Grimes, is gone.

Things changed dramatically for Ryan Tannehill when the Miami Dolphins hired Adam Gase as their new head coach.

His relationship with the head coach changed. His interaction in the locker room changed. And that might mean everything changed for Tannehill.

“(Gase) has made it abundantly clear to me that we’re on the same team,” Tannehill said. “It’s great to have a head coach and just to have that reassurance, that confidence in me, it’s huge.

“It gives me a lot more confidence in the things I can do and how I can carry myself. I’m not going to drink the Kool-Aid on that one. Obviously, you have to play well to keep your spot. But just to have his confidence going in that he’s going to have my back, it means a lot.

Fixing Tannehill is Job 1 for Gase. It is. As much as anything the Gase hired despite being only 37 years old and having never been an NFL head coach before.

And the new coach, being a quick study, recognized immediately that rehabilitating Tannehill was not just about making him physically sound again. It was also about making him confident again, making him feel valued as a franchise player again.

Gase wanted Tannehill to know that he _ perhaps for the first time in years _ is now completely tied to the head coach.

Tannehill didn’t feel that way when he heard that former coach Joe Philbin wanted to select Derek Carr in the first round of the 2014 draft a move that would have ended Tannehill’s days in Miami.

Tannehill couldn’t have felt certain of his status when Philbin gave him private assurances about being the starter early in 2014 but refused for a couple of days to make those same assurances in public.

And Tannehill didn’t feel that way when Philbin hired coaches who refused to give the quarterback the reins to the offense. Under former offensive coordinator Bill Lazor, Tannehill never had the option to audible at the line of scrimmage or to play any other than those set by the coach before anyone saw how the defense deployed.

The audible handshake deflated the offense from a football perspective. But the issue was deeper than that because it was an open manifestation of the team’s mistrust of Tannehill.

Think of it: Coaches not knowing how the defense would look on the field thought they knew a better player than Tannehill even after he saw the defense line up right before his eyes. Things will change under Gase. Although Tannehill won’t get the offensive reins right away, he will get a chance to be more of the offense’s on-field steward rather than just another cog in the machine.

“I’m really looking forward to it,” Tannehill said. “We’ve been in some adverse situations, and to be able to have a head coach and offensive coordinator that give me that freedom to attack teams that way, give me the versatility at the line of scrimmage, it’s exciting for me. It’s something I’m really looking forward to and can’t wait to get started on.”

Battles rage over controversial names on campus

KATY MURPHY
San Jose Mercury News

At universities across the country, centuries-old names that adorn buildings, streets and squares are under siege, from Stanford’s Serra Mall to the University of California, Berkeley’s Barrows Hall to Yale’s Calhoun College.

Once widely revered in a different era, a priest, anthropologist, political figure, scientist or officer for whom the town was named, and who suggested that smallpox be used as a weapon against Native Americans.

The shootings at a black church in Charleston, S.C., last June moved Yale’s leaders to consider renaming a residential college named after John C. Calhoun, a statesman and vice president under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. In a speech in August, Yale President Peter Salovey said Calhoun, who was convicted of killing a former Black Panther who was convicted of killing a New Jersey state trooper before escaping prison and fleeing to Cuba. Williams said he would welcome the name of black scholars from Berkeley, among others.

And those who need to rethink history are due to be”.

Even if Berkeley agrees to take Barrows’ name off the hall, it is unlikely to rename the building after Shaktar, a former Black Panther who was convicted of killing a

THE past year have started similar

Berkeley, Amherst, Yale, pressed for the changes.

Browning, Mont., who has

Blackfeet Reservation in

a Stanford junior from the

in the names of indigenous

re-appropriate these spaces

university to recognize that

should not have dorms, halls

Americans added controversy

and exploitation of Native

the newly sainted Serra,

student government, argue

his detractors, backed by the

Serra. The 18th-century

where a student campaign is

movement is gaining

people connected to slavery

movement, are calling for the

subject of a historical autopsy.

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Yale’s Calhoun College.

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