FIYOU vs. AccessFIU
SGC-MMC holds Senator At-Large Debate

Candidates debated their platforms at the Senator At-Large Debate hosted at Everglades Hall.

Shown are: Sasha Santi (green shirt), Johnny Louis (gold tie), Tia Clay (grey shirt) and Stanley Evans (grey blazer).

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
Asst. News Director

FIYOU and AccessFIU went head-to-head in the Senator At-Large debate Tuesday, March 22 to obtain three open chairs within the SGA senate office. The debate consisted of four candidates representing both FIYOU and AccessFIU parties.

Tia Clay of AccessFIU, wants to enact change within the athletics program. She herself being a Division 1 student athlete believes that having adequate representation for athletes in SGC-MMC will bring awareness to issues facing student athletes.

“Since I’ve been at FIU I’ve learned that there’s a huge disconnect between athletics and the student body,” said Clay. “The lack of awareness and relationships with student athletes can both be addressed in that we can connect with the athletics department by having more representation.”

Clay said, “Because I looked and found that there is no representation within the student government association. So I wondered, if maybe we can have somebody from athletics that [can give] an inside input.”

Stanley Evans, also from AccessFIU, wants to make SGC-MMC a more diversified system, and is looking to find more ways to get students involved with the decisions that impact them.

“I’m here to break down the barriers and rescope the system,” he said. “That way students have a more impactful voice on campus, and to be more involved in student government decisions.”

Evans, also president of Council of Student Services, said “being involved with such different organizations helps to understand that the students need different insights and different perspectives that are on campus. As a Senator At-Large, new traditions help the community get closer. I want to achieve this goal by listening to the insights and concerns of students.”

Johnny Louis, from the FIYOU party, is the candidate running to “improve the transitioning period from being an FIU student to a professional in your career of choice.”

Having students who are confused on what to do after they graduate is a problem that SGC-MMC needs to provide assistance with, according to Louis.

“Students today are very diverse on our campus. Students are going in, not being able to communicate, not being able to relate to the psychologists today. I feel like more recognition towards that area can relate to the psychologists today. I feel like more recognition towards that area can benefit the students more.”

Transportation was another program of concern that the candidates said needed improvement. Stanley said that the shuttle taking students back and forth from MMC to BBC can possibly be free for students if necessary changes were able to take place.

“The transportation from BBC to MMC today takes a good 1 to 2 million dollars to actually run the buses.”

He said “[By] talking to Parking and Transportation, it is actually [a possibility]
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

What went on during captives’ imprisonment in Iran?

While in solitary confinement in an Iranian prison, Maziar Bahari, an Iranian-Canadian journalist who was imprisoned in Iran for 118 days, looked forward to his interrogation sessions. Even if he was being beaten, he explained, at least he wasn’t alone. “In the Quran they say the worst punishment for a person is to put that person in a grave,” said Bahari, filmmaker and author of “Then They Came for Me.” “Sometimes when you’re in solitary confinement, when you’re deprived of all of your senses, when you cannot see anything except for the walls around you, you think that you’re in a grave.”

European critics of Trump worry what his candidacy says about US

In the United States, Republican presidential candidate front-runner Donald Trump is a hero to some, a problem to others, but generally seen as a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable. “The rest of the world is having seriously. Thinking goes, and can’t be taken seriously. Promises must be theater, the nature and perhaps unstoppable. But generally seen as a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable. Trump is a hero to some, a problem to others, but generally seen as a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable. Hero to some, a problem to others, but generally seen as a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable. But generally seen as a force of nature and perhaps unstoppable.”

North Carolina’s bathroom legislation makes state an outlier in nation

North Carolina’s newest state law doesn’t just extinguish the city of Charlotte’s attempt to ban unequal treatment of gay and transgender people, it also takes away the ability for any other city or county in the state to pass general anti-discrimination laws protecting a range of people.

That makes North Carolina’s “bathroom” legislation special nationally: Only two other states, Arkansas and Tennessee, have gone so far as to block local officials from deciding it’s OK for transgender people to choose which bathroom to use.

North Carolina’s bathroom legislation makes state an outlier in nation

Bike Drive for Refugees

BIKES PAGE 8

not being able to transport. As an active college student without a car, I can only imagine how it is for a refugee in the daily life,” Stroman said.

“We have a table on campus selling doughnuts to raise money. We are speaking in classes and have reached out to residential life to get people to sign the word to on-campus residents [at MMC] who are more likely to get in touch. We have heard from the people of America if we want to sustain and thrive for the future,” said Stroman. Thursday, April 14, from 6-9 p.m, will be a fundraising event for the Bike Drive at PDQ on

10121 W Flagler Street. Anyone who makes a purchase at PDQ will help raise funds and 20 percent of the proceeds will go to the Bike Drive. Interested customers just have to bring a bike drive flyer or say they are buying something on that go global FIU Bike Drive.

New or gently used bikes can be brought to the Bike Drive. Donations can be delivered to GL 466 or online donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/dbb8bd7.

“If people are in our own community who are going through an unimaginable transition. It doesn’t really matter what someone’s political views are about accepting refugees. If somebody thinks that we should be taking more for humanitarian reasons or for less so then go global FIU Bike Drive. It's just trying to cash and check donations to be used towards new bikes. Donations can be delivered to GL 466 or online donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/dbb8bd7.

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Obama chooses Tango over Brussels

Student athlete voices hold power

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Student athletes have power in the sense that they bring money to the school, plain and simple. From the tickets we buy, to the soda and popcorn in the concession stands. That is all thanks to the those students we are playing with. At no time there is no money coming in. Despite that much power and potential to help this school, athletes have the least say in anything that happens at FIU. Unfortunately, it seems that student athletes are discouraged from speaking out. For every athlete who does not conform to the ideals of FIU, another can be subbed in and given their play-time.

During FIUSM’s coverage of the summit with former Head Coach Marlin Chinn, staff found it difficult to find members of the Women’s Basketball team willing to comment upon the issue.

When FIUSM covered the FIU to Missou event, two black student athletes were present, but immediately felt uncomfortable being included in the video, and decided not to participate further. This editorial board can’t help but wonder if the decision of the Board of Trustees would have gone differently, had student athletes felt safe to voice their opinions regarding the practice fields to be built atop the northern third of the Nature Preserve.

Were athletes consulted when this decision was made? There is a demand for more practice fields among those who need them, or were they simply told the situation and expected to be grateful?

FIUSM wants to encourage student athletes to be more vocal. As an athlete, you should not be treated differently or punished based upon your beliefs. As athletes, you should not have the power to pull funding from FIU. We want students to know, though, that student athletes have more to lose from scholarships, to play-time, to housing - if they speak out against FIU. If they choose to do so, we need to stand in solidarity with them.

Michelle Marchante
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ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Valentina Del Pino

Bomb- ing - heroes kill, there, hate everywhere. Baghdad, Brussels, France, and the Ivory Coast are some of the countries that had been targeted with awful atrocities in these past months between the end of 2015 and the new year.

Is this going to stop?
Will we ever be safe again?

Many of my peers wonder. FIU Department of English professor, Michelle McCormack attempted to devise an answer to the question through a discussion with her students.

 Truly, it is way more complicated than anything we can come up with.” McCormack said.

After some heated discussion, the class came to an answer. Hate is the product of ignorance and fear. We all have felt it. We all have hated something or someone in our lives, it’s human. We have hated due to the influence of our family, our ideologies or simply because we have hated due to the influence of our education that introduces diversity into the world that Cuba has no plans on improving the rights of the people despite the new “relationship” with the U.S. What can we expect when dictator Raul Castro didn’t even show up to greet Obama at the airport?

We must give Obama some credit though. He did meet with dissidents and civil society leaders at the U.S. Embassy in Havana, including members of the Ladies in White and Elizardo Sanchez, the president of the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation. He also called Castro out during the press conference when he wasn’t paying attention.

Quite an amusing sight, after just hours before Obama’s plane landed in Jose Marti International Airport, over 50 members of the Ladies in White, a peaceful human rights group that marches every Sunday for liberty, were arrested.

This group of women were beaten, not just by government officials but by the citizens as well, then arrested and detained for hours, for marching down the streets, asking for the liberty of Cuba and its political prisoners.

You would think that in honor of Obama’s visit, the government would give them a chance to protest peacefully, but they didn’t though, showing the entire world that Cuba has no plans on improving the rights of the people.

I am not trying to say FIU is the answer to everything, but have you looked at who the university as sending us.

It’s clear by Castro’s answer to this question, that Cuba isn’t going to change its ways anytime soon - but then again, did we really think it would?

Let’s face it: Obama’s visit to Cuba was a vacation under the guise of presidential business.

He chose to attend the Major League Baseball exhibition game in Cuba, the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban National Team after giving a speech where he stressed that the world must unite to combat terrorism instead of returning to the White House when Brussels was hit by a terrorist attack that morning.

Maybe he thinks his decision to stay and watch the game is an act of defiance, showing the terrorists that they don’t have enough power to change his plans but it looks more like he just doesn’t give a hoot because, hell, he’s on vacation. Let’s hope that our next President will take terrorist attacks more seriously instead of heading off to dance the Tango in Argentina.

For the full column, visit FIUSM.com.

Michelle Marchante is the Assistant Opinion Director for FIUSM Student Media. Her column, The Talk, focuses on new and innovative events and ideas. For suggestions or comments, please email Michelle at michelle.marchante@fiusm.com.

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OPINION

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Students start a slack lining group on campus

JAY VANPARIA
Staff Writer
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The Modesto A. Madique campus has been the playground for a group of slack line enthusiasts since the beginning of spring break. It was initiated by two FIU students, Tico Ginart and Chris Bonilla.

Ginart, a junior Hospitality major said, “It all started after I watched an inspiring documentary about the world’s best slack liner on the internet. Being into extreme sports, I wanted to try it straight away.”

Ginart and Bonilla purchased the equipment online and started to practice near the housing quad.

“The equipment is affordable and just costs about $50 and will last for about five years. So it’s a pretty good investment,” said Ginart.

Slack lining is an extreme adventure sport that involves walking or balancing on a suspended length of flat webbing, tensioned between two anchors.

“Mastering any sport requires practice and that is why we try to take out as much time as possible for [slack lining], so that we get better and better,” said Bonilla, a junior Communication Arts major.

The group of students calls itself “Slackers Only” and anybody who is interested can join them on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from noon to 3 p.m. at the GC lawns. Owing to the overwhelming positive response, the group has decided to take a step further and register themselves as a formal student club with the Council of Student Organizations next summer.

“We get people of all kinds who see us practicing and develop an interest into the sport. College students, professor, even some high school kids are regular visitors to our practice spot,” said Ginart.

One does not need to be extremely fit to participate because “Slackers Only” focus on the beginner level before trying to do tricks and moves on the slack line. The group usually practices by suspending the slack line between two sturdy trees anywhere on campus and keeping a low height.

Ginart and Bonilla guide and advise students who want to advance in the sport. They provide them with an insight of the experience of starting slacklining with zero knowledge.

“Our motto to encourage the potential pro-slackliners is ‘Hug A Tree,’ so that they know that when they start to walk the line, they have to do it all the way and hug the opposite tree,” said Ginart.

When Bonilla first started to practice slacklining, he was too ambitious and suspended the slack line at a dangerous height, and started trying out professional tricks. He ended up ripping his ankle in the process. Ginart and Bonilla make sure that students are practicing safe slacklining and not putting themselves in danger.

This initiative by the two students has a positive effect on the FIU student body. The students can genuinely distress and come into touch with nature with this sport. Ginart and Bonilla usually ask the students to go barefoot so that they can experience nature more closely and make the most of the sport.

“I encourage people to bring speakers or some portable musical instrument to enjoy this experience and take some serious interest into this sport,” added Chris.

You can follow the group on Instagram at SlackersOnlyFIU for updates, practice locations and information about the various events hosted by the group.

Still no new album from Frank Ocean

DARIUS DUPINS
Entertainment Director
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It is July 271 and there’s still no new Frank Ocean album!

Well after a promised July 2015 release date Ocean has disappointed fans and critics alike with no album to listen to or critique.

Ocean’s official website, FrankOcean.com, was refreshed, now with merchandise and a few new tabs (VID/AUDIO/GET). Though inaccessible, these tabs give fans hope of possibly purchasing new music in the near future.

In April 2015, Ocean took to Tumblr to announce the return of his sophomore effort after popular and critical acclaim for 2012’s “Channel Orange.”

“I got two versions. I got twoo versions...” and #JULY15.

Well, Frank... tomorrow is April 1 and we’re still waiting! How could JU-LIE this to us????
LIFE!

The family moved between Sweden and Africa, until Sey left home in her mid-teens and took the plum job of studying a Stockholm music school and studied soul music. The performance-heavy curriculum got her over her stage fright, and she immersed herself in the vocabulary of neo-soul singers such as Erykah Badu, Lauryn Hill and Jill Scott. More doors opened when she was invited to tour with a Swedish rapper as assistant singer and ad-libbing. It was all about teenage kicks.

“I went on a summer tour and we drank and rapped our way around Sweden for like a year,” she says. “It was a good way to pay the rent.”

The rapper who hired her had worked with Lidell, a prominent producer who had worked with artists such as Britney Spears and Kylie Minogue, and suggested Sey reach out to him. “I thought he’s not going to care - he just made a Britney Spears song,” she says. “But he cared. I’d never been in a studio with a real producer before, but he asked me a lot of questions about what kind of music I like, I wanted to sound like. He was working with people like Katy Perry and other artists all the time, so it took a year to focus on my project. That was a good year because it taught me a lot - I had to do the songs on my own, working with his beats. It was the first time I understood what it took to make a structured, well-written song.”

She wrote a batch of material in the wake of “Younger” that paired her emotive vocals with introspective and socially conscious lyrics. A 2014 EP included “Younger” and “Hard Time,” about a relationship with a friend that had soured. “I didn’t want to write songs like [John Lennon’s] ‘Imagine’ or ‘Crazy’ with Gnarlz Barkley, the ‘Formation’ song from Beyoncé - songs that have a message and also have a catchy hook. I want both. Being a hitmaker like Max Martin, you can’t take away what he does, it’s an absolute art. But making a hit, it’s not rocket science. I want something more.”

The final song on “Pretend” is “Burial,” which became something of a tribute to her father, who died in 2013. “I started on that song before he died, it was like I was imagining my own funeral, and it was pretty spooky,” she says. “When he died, I tried to write a song about it, but I was sad and tired, and couldn’t come up with anything. I wanted to put three minutes of silence on the CD. But then I found ‘Burial,’ tweaked a couple of words, and then gave it to a friend who changed a couple of the chords to make it sound more hopeful, the idea that my dad is in a better place. So when I sing it now, that part of it is therapeutic for me because it’s beautiful.”

It also cuts to the heart of why Sey sings, and why she embraced music as her life. “To me, ‘soul’ means to tell the truth,” she says. “The artists I love, like Jill Scott and Common, they are great storytellers who help people with their songs. I want to make music that makes me feel the way I felt when I was a lonely kid and listened to Destiny’s Child. I felt empowered, even when I lived in a town where nobody looked like me. I hope when people hear my music, they feel less alone.”

Three key pieces to make your spring wardrobe sing

Sneakers

“White sneakers have a penchant for wearing crisp white Adidas Stan Smith sneakers. Along with Adidas, brands including Asics, Puma, Saint Laurent, Jil Sander, Vans and Nike have increased their white sneaker offerings.”

Style tips:

“Bomber jackets

Darius Dupins/The Beacon

“I knew I always wanted to be a musician, but I didn’t believe it could happen. We were poor, so I thought the way for me to make a living was to do something ‘proper.’”

Seinabo Sey Musician

“TNS Staff

GREG KOT

Chicago Tribune

TNS Staff

NECK SCARVES

Recently spotted: Hedi Slimane started showing scarves on the spring 2015 Saint Laurent runway. Models wore thin scarves tied around their necks in an effortless, rock ‘n’ roll manner. Now, they’re being worn as thicker roll manner. Now, they’re paired with chokers and reinforcing the neck and shoulder areas as the focal point of the body that’s in fashion at the moment. Lanvin, Gucci and Rodarte included a lot of neck scarves in their spring 2016 runway collections. Styling power: “This is a very easy way to add texture and personalized effect to an outfit,” says Penny Lovell, Los Angeles-based fashion stylist to Anne Hathaway and Taylor Schilling. The neck scarf still has the ‘70s vibe that dominates in fashion now but can be day dresses or your favorite slip gown.”

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Style tips:
UTEP sweeps Panthers over weekend series

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After a 16-7 win over Western Kentucky in the previous series all momentum was broken apart for the FIU softball team as UTEP came into Felsberg Field and took all three games.

The series got underway on Friday, March 25, with a doubleheader. A lightning delay pushed both games, but the Miners and Panthers took the field after a two and a half hour delay.

The game was locked at six a piece in the fourth inning and the go ahead run for the Miners in the fifth proved to be the difference in a 7-6 victory. Three different pitchers took the mound for FIU, but it was Rachel Dwyer who was marked with the loss (2-3).

She pitched 3.2 innings, allowing seven hits but retiring 12 batters that she faced.

Dwyer only allowed two runs for the game, while Corinne Jenkins allowed four runs in just one inning, also allowing five hits.

Stephanie Texeira led the Panther batting yet again with two RBI in three at-bats. Jackie Schoff also had a notable game, going 3-4 with two runs of her own. It seems like a broken record for the Panthers this season, leaving 8 runners on base in the first game.

The teams prepared themselves for the second game of the doubleheader, a game in which yet again, a lone run proved to be the difference.

FIU had a quick 1-0 lead in the second inning, and just like in the first game of the night, the Miners managed to erase the deficit and take the victory, this time winning 2-1.

The loss went to Megan Kugelmann (6-3). Kugelmann pitched a complete game with five strikeouts, but two earned runs. Texeira had a quiet game, going 1-3, and Schoff went 2-4 with an RBI.

The Panthers left seven on base and had seven hits for the game and leaving a majority of their players on base was costly yet again.

The night might have ended for the FIU softball team as UTEP took the doubles point, the point that would clinch the match for the Miners.

The teams prepared themselves for the second match after the Miners dominated the doubles point.

Including an 8-3 victory in singles matches that brought the Miners to an 11-1 lead over FIU.

Stephanie Texeira hit a home run in the fourth inning of the second game. The next batter, Alyza Benotto, hit a single to extend the Miners lead to 12-1. The win was for the Miners 12-4 and 12-1.

Junior Nina Nagode put the Panthers ahead, 2-1, with a 6-0, 6-3 win over No. 94 Alyza Benotto. The win was Nagode’s 20th in singles record to 25-7 on the season and improved the sophomore to 25-5 on the season.

Alyza Benotto was given a Gatorade ice bath, her body shook and did not get hit by the freezing liquid.

“Didn’t hit me until now that it was my final home game,” said Brozovich, still dripping from the ice bath. “I wanted to win my final match so badly. I kept pushing and stayed focused, but it didn’t work out.”

The senior came back from a one-set deficit and won in a tiebreaker, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (3), giving the Panthers a 5-2 win over the Bears.

Next up for FIU will be another conference matchup, as the Panthers head to Denton, Texas to play North Texas this coming weekend.

North Texas is right behind FIU in the Conference USA standings, sitting at 3-6 so far for the season.

Panthers win final home match on senior day

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The No. 49-ranked women’s tennis team sais goodbye to home with a comeback win Sunday, March 28, at the FIU Tennis Courts.

The Panthers (14-2) honored seniors Kaitlin Brozovich and Carlotta Orlando before Sunday’s, March 28, match versus Brown University. The match was the final home game for the two Panthers.

Throughout my four years here, I’ve had a great experience with this team,” said Orlando. “I’m excited for what’s coming. Tennis will always be a part of my life.”

Heading into the match, the Panthers remained undefeated when winning the doubles point. The team also jumped from No. 57 to No. 49 on the ITA/Oracle rankings. If the season were to end now, the Panthers would be the No. 1 seed in the C-USA tournament.

For the Panthers to clinch the No. 1 seed, they need to win out the rest of the season.

The Bears took the doubles point, claiming the first two matches. Sophomore Nerma Caluk and Brozovich lost to Maddie Stearns and Ammu Mandaalap, 6-2. Orlando and redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro fell to Hannah Camhi and Katie Ta, 6-4, to give Brown the point.

“We were nervous in doubles,” said head coach Katarina Petrovic. “After doubles I reminded them of their game plan. It was a very important match for both us and the seniors. I didn’t want the match to get away from us.”

The Panthers would come back and take four-straight singles matches to clinch the match.

Lazaro clinched the Panthers’ first point, quickly defeating Camhi, 6-2, 6-0, tying the match. Lazarro remained undefeated in dual matches. The redshirt freshman has won all 14 of her dual matches this season. Junior Nina Nagode put the Panthers ahead, 2-1, with a 6-0, 6-3 win over No. 94 Alyza Benotto. The win was Nagode’s 20th of the season.

Caluk finished her match minutes after Nagode. The sophomore won in straight sets, defeating Ta, 6-2, 6-1, extending the Panther lead to 3-1. Caluk’s victory improved the sophomore to 25-5 on the season and 13-2 in dual action.

Freshman Maryna Veksler clinched the match for the Panthers, defeating Dayna Lord, 6-4, 6-2. Veksler’s win improved her singles record to 25-7 on the season and 10-3 in dual matches. However, the two seniors remained playing.

Brozovich fell in her final match to Mariaska Chamandani, 7-6 (4), 6-0. Orlando finished off the match with a comeback win in the final set over Stearns.

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Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Sports

Sports Director
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The Thundering Herd had their first run come across via a walk with the bases loaded. Andres Nuñez’s (2-3) third of the season, but he’d eventually get out of the inning with the lead for FIU still intact.

After leading off the bottom half of the second inning with a double, a couple of wild pitches advanced Eddie Silva from second to third and then to home, to increase the lead to 3-1. After a scoreless third, an error by first baseman Nick Day scored the Marshall runner on third, but the one would be shelved when the Thundering Herd got revenge on FIU, but Marshall would be ready to go on the scoreboard.

A home run off the bat of Austin Rodriguez across on the top of the sixth inning, but the one would score the Marshall runner ahead early, when with the bases still loaded, Eddie Silva from the top of the seventh inning to see the lead to 3-1. After a couple of wild pitches, another walk with the bases still loaded brought Austin Rodriguez across on the bottom of the seventh and tied the game back up at four and then an error at second base scored another and the Panthers took a 5-4 lead.

A couple more walks with the bases loaded boasted the lead to 7-4. Marshall’s Sam Finfer sent a rocket home run off the light post in right field in the top of the eighth, but two more would come across for FIU in the bottom of the eighth, and this game would belong to the Panthers with a 10-5 win.

Friday, March 25, 2016 Marshall would be ready to get revenge on FIU, but they’d have to wait until the weather delay was over, with nearly storm threatening the game. The game would eventually start, at around 7:20 pm and the Thundering Herd jumped out to an early 2-0 lead of their own in the first inning.

A home run off the bat of Austin Rodriguez would bring FIU closer, but it would take waiting until the fourth inning to see the Thundering Herd tied back up at two with an RBI single by Eddie Silva.

The Panthers took the lead just minutes later when a wild pitch allowed Silva to score from third. With the game 3-2 in the home team’s favor, it was Marshall’s turn to play their hand and they did by scoring two runs in the next inning with a couple of timely RBI-singles.

Chris Moultrie (3-2) had some of his best stuff Friday night, with seven strikeouts, his highest total this season, but after giving up four runs would be allowances to be allowed to come out for the sixth inning and even made it through the sixth with much else happening, he was pulled from the game.

FIU would tie the game back up on an interference mix-up by the Marshall third-baseman Aaron Bossi, but the Herd would get the last laugh Friday night after scoring the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth and go on to win the game 5-4 and even the series up at 1-1.

On Saturday, March 26, with a chance to win the series, and bring their record against Conference USA competition to 5-0, FIU went to work.

Garrett Cave (1-2) had a relatively successful first inning pitching game against the Thundering Herd, with two strikeouts, a hit, a walk, but no runs scored.

To start the scoring in Saturday’s game, Zach Files brought across Eddie Silva in the first inning with an RBI Double to center.

With Files standing on second base, Soria, crushed a homerun to left-center field and made FIU’s lead 3-0.

Marshall would have an answer quickly for at least one of those three runs, when in the top of the next inning, when their shortstop Leo Valenti hit an RBI-single between Austin Rodriguez and Irving Loper to get things started for his team.

Jack Schaffa hit a sacrifice fly to center field bringing the game to five runs with the bases loaded. Schaffa has the lowest batting average of all starting position players at .260 right now, but also the most RBIs in the entire program at 17. Meanwhile, Eddie Silva would be the answer in the bottom of the seventh inning with a double down the left-field line, scoring right fielder Kenny Meimerstorf, and bringing the game to five runs per game. For the second time that weekend, Marshall would score the last run of the game in the top of the eighth inning off an RBI single by the bat of DJ Gee and with that take the third game of the series, and the series itself.

Over the weekend, Head Coach Turtle Thomas said, “Marshall is a very good team, they’ve been hot lately...the last few games, they’ve been on absolute fire.”

This is a fire that his team is going to have to hope rubbed off on them, because 2-4 against CUSA teams is not going to cut it. If they’re relying on a late-season surge like they did last season, I’m not sure they’ll get it.

On the offensive end, they’re batting almost 30 points higher than they did last year, but from everything I’ve seen, hitting isn’t the problem.

This year’s pitching staff pales in comparison to last year’s. As of right now, FIU is on pace to give up almost 100 more hits to opposing batters by the end of this season.

The Panthers had a short break from CUSA play on their short trip Tuesday, March 29, up to “The World’s Most Famous Beach” in Daytona, to play games against Stetson and Carolina.

After their four losses to the season, the Panthers are looking for some positive momentum. The team faced off against host school and No. 9, Stetson University and although it resulted in 2-3 loss, it showed signs of improvements. The Panthers forced the Hatters into three, three-set matches, going 1-2 and split the other two matches.

Giron and Davis, at the No. 5 doubles position continued their winning ways defeating Stetson’s No. 5 duo and Davis and Giron finally gave the team a victory in three-set matches against FIU’s No. 4 duo, Annie Montgomery/ Kayla Joyce.

The Seminoles defeated the Thundering Herd 3-0.

The loss to the No. 5 duo of redshirt sophomore, Savannah Davis, and sophomore, Natalia Giron, after snapping their seven match win streak.

Utility infielder Eddie Silva dives back to first base on a pickoff attempt. FIU last two out of three games played against Marshall University from March 24-26.
Bike drive aids incoming refugees

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The FIU community is helping Church World Services Miami collect bikes for newly arriving refugees who will soon call South Florida their new home.

“Bike Drive for Refugee Families” is organized by Eric Feldman, the Coordinator of the Offices of Global Learning Initiatives and the FIU Recreational Center Bike Shop for the duration of the spring semester.

The goal is to collect 20 new or gently used bikes and raise $2,000 in order to purchase bikes for the refugees to CWS Miami by the end of April.

So far, the Bike Drive has been successful - it has received bike donations and three bicycle donations that will be given to the refugee families.

“In a recent board meeting that I had on the phone with CWS, they had mentioned that some refugees had been asking for bikes, not only just for kids but also for the adults since they just moved here and they don’t have cars,” said Feldman. “So, I decided to start a bike drive for refugee families here at FIU and see if people would donate a bike or donate money towards buying a bike for the refugees.”

“Eric Feldman worked with CWS to recruit volunteers and internships where students can go into the community and learn about global issues. He was invited by the CWS to be a part of their community advisory board to represent FIU and that’s where he started the bike drive.

Church World Services is one of five organizations that have been approved by the state department to resettle refugees. When the U.S. government approves refugees from different countries, they get routed to agencies where these organizations provide job training, language education and basic needs such as food, water and community infrastructure.

“There’s a distinction between an immigrant and a refugee,” said Feldman. “A refugee is specifically someone who is applying to the United States to be able to come and escape something, that if they stay at home country they can be imprisoned or jailed. It’s more than just immigrating to the United States because they want better opportunities or they want a good job. So this bike drive and organization works specifically with refugees from around the world.”

Ashante Stroman, a Mentor for the Global Living Learning Community and a player on the FIU Women’s Rugby team got involved with the Bike Drive by promoting the Bike Drive to the University.

“Eric Feldman did a presentation with the FIU Go Global Department and he spoke about the mission of the bike drive and distributed the expected outcome. I was sold personally because I love bikes and I know how it feels to be limited due to

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Rebecca Quesnel and Naomi Ruele represent FIU at NCAA championships

ALEXANDER TOLEDO
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Naomi Ruele and Rebecca Quesnel finished up what will go down as two of the most historically successful seasons for each of them and for each of FIU’s Swimming and Diving programs.

After both Ruele and Quesnel successfully qualified for the NCAA Championships the week before, the two talented student-athletes showed up to the challenge that were the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships last week from Wednesday, March 16, through Saturday, March 19, at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ruele scored 22.68 seconds in the 50 Free Prelims, which placed her 41st in the competition. By competing in this, Quesnel became the placing her 38th in the competition. By competing in this, Quesnel became the first FIU diver ever to take part in the NCAA Championships.

Making her first ever appearance, Ruele competed in Day Two of the NCAA Championships, Thursday, March 17th, in what’s known as the “50 Free Prelims,” short for the 50-Yard Freestyle Preliminaries. She proceeded to obtain her fourth-best [collegiate] career time, at 22.23 seconds at the 50 Free. In the Conference USA Championships Preliminaries, she scored 22.33, which became her best time ever, until, of course, she broke that personal record in the round that came right after, the Finals, where she would score 22.23 seconds.

Competing at the top of her game and coming out on top was no new thing for Ruele, as she came in either first or second place in the 50 Free an incredible twelve times in the season.

Ruele put up a flawless performance at the Conference USA Championships earlier this season, winning gold in all seven events that took place, three individual competitions and four relay competitions. She was named C-USA Swimmer of the Meet there after breaking two school records at the 100 Free and the 200 Free Relay.

Three days after her performance at the NCAA Championships on Sunday, March 20, Ruele also happened to qualify for the 2016 Olympic Games that will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

This came as a result of her officially FINA-approved time trial score of 26.07 seconds at the 50 Free, which took place inside of the same Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ruele will be representing her native country, Botswana, as well as Florida International in Brazil for the Olympics. The Games will span from August through August.

As for Quesnel, she had a special season of her own, as well. She became the first FIU diver to ever participate in the NCAA championships last week at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, scoring 199.20 in the Platform Prelims, thereby placing her at 38th.

Quesnel was awarded Conference USA Diver of the Week five times during this exceptional 2015-2016 season.

Earlier this season at the Conference USA Championships, Quesnel was awarded the gold medal for her performance in the 1-Meter competition as well as the Platform program in which she set the FIU record score.

She also placed second in the 3-Meter competition. She broke personal records of hers at the 1-Meter and 3-Meter this season.