

ELECTIONS

FIU Student Media provides cheat sheet to bring students up to date

FAIRGROUNDS

FIUSM STAFF

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The University is quickly outgrowing space to build on campus.

This institution's vision in the last 50 years has been growth— in number of students, faculty, programs offered, buildings and housing. FIU is now the second largest institution—in student population—in the state, but it has the smallest main campus out of all the institutions in the State University System.

Without room to expand, the University will be forced to decrease the number of admitted.

FIU's plan to relocate the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair has gained momentum in recent months, and the decision can define the University's future.

SEE FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 5

AMENDMENT 2: VOTERS TO DECIDE MEDICAL MARIJUANA CONTROVERSY

FIUSM STAFF

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Voters will decide on Nov. 4 if Florida will officially allow the use of medical marijuana for patients with debilitating diseases.

The bill that was passed by the Florida Legislature and signed by Governor Rick Scott would only allow access to a specific strain of marijuana called Charlotte's Web. This strain is high on non-euphoric cannabidiol and low in the high-inducing chemical tetrahydrocannabinol.

The measure defines a "debilitating medical condition" as cancer, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, hepatitis C, HIV, AIDS, ALS, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease or other conditions defined a physician's discretion, according to ballotpedia.org.

The Florida Department of Health would regulate medical marijuana practices.

SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 5

SCOTT VS. CRIST: KNOW WHO YOU'RE VOTING FOR

FIUSM STAFF

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In one of the most entertaining, neck-to-neck governor's races in Florida history, voters will the choice to re-elect the incumbent Republican governor, Rick Scott, or Charlie Crist, the former republican governor who turned democrat.

This year's race is still too close to call because the candidates may turn out to be the least-liked pair for any governor's race in the past 10 years, according to recent Quinnipiac University's polls.

SEE GOVERNOR, PAGE 5

Future not so bright with new changes affecting students

JEFFREY PIERRE

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With the new eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, state legislatures and officials are faced with a new problem and unintended consequence: the changes disproportionately limit black and Hispanic students from receiving the award.

An investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights attempted to address the claim,

but the examination has yet to bring any changes to the program.

As political leaders like Charlie Crist and Alberto Carvalho, the Miami-Dade County Public Schools superintendent, look to November's midterm elections to reverse the effects, some say it's time to redirect the conversation to finding a way that the low-income students impacted by the loss of the scholarship can find the resources to attend college. Crist, the democratic candidate in Florida's governors race, blames Republican governor seeking re-election, Rick Scott,

for the changes.

"What we're doing is we're talking about need-based aid instead," said Francisco Valines, the director of Financial Aid. "We understand that the legislature has spoken, and that this is what the Bright Futures Program should be about. But we have a large cohort of needy students whose needs aren't being met." A report by the Miami Herald found that nearly half of Hispanic freshmen and two-thirds of black freshmen who would have qualified in past

SEE BRIGHT FUTURES, PAGE 2

THE FIGHT FOR THE FAIRGROUNDS



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

President Mark B. Rosenberg discusses what is at stake for the University this mid-term election.

SEE FAIRGROUNDS, PAGE 5

College of Engineering celebrates 30th

DESTINEY BURT

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This fall marks the 30th anniversary of the University's College of Engineering and Computing. To celebrate, students, alumni, faculty and staff will come together on Oct. 30 in its honor.

With over 6,000 enrolled students and a rank of second largest in number of degree programs in engineering in Florida, the CEC has made significant milestones over the years.

Each decade is represented in a different focus and a different mission, said the College of Engineering and Computing's Dean Amir Mirmiran.

With humble beginnings as the School of Technology in 1973, the school eventually became established as the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. In a previous Student Media interview, Mirmiran said that South Florida did not have an engineering school.

Later in 2005, the School of Computing and Information Sciences joined the CEAS to become what is known today as the College of Engineering and Computing.

The CEC is also nationally recognized for its one-of-a-kind Wall of Wind, a 12-fan simulator of a category five hurricane. The college is also ranked 42nd by U.S. News & World Report for Online

SEE HOST, PAGE 2

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Will turned-off Latinos turn out for Democrats?

In Hispanic neighborhoods all over Colorado, Latino voters feel strongly that Washington has ignored them, and many warn they won't vote — a choice likely to make a big difference in this state's pivotal U.S. Senate race between Sen. Mark Udall, the Democrat, and Cory Gardner, the Republican.

Democrats disappoint Latino voters, who see little progress in revamping immigration or education policy, issues that resonate deeply in Hispanic communities. And they're just plain angry at Republicans, whom they see as intent on keeping Mexicans and Central Americans out of this country.

They had high hopes for President Barack Obama, who got 71 percent of the Latino vote nationally in 2012. Today it's easy to find many of those same voters thinking the same way as hair salon owner Connie Martinez in this swing area of Colorado.

Brazilian president wins re-election in close election

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Sunday won a second term as the leader of the world's fourth-largest democracy in the nation's closest presidential election in more than two decades.

Her triumph came despite a sluggish economy, corruption allegations, discontent over the quality of public services and anger over the government's handling of two major international sporting events last summer's World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Still, the victory will put Rousseff's leftist Workers' Party in power for 16 consecutive years, an unprecedented stint at the helm of Latin America's largest economy.

With 98 percent of the voted counted, Rousseff, 66, an economist who became Brazil's first female president in 2010, had won 51.45 percent.

Scholarship changes affect black and Hispanic students

BRIGHT FUTURES, PAGE 1

years, did not receive an award last year.

According to Valines, the state allocates just under \$8 million to the University to be used for need-based aid. This translates into approximately 4,000 students receiving the award. "But there's another 5,000 students who are eligible for [Florida Student Assistance Grant] who we don't have any money for," Valines adds.

The FSAG Program is a need-based grant program available to degree-seeking undergraduate students who demonstrate substantial financial need and are enrolled in participating postsecondary institutions.

FIU has also "joined a partnership" with the University of South Florida and the University of Central Florida, two universities that like FIU, serve large urban areas. The three institutions are

working to send one message to the Florida Board of Governors: we have students who especially need financial assistance.

"That's been our focus — lets talk to the Board of Governors about that and let's talk to legislatures about need-based aid," Valines said.

The Florida Board of Governors is a 17-member board that serves as the governing body for the State University System of Florida, a system of twelve public universities in the state.

Valines says, alongside putting pressure on the Board of Governors to recognize the needs of Miami-Dade's low income households, officials should put pressure on high schools to find the resources for seniors to improve grade point averages, SAT and ACT scores.

CEC celebrates three decades

HOST, PAGE 1

Graduate Programs.

"We are celebrating the anniversary of the college, the next era," Mirmiran said. "Our next decade will be about the ranking of the college and showing that the college has gone a long way."

The event has also given 30 students from the department an opportunity to showcase their research and outreach projects to different scholarship organizations.

"[It will be] an opportunity

for the students to tell a story about how their education and research is affording a better solution for the community," said Mirmiran.

Students and alumni will be able to network with community leaders and industry sponsors.

"This will be an opportunity for our students to shine," said Elizabeth Naranjo, administration operations manager of the engineering dean's office.

"So that the people who are donating money for

scholarships can see the effort these students are putting in."

Engineering and Computing students also look forward to the Nov. 4 ballots. One of the wishes that the University has is to expand the Engineering Center with the acquisition of the fairgrounds.

For some, having to travel between the Modesto A. Maidique Campus and the Engineering Center is an issue.

"Having the engineering campus separate gives

the students a type of exclusivity," said Irving. "But expanding to main campus would be beneficial because we won't have to go to the engineering campus."

Maria Paula Ariza, a junior electrical engineering major, agrees that the expansion would be beneficial.

"There's a lot of students in each classroom, so if the campus does expand, hopefully there will be more classes," said Ariza.

Program lives on after 25

WRITING, PAGE 8

"Personally, the anniversary event is a recognition of the longevity of our program," said Coordinator and Professor Julie Marie Wade.

As the newest member of the Creative Writing faculty, Wade states that she was drawn to FIU's MFA program because of its philosophy.

"I think the program has thrived and continued to thrive," Wade said. "No MFA faculty person has ever left this program except to retire. Our faculty is incredibly dedicated to their jobs and stay on for the long haul."

There is a strong alumni network and, every year, the program hosts an alumni reading at Books & Books to give new graduates an opportunity to read from their thesis projects.

Alumni who have recently published books can also share their publications with a local audience.

This event celebrates a program that has dedicatedly motivated students to pursue their dreams.

"I always tell my students that creative writing isn't a profession — it's a vocation," Wade said.

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Media epidemic creates fear, not education

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The 2014 Ebola outbreak is the largest recorded epidemic of the disease in history. The exact genesis point of the outbreak is still being researched, but it is well accepted at this point that it originated from the West African region, in the countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Due to the elusiveness of the disease during the beginning stages, transmission is fairly subtle. Ebola gets passed down by contact with the bodily fluids of an infected person. This cycle repeats, as is the case in any epidemic. Ebola, however, garnered much more news coverage than originally expected when the disease made its way into the United States and has become very well known across many channels.

As is the case with modern media, once the United States becomes affected by anything, it must become global news. The news outlets of America made it a point to scare the general population by exacerbating Ebola, making it seem not as controlled as it actually is.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has actually done a fantastic job in containment within the states; the states affected have actually done an even better job at providing overseas help. The problem

“News outlets, in my opinion, take advantage of this kind of situation in an effort to increase the viewing numbers.”

with containing this disease overseas falls under our inability to adequately protect international borders. It is through this reason that I find the media to overhype this story.

Ebola, much like H1N1, is affecting the global community at a faster rate than our own country. The United States possesses one of the finest medical facilities in the modern world, so for a disease which we know how to treat to have this much of a psychological effect on the general population is astounding.

One particular point behind what I find to be the fear in our society over Ebola is just how little information the public is receiving on this disease. All it takes is one person with some form of credibility to incite terror in a target audience. News outlets, in my opinion, take advantage of this kind of situation in an effort to increase the viewing numbers.

Not many people actually care about real humanitarian causes overseas, but throw a little bug from Africa in there, make it

come to the United States and essentially kill someone with it and now we have hysteria. Thomas Duncan, the unexpected martyr of our tale, and thus far the only confirmed death in the Ebola epidemic in the U.S., managed to show us one thing: We are still afraid of what we don't understand, and the media does little to actually educate the public.

The chances of one actually acquiring and subsequently developing the Ebola virus are incredibly slim. However, the real problem lies in the mortality rate for Ebola, which currently stands at roughly 50 percent, but can vary between 25 to 90 percent.

What the media should begin doing, rather than create fear, is educate. Tell the people the reassuring statistics of the disease that seem to be ignored constantly and how even in Africa there are containment practices already in place to control the outbreak even more. The global community deserves to know that they are safe, more so than knowing they're at risk.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Smaller election, bigger issues

Every four years, after the hype over presidential elections settle, pundits ask why Americans place so much importance in presidential races—and the belief that presidential policy affects us directly in our daily lives— but consistently neglect local races.

Voter turnout regularly drops during midterm elections. According to a 2010 study by the Pew Research Center, midterm election voter turnout fell to 37 percent following 2008, where 57 percent of registered voters came to the polls— making it the highest presidential voter turnout in years.

For millennials, turnout is especially low in these off year elections.

In 2008, it wasn't uncommon to see 20-and-30-year-olds take to the streets campaigning for Barack Obama, a young and socially liberal candidate they believed represented their ideals, values and embodied the progressive course the country should take.

That same year, Dwight Bullard, a 31-year-old candidate who supported and emulated the soon-to-be president in many ways, won the 118th District in the House, uncontested, but relying solely on the support and votes of his elders.

Instead of exploring the answer behind why young people don't see the power local policy makers have, it's important to understand how those powers affect us everyday.

Midterm elections happen, state by state, every two-years, electing state and federal congressional representatives, governors and local municipal officials. Each state is different as to which specific offices are up for election each midterm cycle— some state officials serve a four-year term, while other states have two-year terms.

Starting in Washington, any proposed federal mandate and law that will be eventually left to states to implement, must first be voted in by the Congressional representatives elected during off-year elections. Many argue that these legislatures hold the “true” power since collectively, laws live or die in the chambers of Congress. The same can be said regarding state congressional representatives.

The constitutional powers given to the president in the legislative process lies only

in being able to approve or veto a bill, not propose.

Locally, we feel the effects of county and municipal leaders everyday from the schools we attend, the roads we drive on, the water we drink and to the police who protect us. Attendance during city council meetings, a place where residents can voice out grievances and demand change, is generally low, extremely low.

Right now, the president and democrats in Washington are rallying behind a movement to federally raise the national minimum wage. This would undoubtedly put money into the pockets of Americans. Some argue that reducing state taxes—property taxes, income taxes, etc.— can have a similar effect to raising the minimum wage, and may even be a fiscally smarter course of action.

The college student unhappy with things like high tuition rates should look no further than to the Florida Board of Governors, a 17-member governing board appointed by the state's governor who regulates the 12 public universities in the State University System.

Last year, the BOG developed a new funding model for universities based entirely on the institution's performance— the good schools are rewarded with new funds, while the poorly performing schools could lose money.

This was an obvious problem for the smaller and less established schools in the SUS, but many officials — on both sides of the aisle— question whether the model would survive under a democratic governor, Charlie Crist. To the students attending the universities who performed poorly, and potentially face the quality education being affected because of budgetary cuts, voting in the November election is the best way to restructure the model.

This year's midterm elections will determine the future of Florida. The legalization of medical marijuana could be the first step in a path leading up to its decriminalization, and the state can begin taking serious steps in exploring how we will tackle South Florida's rising waters.

The question for many has always been, “what can I do?” The answer is simple: vote. Moreover, vote where it matters most.

PARKING IS FAIR GAME



JASMINE ROMERO/THE BEACON

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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Governor's race is a close one and every vote counts

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Florida's gubernatorial election has become the entertaining, neck-to-neck, mud-slinging race political pundits dreamed it was going to be, and it all culminated with a debate that was more notable for a fan than for its political correctness.

Incumbent Republican Governor Rick Scott is fighting off former Democratic Governor Charlie Crist and both have spent millions in negative ads against each other. Crist was governor in 2006 as a Republican and forewent reelection opting to run for Senate, a race he lost to current Senator, Marco Rubio. Scott won the 2010 election.

This year's race — on pace to become the nation's most expensive campaign, already surpassing \$50 million, according to The Miami Herald — is still too close to call with both Scott and Crist having held minute leads.

Part of the reason the race is so close is because the candidates may turn out to be the least-liked pair for any governor's race in the past 10 years. Both have polled more unfavorable than favorable in recent Quinnipiac University's polls.

In what was predicted to be among the most heated battles happening this fall across the country, it would be no surprise if students were struggling to make a choice between candidates when the general population of the state seems to be just as split.

Student government leaders at Biscayne Bay Campus have been hosting events on campus to raise awareness about the elections and the importance of voting.

"Students need to know that their vote counts and their voices deserve to be heard," said Camille Williams, senior journalism major and vice president of Student Government Council at BBC.

But there is more to this race than sound policies — this is also about who can rekindle the flame in voters' hearts.

"This is part of the reason why we have our 'Know Your Vote' campaign," said Williams. "We want to encourage students to become knowledgeable and aware of the ballot language and people that may be governing our generation."

The debates touched on the three most important topics to Florida residents: education, jobs and the environment.

Scott is basing his campaign on his ability to provide jobs. Jobs have increased by about

800,000 during his term, although the number of full-time jobs is significantly less than pre-recession numbers.

But Politifact says Scott's claim that the job loss was Crist's fault as "partially accurate but leaves out important details," and adds, "You can't lay all the blame on one governor."

Crist has responded by saying that Scott changed his promise from 700,000 extra jobs to just 700,000 jobs, a claim Politifact said to be true.

Scott was also singled out for admitting to the largest Medicare Fraud settlement in the history of the United States for over half a billion dollars as the Chief Executive of Columbia/Healthcare Corporation of America.

Crist's campaign is focused on his education policy. He said Scott cut \$1.3 billion out of Florida schools during his first year as governor, a claim rated by Politifact as mostly true.

Scott has claimed that state funding for K-12 is at its highest ever, which was rated as being only half true, and that Crist was responsible for to 3,000 teachers losing their jobs, which was rated to be mostly false.

Crist rebutted that by accepting President Barack Obama's Economic Stimulus Package he helped over 20,000 teachers keep their jobs, a claim rated as being mostly true, although "precise numbers of the layoffs are difficult to pinpoint."

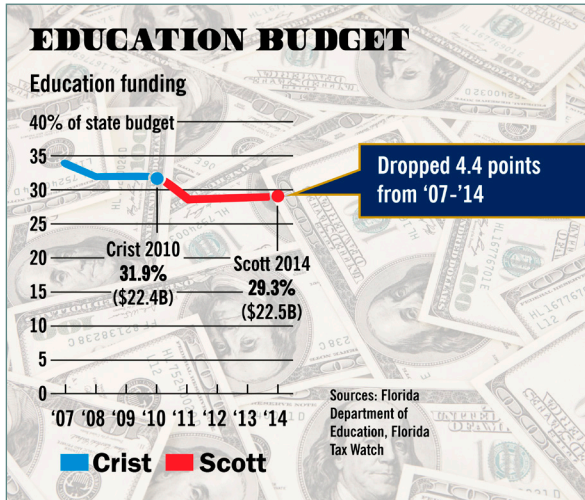
As far as University students are concerned, both candidates have made cuts to the Bright Futures Scholarship program as well as overseen increases in tuition. In addition, they have also both approved the excess credit surcharge when a student passes their required hours for a degree.

For K-12 education, Scott supports high-stakes testing and Crist wants to reduce.

Scott raised the budget for education passing the Florida Families First Budget which increased the spending for all education in the state, including performance based funding for state universities. This funding is based on a university's success in helping students graduate on time and obtain high paying jobs affordably.

The budget also increases funding for Early Education, K-12, financial aid, and Public Education Capital Outlay maintenance funding. But even with the raise in the budget, Crist still holds the record for per-student funding.

Originally a Republican, Crist left the party



and became an Independent in route to his second unsuccessful attempt for U.S. Senate. He would eventually join the Democratic party, endorsing President Obama in his 2012 re-election. Consequently, he has flopped on a few topics including Obamacare, the economic stimulus and abortion.

Other important topics include: Same-sex marriage, Scott against and Crist for; Scott supporting corporations be in control of their medical coverage — including denying women birth control, as well as supporting mandatory ultrasounds and restrictions on abortion-while Crist supports the decision be made by a woman and her doctor, not her employer; Medicinal marijuana, Scott against and Crist for; and minimum wage increase to \$10.10, Scott against and Crist for.

Scott won his previous election by only by around 68,000 votes, or 1.29 percent, meaning students have the opportunity to make an impact.

"This election is really important because, for some of us, it's the first time we're ever voting," said Alexis Calatayud, president of the student government council at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. "State government affects our lives in more direct ways than a race for congressman or even a president will, because these people decide the things we feel."

To help students do their research on the candidates, student government has held events throughout the semester to inform students. Coming up, the council at BBC will be hosting their 'Know Your Vote' campaign including an event this Wednesday, Oct. 29.

"If you want a say in what happens in our day-to-day life, voting in this election is really important," said Calatayud. "It doesn't just affect us today; these people will shape what South Florida looks like when we're trying to find a job."



The Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition v

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There's a lot on the line for the University with this election. Voting yes on the ballot means it gets to move in to 64 of the 86 adjacent acres land to continue expanding programs, classroom space, housing and parking.

Voting no, however, means President Mark B. Rosenberg will have to limit access and slow enrollment.

Currently, FIU has the second

highest enrollment and the smallest. With over 54,000 students, FIU University has spacing issues for "Our sense is that we are centering acres of land will be the University," said the University meeting on and of Dade County Fair and the county for Its efforts to acres of county land leased to the Fa

Some students

NICOLE MONTERO
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University law students have teamed up with the Students for Sensible Drug Policy group to raise awareness around campus and register students for the medical marijuana initiative that is up for vote on the November ballot.

Christopher Fleitas, a third-year FIU law student and executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws thinks that engaging students will make all the difference.

"It's always important for people to be aware of what's going on because they're in a position where they can make a positive impact," Fleitas said. "Each vote counts and you can pretty much carve out your destiny by going to the polling place."

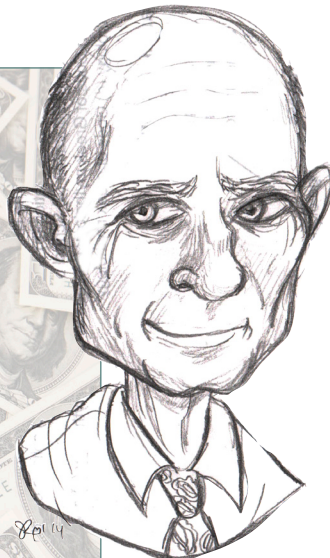
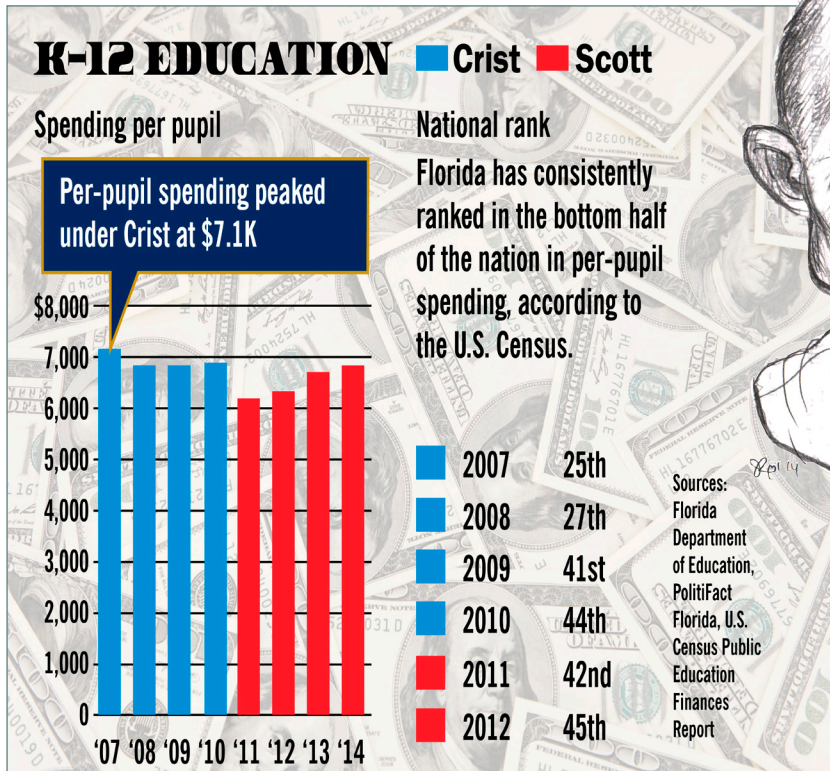
Fleitas has first-hand experience with medicinal marijuana patients and saw the negative effects that prohibition raised. According to him, the options available to patients are killing them.

"There are a whole bunch of different illnesses right now — like AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis and Lou Gehrig's disease," he said. "All they get is opiates and they don't have the opportunity to choose something less harmful because of the legal landscape of the state."

Amendment 2, the Florida Right to Medicinal Marijuana Initiative, would guarantee that medicinal use of marijuana by qualifying patient or caregiver



CRIST



SCOTT

HANGING IN THE BALANCE

University's growth and future in the hands of voters



MARIA LORENZINO/THE BEACON

would become part of the University, should Resolution 7 win.

ent in the state, at main campus. 00 students, the anticipated their years.

that the growth mplanting in the 64 definitely improve aid Rosenberg.

sity has been f with the Miami-ir and Exposition about five years. acquire the 86 and that has been air finally gained

momentum this summer when the Florida Legislature gave the University \$10 million towards the relocation initiative. The Fair has a 99-year lease with the county.

In September, the Board of County Commissioners passed along the referendum to the Nov. 4 ballot.

The ballot is a yes or no vote to allow the University to build on the land as an exception to the county charter, which designated the land for park and recreation purposes only.

The Fair has made it clear it

does not want to relocate, and complained to the county board that the language on the ballot does not include or explain what would happen to the Fair if the University is exempt.

The Board of County Commissioners also approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the County.

In the MOU, the University listed their plans for expansion: to expand their Engineering Center, expand the Academic Health Center, labs and classroom space,

as well as more parking and housing.

The MOU outlines specific steps the University must take, along with the county, to relocate the Fair without invoking the cancellation option of the Fair's county lease.

For one, the University has to pay for the entire cost of relocation, and according to the memorandum, they intend to seek the rest of the money from the Florida Legislature or private donors.

The University has anticipated to spend between \$45 to \$50 million to help the Fair relocate. Part of the agreement includes giving \$20 million to the County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department to make improvements in Tamiami Park. The park would not be taken over in the University expansion plan.

Additionally, the University must lease the County a title to the Bird Basin Property. The County's lease to the University depends on whether they get the Bird Basin Property or not.

Both sides have lobbied aggressively in the past months and each side has its fair share of supporters.

Miami Herald staff made recommended their readers to vote yes on the ballot for University expansion as part of an editorial.

In response, Youth Fair CEO Robert Hohenstein wrote a letter to the editor to make clear that even if the referendum passes, the Fair will still be in Tamiami Park for several years.

He said that the University must

fulfill certain steps before the Fair will even move.

The University must present an alternative site that is acceptable to the Youth Fair, then reimburse the Fair for the \$90 million-plus in infrastructure it has invested and prepare the new site plus moving costs.

Once the University has taken these steps, Hohenstein said, the County must give the Fair three years' notice.

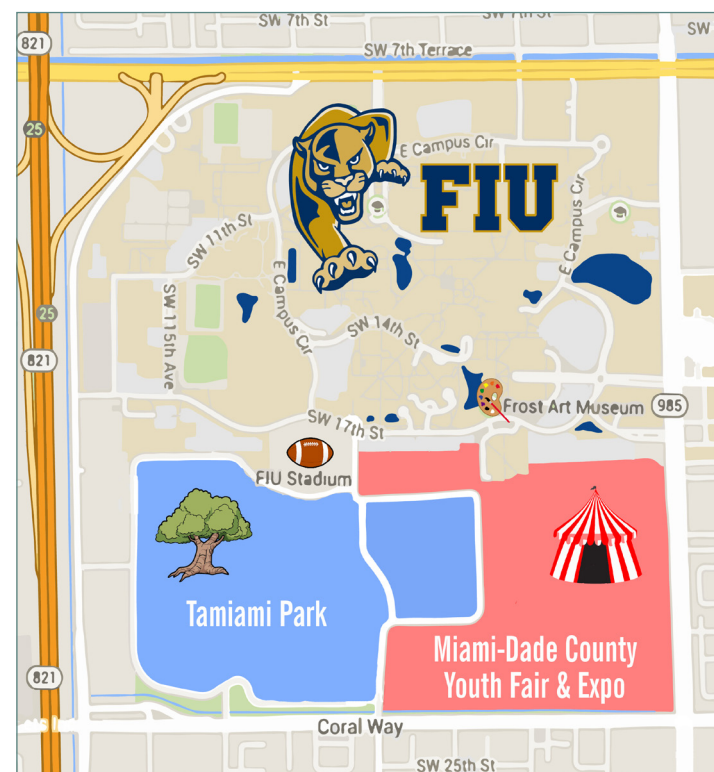
There is a clear disagreement in the estimated costs of this whole operation: Rosenberg said it wouldn't go over \$50 million but

Hohenstein said the estimated cost is about \$230 million.

The agreement with the County sets March 2015 as the deadline for the County and the University to present an alternative site for the Fair.

Once they can pinpoint the site, the University will have a better estimate of the costs they are responsible for.

"The DNA of this University is not to settle. The DNA of this University is to push when people say no," Rosenberg said. "We want to know, 'why not?'"



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

FIU has the second highest enrollment in the state, and the smallest main campus. Pending county approval, the University could expand east into the Miami-Dade County Fair and Expo grounds.

OK medical marijuana, others worry about loopholes

would not be subject to criminal or civil liability.

The measure would also guarantee that licensed physicians would not be subject to criminalization for issuing medical marijuana to a person diagnosed with a "debilitating medical condition" under state law.

United for Care, a campaign run by People United for Medical Marijuana, is the main advocate for the bill to pass.

"I've talked to so many people who have told me that this makes a huge difference in alleviating their distress," said Maurizio Passariello, communications director for United for Care. "I cannot understand why, as a society, we haven't come together and allowed this."

Like Fleitas, Passariello cannot understand why physicians are allowed to prescribe radiation and opiates rather than making available a natural plant.

The United for Care bus tour came to the University on Oct. 9 for an open format town hall discussion and rally about medical marijuana and Amendment 2.

Rosemary Maseri, a woman who suffers from multiple sclerosis, fibromyalgia and migraines attended the discussion. According to Passariello, she is suffering.

"She's not using medical marijuana now because she's afraid of the consequences," he said. "Why are we not letting people like that have access to this? This bill is our chance to prove that Florida can do this."

Some students around campus said they wanted

the bill to pass while others dissented.

Ana Tomas, junior hospitality and management major, is one of them.

"The amendment doesn't really give specifics so we can't let this bill pass because we don't know what the regulations will be," she said.

One of Tomas' fears is that the regulations will allow children and teens to legally purchase marijuana without the parents' consent, as the amendment does not specify age.

"The amendment also has a drug dealer loophole because these so-called caregivers, the people who are assigned to get the drug for the 'debilitating' patient, don't need any medical training," she said. "So, basically, they can be felons."

Emilio Morra, senior information technology major, is also opposed to the bill. He believes that the drug alters your state of being and, like Tomas, thinks that the amendment has too many loopholes.

"The reality is that the amendment doesn't require a doctor's prescription to get the pot," he said.

Morra also thinks the bill is too broad and that doctors would prescribe the drug for any condition.

"Anyone who wants pot will get it because there's absolutely no way to moderate it," he said. "It will be chaotic and people who really need it could abuse it and give it to those who don't."

The bill will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot as an initiated constitutional amendment. If the bill passes, the Florida Department of Health would be responsible for regulating it.

IF VOTING YES:

1) Medical use of marijuana by a qualifying patient or personal caregiver is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under state law.

2) A licensed physician is not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions for issuing medical marijuana to a person diagnosed with a "debilitating medical condition" under state law.

3) Registered medical marijuana treatment centers are not subject to criminal or civil liability or sanctions under state law.

SIX LIMITATIONS ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

1) The amendment does not "affect laws relating to non-medical use, possession, production or sale of marijuana."

2) The amendment does not authorize "the use of medical marijuana by anyone other than a qualifying patient."

3) The amendment does not allow for the "operation of a motor vehicle, boat, or aircraft while under the influence of marijuana."

4) The amendment does not require accommodations for medical marijuana use "in any place of education or employment, or of smoking medical marijuana in any public place."

5) The amendment does not require "any health insurance provider or any government agency or authority to reimburse any person for expenses related to the medical use of marijuana."

6) The amendment does not require "the violation of federal law or purports to give immunity under federal law."

SOCCER

Panthers to face rival Florida Atlantic

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After playing a game on the road against the Thundering Herd of Marshall University, the

Panthers return to their own turf for a two game home stretch. Their future lies in their own hands.

With only three games left in the season and having played what seemed to be the toughest part of their schedule, FIU now

has a great opportunity to seize. Their first home game against their in-state rival Florida Atlantic University may be an interesting one to say the least.

Owls search for an Identity:

This season, for the Owls, has not been going well. Having only picked up one win this season (against Marshall), FAU continues to have their struggles. While conference play has been a let down, the Owls have tried to make no excuses. The lack of wins has impacted them negatively and the Owls have not played up to par.

In fact, the Owls have only scored four goals in the last six games they have participated in. It's evident that the lack of goals is something that the Owls have been dealing with throughout this season. With only three seniors but 10 freshmen on the roster, the Owls are searching for guidance.

Behind Head Coach Kos

Donev, the Owls will have to continue to search for an identity. With only two Conferences games left (three left overall), the Owls will need to pick up the pace if they do not want to be at the bottom of the standings. With their next two games on the road, the Owls will be forced to play their best with the home crowd against them.

Panthers on the Prowl:

After winning their last game at home, the Panthers look forward to playing in front of their home crowd once again. Having come up short for multiple games, it was a relief for the Panthers to be able to pick up a victory at home. Now, the momentum continues to shift in their favor. The Panthers are set to take on struggling foe Florida Atlantic at home.

While the Panthers are not strangers to losing tight games; the Owls on the other hand, have not been as successful in staying competitive in their previous

four games. Although both teams have had their fair share of struggles on the defensive end, the Panthers have had not let up on the offensive side of the ball. Senior forward Quentin Albrecht has been spectacular this season. Having scored three goals in their previous two home games, both he and the team expect this trend to continue.

In the end, FIU will continue to put a large emphasis on defense. The conclusion of their previous game encourages them to do so.

"We cannot allow for other teams to get their set pieces. We must make them feel our pressure," Head Coach Scott Calabrese said.

The team will look towards senior defender Sean McFarlane for leadership in the backline as they continue to progress.

Following this game, the Panthers await the visiting University of Kentucky Wildcats on Sunday, Nov. 2.



RICHARD CRANK/ THE PARTHENON

The Panthers celebrate after defender Marvin Hezel scored the only goal against Marshall University, winning the game 1-0. FIU will face FAU on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

TRACK & FIELD

Track and Field getting into the swing of things

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For the throwers on the track and field team this season, the expectations are record-breaking.

Head Coach Ryan Heberling sets the bar high for his team. To encourage success, he gives each freshman a certain distance to surpass in his or her first year of track and field. These distances just so happen to be the school records in these categories.

"The reason for [setting high expectations] is that we get better athletes, they push those marks further and further, and what used to be the best here is now normal," Heberling said.

Throws and the type of athletes that participate in them are different from the other events in track and field. For example, sprinters can refine their speed, but most of them possess speed when they come in.

Hurling a javelin or tossing a hammer properly takes a combination of mostly strength and technique, both of which can be improved through the course of a college career.

Graduate student Chandra Fulwood is a prime example of this transition. She was a cheerleader who had never considered track and field until two years ago.

Fulwood had the typical thrower build though, so she was recruited and trained to the women's team. Soon she found herself competing in shot put, javelin, discus and hammer throws.

"Here she is, a year and a half into her training, and she is really coming along

nicely," Heberling said.

Even as a head coach now, Heberling still works closely with the team. He coached the throwers for five years until he was given the opportunity to coach the collective team this season.

When Heberling was a student of the University, he started throwing the hammer and the javelin in his freshman year. His experience as both a thrower and a student of the University have been imperative in coaching up his men and women.

The women have a mix of experienced and freshmen throwers.

Junior Tiffani Hernandez is the women's top athlete in the javelin throw. She won first place in the javelin at the 3rd Annual South Florida Multi-Cultural Games last season.

Some multi event athletes also excel in throws. Freshman Bejai Fray is a multi athlete who excels at shot put and the javelin. She was an all-state athlete in the shot put in high school.

The men also feature some experience in throws. Senior Luka Mustafic and sophomore Sean Pratt of the men's side will also look to beat their previous best distances. Pratt scored a 40.56-meter hammer throw at the Multi-Cultural Games last season - good for second place in the competition.

The men and women throwers are primed for a strong year. They have an experienced coach, a group of experienced veterans and an influx of talented youth. They will continue to prepare for indoor season until they hit the track in November.

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SOCCER

Senior class takes the spotlight against Marshall for final home game

JAMES PROFETTO

Staff Writer

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On the eve of the last home game, seniors will take the time to bask in their achievements, as they deserve the spotlight. It's Senior Night on Thursday, Oct. 30 versus Marshall University.

Five seniors will be celebrated: redshirt senior forward Chelsea Leiva, senior forward Ashleigh Shim, senior midfielder Johanna Volz and senior defenders Marie Egan and Caroline Hernandez.

At the time of press, the Panthers' Leiva and Shim have combined for 41 career goals. Leiva is fifth all-time for goals scored here at the University with 33 (would need four more to tie for fourth). Shim is tenth overall all-time with 17 goals. These have been two top ten athletes that have proven their worth throughout the season, drawing attention from plenty of defenders each game.

Volz has been an orchestrator of the midfield during her four year tenure. Volz has started 69 of her 78 games played, gathering 13 goals and amassing 3,203 minutes on the field. This season, she is shooting a crisp 56 percent on-goal.

Stout defenders Egan and Hernandez have left their mark in Miami. Egan, a Colorado native, found her place defending the back line of the Panthers. In 58 games played, she has started all but two. On more than one occasion, she's found herself in position to save potential goals, halt opposing teams' breaks towards goal and mix a bit of aggressive, but smart, tackling.

Hernandez, hailing from Marietta, Georgia, is known as the enforcer of the team. Recruited as a forward, she's

been switched to defender, thanks to her strong leg and no-nonsense attitude. She scored her first career goal against the University of Texas at San Antonio Friday, Oct. 24. Teammates feed off of her energy and marvel at the ability she has to not get beat late into games.

The seniors will need to be at full strength come Thursday, Oct. 30, against a sixth-place Marshall team. The Thundering Herd will be fighting to keep their playoff spot in tact after dropping a 2-1 result versus Louisiana Tech University on Sunday, Oct. 26.

The Panthers have only seen the Herd once with a 1-0 loss as the result. This season is one for upsets, though, as Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt has proven to tweak his formation to best suit the game at hand.

Freshman midfielder Paula Quintero has seen starts in two straight games versus North Texas University and Rice University, both very tough teams. A late-season blossom is sure to form within the core group of youngsters this Panthers team has, due to the improved play of freshmen midfielder Courtney Phillips and goalkeeper Nevena Stojakovic. A player that has subbed in for defense regularly throughout this last leg of the regular season is freshman defender Gabriella Bovo.

Marshall is a respectable 4-3-1 when playing away. The Panthers are a perfect 5-5 at home, looking to finish the season one game above .500 compared to last season's 3-6 record. The Culicerto sisters, Kristine and Kelly, are the duo for Marshall with 16 goals combined that will try to rival the Panthers' Leiva and Shim (10 goals).

After a split weekend (win against UTSA and loss against UTEP), the Panthers must now win both of their last two games, or tie/win. A loss would make matters difficult as they now sit at 10th overall in



KRONO LESCANO/THE BEACON

Senior midfielder Johanna Volz fights for control of the ball during the game against North Texas University on Sunday, Oct. 19.

Conference-USA (top eight teams advance to the C-USA Tournament). The two teams above the Panthers are Old Dominion University and Charlotte University. An advantage Chestnutt and his team have, though, are two games remaining on their schedule versus only one for both ODU and Charlotte.

The "iron-core" of the Panthers' defense has to stop both sisters for a full 90 minutes. When one sister scores, the Thundering Herd have won more than five games on the year, a formula for their success.

The Panthers (8-8-1, 3-4-1) face the Herd (7-6-4, 4-3-2) Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. here in Miami.



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Are you a teacher's pet? Everyone has either been a favorite in a classroom or has dealt with one. I have been on both sides and it has its pros and cons.

College students think favoritism can benefit them and it seems to be what many college students strive for. It doesn't matter what you study, being the favorite can be convenient. Students, rather than gaining knowledge in college, becoming a productive member of society and learning for the sake of not being ignorant, prefer to be lazy.

Competitiveness gets lost and the favorites don't push themselves anymore. This creates an environment that decreases the quality of their college education.

Being the favorite in college is beneficial for those who don't want to work much for their grade. However, in the long run, it will have a negative effect if they always rely on being "the favorite."

I have found myself in that position, but morally it didn't feel right because I was raised with values that contradict that. It also didn't feel good after I noticed that my classmates became gradually more distant and upset at me throughout the semester.

Is this the student's fault? Yes and no. The professor makes the choice of having a favorite, even though teachers should be objective and neutral toward their students. Each student should be able to have the same opportunities. It is unfair if a professor shows favoritism toward one student more than toward the rest of the class.

When I noticed I was my teacher's favorite, it didn't take too long to realize that my peers were very upset about how much freedom I had as far as turning in assignments.

Once, at the very beginning of my college studies, I became one of my teach-

er's favorite students. It felt weird, but empowering, as if I were better than the others because the teacher preferred me. I had more opportunities to turn in assignments late, when others immediately got an F. I worked hard in that class, but not half as much as the rest of my classmates.

I missed my chance to better my public speaking skills. I also didn't appreciate that having deadlines, stressing over homework and exams would have made me more competitive – which is always a quality potential employers look for.

Favoritism made me lazy in that class and it made me feel as if I was wasting my parent's hard-earned money. My parents taught me better, so I changed.

After behaving like the "queen of the world" in that class, I decided to focus on my future courses and take advantage of this great opportunity to study, educate myself and gain valuable skills.

I care a lot about my educational experience in college. Now that I'm attending the Biscayne Bay Campus, things have changed and I have not experienced favoritism anymore – I'm thankful for that.

College isn't easy and life doesn't get easier the older I get. But the journey I experience on my way to graduation is worth every deadline I have to meet.

To stress over homework, projects, midterms and finals may not sound fun to most college students, but things aren't precious or even important to us if we don't have to work for them. That is why college and the daily struggles teach us many valuable lessons for our future lives.

Studying at FIU has taught me to have a clear and realistic goal for each course. Professors have mostly been treating me just like the rest of the class. Having to prove myself in every class is a great practice for me to be able to succeed after college life, which is great as I am planning to graduate next year.

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VOICE YOUR CHOICE



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert talks to students about the importance of voting in midterm elections at the Know Your Vote panel on Monday, Oct. 27.

Creative writing lives on, hits 25

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Creative writing turns 25 at the 50-year-old University this year.

Come November, the University will host a celebration event at the Coral Gables Congregational Church for the 25th anniversary of the Master's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program.

"I can't believe it's been 25 years," said Richard Blanco, a University alum. "I've maintained contact with the people in the program and kept lifelong friends and connections."

Blanco will be the guest speaker at the event on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 8 p.m.

Beginning in his mid-20s, Blanco always wanted to do something creative and continued to achieve his goals in writing.

"I wrote a lot in my engineering

office, actually," Blanco said. "It is amazing to have been a part of a program that makes language come alive in such a beautiful way."

He will read from his work, "The Prince of Los Cucuyos: A Miami Childhood," as well as conduct a book signing. This memoir explores his coming-of-age as the child of Cuban immigrants as he attempted to figure out his place in America as well as his experiences throughout his childhood and adolescence.

"I will be sharing my latest book and talking about how important this program has been in my life and has supported me since graduate school," he said.

Les Standiford, program founder and director, is amazed by the success the University's Creative Writing program has had over the years.

"I could never have predicted the kind of success we have had," Stan-

diford said. "With about 100 books published to date by our [alumni]."

Of all the alumni, Standiford picked Blanco because of his recent honor as an inaugural poet. Blanco became the first Latino inaugural poet in 2013, marking the fifth person to ever read at a president of the United States' inauguration.

"As director of the Creative Writing program, I thought it would be perfect to have our alumnus Richard Blanco, the most recent inaugural poet, come back to Miami as keynote speaker for our celebration," Standiford said.

Writers on the Bay, the creative writing team involved with conducting this event, consists of Graduate Student Coordinator Dawn Tyrell, a group of ten graduate students and the English Department Administrative Coordinators Terese Campbell and Marta Lee.

SEE WRITING, PAGE 2

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