

OPINIONS

Our View See ya' Popovich!

Dr. Helen Popovich, president of FAU, was quoted in the local media last week as saying the current *Atlantic Sun* staff has not been as critical as past staff members of the paper. Popovich, who has been fairly low key up until recently, except in her national job search, has not been a subject of main interest to our readers. The *Atlantic Sun* had brought to light the facts surrounding Popovich's quest for a new job, as well as her new position which she will begin in August.

In *Our View* the readers of our paper can put two and two together and conclude that Popovich was enticed to leave by both the Board of Regents (meaning Chancellor Charles Reed) and by the fact that most of the faculty had lost all faith in her ability to lead this University. Obviously, she wanted to remain at the helm of a university, so what is the matter with this one? The answer is quite simple—she just can't do her job here.

We asked ourselves why the *Atlantic Sun* did not receive a press release or any notification at all of last Friday's media question/answer session with Popovich and former President of University of Florida Marshall Criser. Popovich and Criser fielded questions from a panel of business and media representatives; however, we were totally bypassed. How professional.

The University's administration has been running without any true leadership and totally without chorus in their decision-making process. This is totally the fault of one individual—Popovich. It is her responsibility to have all the vice presidents working in the same direction. It is her responsibility to see that projects are followed through on and not evaporated like her pond in front of the Humanities building. It is her responsibility, since she can't do her job at the level that is needed to keep this University moving in the right direction, to leave this institution. Three strikes—you're out.

Name Withheld Upon Request

In recent weeks, the *Atlantic Sun* has been criticized by several disgruntled students for a letter published under "Name Withheld Upon Request." It has come to our attention that some have tried to tarnish the reputation of this student paper by falsely stating that it was unethical and unjournalistic. Obviously, these people are ignorant or have other motives for trying to attack the *Sun*.

We challenge these aforementioned individuals to explain why the *Palm Beach Post* and the *Boca Raton News* run letters published under "Name Withheld Upon Request."

The letter in question was written by an FAU student who signed the letter and proved to the *Sun* that there may be imminent damage to his or her organizations of which he or she is a member by the publication of the individual's name. The staff also verified facts contained in the letter, which included letters written by one of the individuals who were in question. Therefore, the *Sun* had to do the only ethical thing— withhold the name of the writer and provide the pertinent information to our readers.

To those who believe the publication of "Name Withheld Upon Request" was "a lack of professionalism, ethics, and morals," should definitely not pursue a career in journalism. "The publication of 'Name Withheld Upon Request' is quite professional, completely ethical and morally required," according to the *Sun-Sentinel* and practiced by the *Post* and the *Independent Florida Alligator*.

Atlantic Sun

Editor-in-Chief.....KEVIN MCCONNELL
Managing News Editor.....MITCHELL P. ALBERT
News Editor.....BRUCE GOTTESMAN
Opinions Editor.....ALLISON LAMBERTI
Business Editor.....STANTON MORTON
Features Editor.....STEPHEN J. MANCOUR
Entertainment Editor.....SCOOTER LIVINGSTON
Sports Editor.....MICHELLE NAWROCKI
Photography Editor.....GEORGE JANSSEN
Advertising Manager.....HOWARD LAYNE
Production Manager.....TRISH ORRICO
Controller.....NANCINE THOMPSON
Senior Clerk/Career Staff.....GENNETH A. GORDON
Staff.....POLLY COONS•TONIA COSTA
JIM DIX•ALAN HURWITZ•ROSE M. MESA
PEGGY TEEHAN•SUZETTE TURNBULL

The *Atlantic Sun* is a student publication serving Florida Atlantic University, published on Wednesdays during FAU academic terms. The *Atlantic Sun* is funded through Activity and Service Fees, as well as through Advertising. Deadline for advertisements is one week before publication date. Deadline for articles, letters, cartoons, etc. is also one week before publication date unless prior arrangements are made with the editorial staff.

Subscriptions are available at \$10 per semester. Make checks payable to the *Atlantic Sun*. Please send checks or money orders to: The *Atlantic Sun*, FAU, UC 248, 500 N.W. 20th Street, Boca Raton, FL 33431. Telephone:(407)367-3750 Hours:Tue-Fri 9a.m. to 5p.m.

Grant justice to students

By ALLISON LAMBERTI
Sun Opinions Editor

Democracy. Justice. The Right of Appeal. All these phrases conjure up images of a righteous and fair system of law, all of which are upheld in the United States constitution. Injustice is a dirty word in America, and its use runs rampant by the administrators at this institution. It's time for a clean-up.

Last week, the administrators of FAU attempted to shut down and cease all activity therein and related to the weekly publication of FAU: The *Atlantic Sun*, by terminating five of its chief editors because of delinquent grades. However, there is a system in America that guarantees its citizens the right to appeal for what they feel may be an unjust act. This system has a name. It's called due process.

The University catalog states on page F-5, under the Section entitled "Right of Appeal," that, "A person who believes that any requirement or regulation of the University is causing a particular hardship may petition for relief." Nevertheless, the University administration failed to adhere to such a right, and in addition, asked the Student Body President, Mariann Rowland, to do their dirty work. She refused.

These students were not notified of their termination directly, nor were they given the opportunity to petition for a redress of grievances. The attempt to terminate these five editors without due process of law is a gross violation of constitutional rights and represents a terrible injustice on the part of the University administration.

The news hit the media almost immediately, putting FAU and the administrators in the spotlight. Were they afraid? The pressure was on. They had to act. FAU's credibility and trustworthy reputation it has gained throughout the years was on the line. The administrators knew they had to act fast to rec-

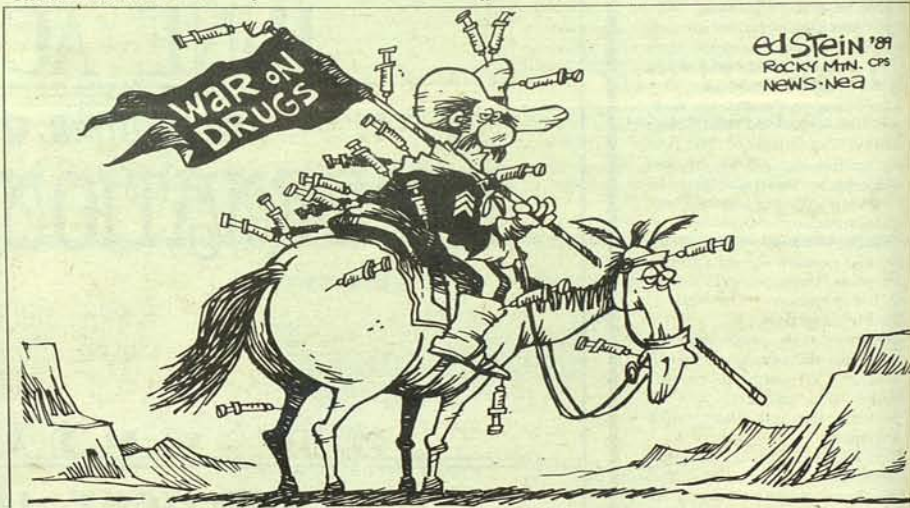
tify their already negligent actions. Dr. Helen Popovich, FAU president, stated the editors may remain in their positions until June 26, upon which time anyone with a FAU GPA below 2.0 will be terminated.

Popovich claims that by giving the editors "time" they will have the chance to pull their grades up to the satisfactory level. *Problem 1:* What about those students who are not enrolled in Summer Term A, but only Summer Semester C? Their grades cannot be improved until their course load is completed in August. Is this justice? *Problem 2:* If the administrators go ahead with the June 26 deadline, the *Sun* may be forced to shut its doors, thereby resulting in the cessation of the only media communication service available to students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and the local community regarding the events and happenings of the University. This would be detrimental to all those who rely on the dedication of the *Atlantic Sun* to bringing to the community a student run newspaper.

Since this relatively new rule has not been actively enforced in the recent past, it is recommended that the administration review their own inadequacy in trying to "selectively enforce" this policy. Why not give the Publication Advisory Board a chance to review its policy and include this rule for employment purposes? Then other clubs and organizations may actively follow suit and a fair system will evolve for all.

If democracy means anything at FAU, the administrators will grant those in question the justice they deserve but have failed to receive. Wake up, administrators, and render this situation in a fair and just manner.

Allison Lamberti is the Opinions Editor of the *Atlantic Sun* and is not one of those whose GPA is affected by the performance rule.



Open letter to the Board of Regents

TO: The Board of Regents of the State of Florida

You should be informed of a problem that is currently occurring at Florida Atlantic University.

There is a relatively new, previously unenforced rule, in the catalog as follows: "In order for a Florida Atlantic University student to be eligible to participate...in extra-curricular activities, a student must be in good academic standing, as defined in the section entitled 'Performance in courses,' (2.0 on FAU work).

There are a few problems. First, this rule is discriminating against students who have transferred from other schools. A student who started at FAU as a freshman has his freshman and sophomore classes count towards his GPA. A transfer student is discriminated against because he cannot count those grades towards his GPA under this rule (Note: there are only two other state universities with similar rules).

Second, this rule has been on the books for an entire year. Only now have they (the administrators) attempted to enforce it. For the past three years, special arrangements have been made for students. Suddenly enforcement action has occurred. Some of the students affected have hired a lawyer and are in the process of filing suit.

Another problem is that this rule may be in direct conflict with State Statutes regarding Activity & Service Fees and their applications. Any organization funded by A&S fees must be open to student membership.

The administrators trying to enforce this rule are biased. Helen Popovich had four articles published about her in four weeks. They were not all flattering and she specifically requested the *Atlantic Sun* not to run one of them. In addition, there was an editorial written about her and one about Chancellor Charles Reed.

Dr. Newsome, the vice president of student affairs, was the person who deliberately picked out Kevin McConnell, editor-in-chief, and checked on his GPA. After pressure from Student Body President Mariann

See LETTER/p.5

Quotation of the Week

"...is of doubtful legality, since it may be in conflict with state administrative code. Perhaps there is substance to the charges."

Excerpt from an editorial in last Monday's *Boca Raton News*, which confused state administrative code with state law regarding the use of activity and service fees and the GPA issue.