

UPROARING



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Travie McCoy, lead singer of the Gym Class Heroes, opened for Big Sean at the SPC UPRoar Concert on Wed. April 11, 2011. Turn to page 5 for a photo spread and story about the concert.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Court hears case on student voter fraud allegations

MELHOR LEONOR
Asst. News Director
melhor.leonor@fiusm.com

In a full courtroom, the case of Student Government elections was reopened Wednesday morning, as the Student Government Supreme Court heard verbal arguments regarding voter fraud allegations against the recently elected Laura Farinas and Alex Castro presidential campaign.

Dean Williams, campaign manager for the Sanjeev Udhvani and Connor Mautner ticket, took the stand first and presented a petition for legal review, a grievance and an appeal for inadequate punishment.

In the writ submitted to the court, the campaign alleges that, following the submission of alleged voter fraud evidence on the morning of April 4 to the Department of Campus Life, the actions taken by this department to be “in radical disproportion to the severity of the regulation of the student body elections code.”

The Udhvani-Mautner campaign presented Campus Life with evidence consisting of a text message exchange between a Farinas supporter and a student, where the former asks the latter to provide their Panther ID and password with the intention of voting in their place.

After a 40 minute meeting with the department’s advisors, the Farinas-Castro campaign received a two hour penalty restricting tabling in the Graham Center that day.

“We decided to take down their campaign table,” said Jose Toscano, assistant director of Campus Life. “I made sure that it was enforced while the Castro team was going around, I guess informing people.”

“Despite the fact that the

private censure was issued, there was no compliance in accordance with the terms of the censure,” stated Udhvani in the writ. “While the Department of Campus Life informed our campaign that Farinas and Castro were located in the Campus Life Conference room, Farinas 2012 team members were in the Graham Center at their campaign table.”

Additionally, the petitioner also presented the court with an appeal to this decision, presenting the panel with seven exhibits,

“**What we have to think about here is that one piece of evidence. Is that enough to throw out the other 8,000 or so votes?**”

Jose Toscano,
Assistant Director
Campus Life

which allegedly show evidence of voter fraud.

The exhibits presented include screen captures of text message exchanges between supporters of the Farinas-Castro campaign and a video of a Farinas supporter approaching a student with an iPad.

“A text message explicitly stating ‘give me your Panther ID’ is motive enough and is beyond reasonable doubt,” said Williams.

All allegations have one demand: For the disqualification of Farinas and Castro and for a new presidential election to be held “under the jurisdiction and supervision of FIU Administration.”

“In essence we have one true evidence,” Toscano said. “What we have to think about here is that one piece of evidence. Is that enough to throw out the other 8,000 or so votes?”

PUBLIC HEALTH

Students target HIV/AIDS epidemic in second annual class competition

MELISSA CACERES
News Director
melissa.caceres@fiusm.com

Public health graduate students got the chance to pitch their own HIV/AIDS prevention during the second annual Smarty Pants Bowl competition.

The April 11 contest, which involved four teams of 22 students competing for the most effective campaign to spread awareness of the epidemic, was a part of the class curriculum of William Darrow, a professor of program development and evaluation for health promotion at the College of Public Health.

“It really gets students to work in teams on an issue like HIV/AIDS,” said Darrow, who had his students work throughout the whole semester on their prevention plans. “Almost everyone knows someone who has HIV/AIDS.”

Darrow, who worked for the Center for Disease Control for 33 years, was a member of the CDC team that first found the connection between sexual

activity and HIV transmission.

He hoped that through creating presentations in a competitive setting, the students would be able to “become better public health professionals.”

As part of an initiative with the

make their awareness campaign reach target student demographics while still being realistically affordable.

One team, the “Stempel Stompers”, suggested a program that relied heavily on the youth’s use of mobile phones to

“**When you really get people to participate in this kind of awareness, then you’re really on to something.**”

Kate MacMillin,
Professor

School of Journalism and Mass Communication

School of Journalism and Mass Communications and the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, a panel of five judges from different areas of public health provided feedback for each group’s presentation.

Many offered suggestions on how to

connect HIV/AIDS information with the disease’s key demographic.

Judges felt that the idea was ambitious and “a little too ahead of our time.”

“It’s so hard to come to a deci-

SEE BOWL, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Sports

Check out Monday’s issue for Explore: International for an interview with a student from Jamaica.

ONLINE | www.fiusm.com

Follow us on:
Twitter - @FIUSM
Facebook - FIU Student Media: News, FIU Student Media: Sports

RADIO | Radiate FM

Tune in to Radiate FM on Mon., Wed. and Fri. for our Opinion, Sports and News shows or check them out on FIUSM.com.

The Radioactive Underground: 88.1 - 95.3 - 96.9

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Fla. GOP continue to outrage state Democrats

Heading into a crucial election year, the two main political parties in Florida took large checks from gambling companies, insurers and other special interests during the first three months of the year.

But still the overall fundraising totals were somewhat lackluster - especially for Republicans - in comparison to the money the party raised during 2011.

State campaign finance reports filed late Tuesday showed that the Republican Party of Florida raised nearly \$2.96 million during the first quarter of this year, while the Florida Democratic Party reported raising \$1.15 million during the same period.

It was the lowest quarterly total reported by Republicans since 2009. But it also coincided with a time when Gov. Rick Scott reported raising more than \$900,000 for a political committee that will assist him in his re-election effort. Scott held a major fundraiser for his committee just last week in Sarasota.

The money taken in by both parties will be important during a critical election year when all 160 seats in the Florida Legislature are up because of redistricting. Large checks from companies and other corporations cannot be used by the state party for any federal races in Florida.

WORLD

Russian opposition challenges Putin with walkout

A large opposition faction stormed out of Russia's parliament on Wednesday to protest Vladimir Putin's refusal to look into claims of vote-rigging in a mayoral election that has sparked nationwide anger.

Putin, who returns for a third term as Russian president on May 7, told the Duma he had no authority over local elections and suggested that critics go to court instead to contest the result. His remarks prompted the entire Just Russia faction to leave the session.

Oleg Shein, a member of the Just Russia party who ran for mayor in the southern city of Astrakhan, has been on a hunger strike for 27 days to protest the results of the March 4 poll that he and other opposition figures said was marred by rampant fraud in favor of a Kremlin-backed candidate. About 20 of his supporters have joined the hunger strike.

Shein's protest has received nationwide attention, drawing support from a range of opposition groups struggling after Putin's victory in March's presidential vote. Opposition members have increasingly tried to focus on local elections and saw the Astrakhan vote as a flagrant example of fraud.

– Compiled by Melhor Leonor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Zimmerman arrested and charged with second-degree murder

**BRENDAN FARRINGTON
GARY FINEOUT
AP Staff**

The neighborhood watch volunteer who shot 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was arrested and charged with second-degree murder Wednesday after weeks of mounting tensions and protests across the U.S.

George Zimmerman, 28, could get up to life in prison if convicted in the slaying of the unarmed black teenager.

Special prosecutor Angela Corey announced the charges but would not discuss how she arrived at them or disclose other details of her investigation, saying: "That's why we try cases in a courtroom."

Second-degree murder is typically brought in cases when there is a fight or other confrontation that results in death but involves no premeditation to kill. It carries a mandatory minimum of 25 years behind bars when a gun is used.

Martin's parents expressed relief over the decision to prosecute their son's killer.

"The question I would really like to ask him is, if he could look into Trayvon's eyes and see how innocent he was, would he have then pulled the trigger? Or would he have just let him go on home?" said his father, Tracy Martin.

Corey would not disclose Zimmerman's whereabouts for his safety but said that he will be in court within 24 hours, at which point he can request bail. He turned himself in in Florida.

Zimmerman's new attorney, Mark O'Mara, said Zimmerman will plead not guilty and will invoke Florida's "stand your ground" law, which gives people wide leeway to use deadly force without having to retreat in the face of danger. The lawyer asked that people

not jump to conclusions about his client's guilt and said he is "hoping that the community will calm down" now that charges have been filed.

"I'm expecting a lot of work and hopefully justice in the end," O'Mara said.

On Tuesday, Zimmerman's former lawyers portrayed him as erratic and in precarious mental condition. But O'Mara said Zimmerman was OK: "I'm not concerned about his mental well-being."

Zimmerman, whose father is white and whose mother is Hispanic, has asserted since the Feb. 26 killing in Sanford that he shot in self-defense after the teenager attacked him. Martin's family argued Zimmerman was the aggressor.

The shooting brought demands from black leaders for his arrest, touched off protests in which people wore hooded sweatshirts like the one the teenager had on, and set off a furious debate over race and self-defense that reached all the way to the White House, where President Barack Obama observed: "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon."

Separately, the U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division is conducting its own investigation.

Corey said the decision to bring charges was based on the facts and the law, declaring: "We do not prosecute by public pressure or by petition."

One of the biggest hurdles to Zimmerman's arrest over the past month was Florida's "stand your ground" law, which affords strong protection to those who use deadly force.

Second-degree murder means a killing that was not premeditated but resulted instead from an "imminently dangerous act" that showed a "depraved" lack of regard for human life.

Some legal experts had predicted the prosecutor would instead bring a charge of manslaughter, which carries up to 15 years behind bars. It is defined as a death that results from a reckless but not a depraved act.

Corey repeatedly declined to answer questions about details in the case.

"So much information got released on this case that never should have been released. We have to protect this prosecution and this investigation for Trayvon, for George Zimmerman," she said.

Legal experts said Corey must have compelling evidence against Zimmerman if she chose to charge him with second-degree murder.

"That indicates they have evidence (Zimmerman) was chasing Trayvon because he was black," said Florida defense attorney Richard Hornsby. "It's difficult to think how one prosecutor didn't charge him at all and another thought there was enough evidence to justify a second-degree charge. It's a pretty drastic swing."

Tensions have risen in recent days in Sanford, a town of 50,000 outside Orlando. Someone shot up an unoccupied police car Tuesday as it sat outside the neighborhood where Martin was killed. And a demonstration by college students closed the town's police station Monday.

But as the hour of the prosecutor's announcement neared, the Martin family and their lawyer pleaded for calm.

Outside Sanford City Hall, Stacy Davis, a black woman, said she was glad to see arrested Zimmerman under arrest. "It's not a black or white thing for me. It's a right or wrong thing. He needed to be arrested," she said. "I'm happy because maybe that boy can get some rest."

THE BEACON

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

- | | |
|--|--|
| EDITOR IN CHIEF
ALEXANDRA CAMEJO | ASST. OPINION EDITOR
BROOKLYN MIDDLETON |
| BBC MANAGING EDITOR
JONATHAN SZYDLO | PHOTO EDITOR
KRISTI CAMARA |
| PRODUCTION MANAGER/COPY CHIEF
LAURA ALONSO | ASST. PHOTO EDITOR
ALEXIA ESCALANTE |
| NEWS DIRECTOR
MELISSA CACERES | BBC PHOTO EDITOR
ANDRES BEDOYA |
| ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS
MELHOR LEONOR
NADRA MABROUK | COPY EDITORS
DIANE ARIAS, JASMYN ELLIOTT, JONATHAN RAMOS, JOHN GIRALT, PATRIK SIMMONS |
| SPORTS DIRECTOR
IGOR MELLO | PAGE DESIGNERS
CAMILA CALCINES, EISSY DE LA MONEDA, CRISTINA MIRALLES, ALEXANDRA SARDI |
| ASST. SPORTS DIRECTORS
RICO ALBARRACIN
BRANDON WISE | RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR
KYLE PINEDA |
| LIFE! EDITOR
ESRA ERDOGAN | BUSINESS MANAGER
EDDITH SEVILLA |
| ASST. LIFE! EDITOR
VANESSA PAREDES | DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA
ROBERT JAROSS |
| OPINION EDITOR
NEDA GHOMESHI | ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA
ALFRED SOTO |



CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fiusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:30 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fiusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
alexandra.camejo@fiusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fiusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. *The Beacon* is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. *The Beacon* is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

Students aim at awareness

BOWL, PAGE 1

sion on these presentations because you always want to encourage students," Florence Greer, public health practicum coordinator at the University, who was one of the judges in last year's competition.

The winning team, the "Tirad Roaries," won over the judges with their multimedia video that explained their idea through elements like interviews, infographics and branding.

"It was such a hands-on experience," said Amani Odhman, public health master's student and team leader for the "Tirad Roaries."

Odhman and her teammates created a logo combining the red HIV/AIDS ribbon and the FIU panther paw, which would serve as a main marketing

tool in their campaign.

"None of us [on my team] had any experience in video or graphic design," said Odhman.

Journalism professor and contest judge Kate MacMillin, who produced the WPBT television special "Tell Somebody: The

New Face of AIDS" was impressed by the team's use of engagement through their video and emphasis on social media.

"When you really get people to participate in this kind of awareness, then you're really on to something," said MacMillin.

CLASSIFIED AD

EASY MONEY, FLEXIBLE HOURS, make \$100-500 a week: DC non-profit looking for current students to table or walk the campus to collect marketing data from student body. Start immediately, make a difference in the community, and add value to your resume. Incentive pay and bonuses. Email HR@abcte.org if interested. Training and materials provided.

SOFTBALL

Gniadek tosses complete game in win over Louisiana

JONATHAN JACOBSKIND

Staff Writer

jonathan.jacobskind@fiusm.com

After managing to hold a 5-2 lead against the seventh ranked team in the nation, the Panthers squandered eight consecutive runs to lose game one of their double-header.

The Ragin' Cajuns managed to weather the storm early as they cooled down the Panthers in the first game of the double-header 10-5 on April 10. Winners of the past 11 of 12 Sun Belt titles, the Ragin' Cajuns boast the No. 7 ranking in the nation.

Mariah Dawson was on the bump for FIU as the righty was rocked early. Nerissa Myers belted a two-run home run over the centerfield fence in the opening inning to give the Ragin' Cajuns the initial lead. Myers accounted for five runs batted in, half of her squad's RBI's.

"First game we came out flying. We had that 5-2 lead halfway in the first game," head coach Jake Schumann stated. "We just stopped playing... we basically only played four

innings of the game."

FIU did not hesitate to answer back in the opening inning as shortstop Kayla Burri jacked a solo home run over the right field fence, cutting the deficit to 2-1.

Jordan Wallace tossed a wild pitch in the bottom half of the second for the Ragin' Cajuns, allowing pinch runner Rachel Slowick to score, tying the game at 2-2.

Right fielder Ashley McClain smacked a bloop over the shortstop Myers, scoring leadoff hitter Erika Arcuri to take a 3-2 lead.

Second baseman Brie Rojas extended the Panther lead to 5-2, with a two-run blast scaling over the right field fence in the third inning.

That would be the last run FIU scored.

The fourth inning marked the end of the night for FIU's Dawson, as she continued to have trouble striking out Myers, who hit a bases-clearing double, tying the game at five apiece.

Christi Orgeron, who bats a .393 average, then delivered a two-run home run over the left center fence, catapulting the

ULL lead to 7-5.

Righty Shelby Graves came in for relief, but center fielder Brianna Cherry jolted a leadoff home run in the top of the fifth. UL went on to score two more runs to finish off FIU.

Despite dropping the first game, then Burri used the loss as motivation for the following game.

"[The loss] gave us a lot of intensity to move on to the second game," Burri said. "We know that we can get runners around and score."

FIU 2 ULL 1

The Panthers hoped to sweep the Ragin' Cajuns to overtake the top spot in the conference but failed in doing so by dropping the first game.

Behind a complete game from starter Jenn Gniadek, FIU was able to steal the second game of the April 10 doubleheader, 2-1. FIU's win marked the second loss of the season for the Ragin' Cajuns.

Right fielder McClain, best described it Gniadek's performance as, "putting the team on

SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 4



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Jenn Gniadek (above) pitched seven innings, allowing one run on April 10.

BASEBALL

Henry awarded during FIU's six-game winning streak

EDUARDO ALMAGUER

Staff Writer

eduardo.almaguer@fiusm.com

When it was brought up last week that FIU had won six consecutive games, Mike Martinez, the team's third baseman, waved his hand as he shook his head.

"Let's not jinx it though," Martinez said. "Let's keep that quiet for now."

Try to keep it quiet as he may, Martinez may not realize just how loud FIU's offense has been.

FIU (19-13, 7-5 SBC) just about shouted its arrival in April when they scored 50 runs in six games, leading them to a sweep of Florida A&M and Troy, the team they were chosen to tie for first place with in the SBC pre-season poll.

"I'm not going to lie, it feels a lot like it did last year when we ran off that 15-game win streak," added Martinez. "Our team right now is clicking on all cylinders."

The recent surge vaulted FIU to the top three in hits (third), average (first), slugging (third) and on-base percentage (second).

HENRY WINS AWARD

Jabari Henry's teammates and fans were not the only ones to notice his colossal week at the



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

The Panthers are riding a six game winning streak as they get set to face Louisiana on April 14-16.

plate.

Henry was named Louisville Slugger's National Player of the Week on April 9. It's the second time in his career he garners the honors. He won it last on March 15, 2010.

In his last 10 games, Henry is hitting .462 with six home runs and 23 RBIs.

On April 7, Henry hit two home runs in game two in the Troy series, the second of which was a game winner in the eighth

inning after trailing all night.

CAJUN BRAWL

The Panthers travel 1,000 miles west to take on University of Louisiana-Lafayette for game one of a three-game series

tonight at 7 p.m. EDT.

The Ragin' Cajuns (15-17, 5-7 SBC) are a couple of notches below FIU in the standings, sitting at sixth place in the Sun Belt Conference. As opposed to FIU, who's won 11 of their last 13 games, the Cajuns have lost nine of their last 11 games.

The last time these two teams faced off, FIU took two out of three games from the Cajuns last April and beat them again in the Sun Belt tournament in May.

ULL has failed to impress at the plate this season, being in the bottom third in the conference in average, slugging, on-base percentage, runs, RBIs, hits and home runs.

Only three Cajuns have eclipsed the benchmark batting average mark, .300, and only one, Dylan Butler, has more than one home run and 20 RBIs.

If the last two weekend series are indication, the Panthers will trot out Mason McVay (1-2, 3.51), Michael Ellis (1-2, 3.63) and R.J Fondon (4-4, 4.29).

The Cajuns will send out Jordan Nicholson (3-3, 4.31), Chris Griffitt (4-2, 3.23) and Jordan Harrison (3-1, 2.60).

Harrison won SBC Pitcher of the Week on April 9 after pitching a complete-game one-hitter against Western Kentucky on April 8. It was the first one-hitter for the Cajuns since 2010.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Players look for release papers after Thomas firing

IGOR MELLO
Sports Director
igor.mello@fiusm.com

As college hopefuls begin to sign their letters of intent to the universities of their choice, the men's basketball team is still without a coach and possibly without any recruits. And now the school could lose the majority of their current players.

During the annual athletics banquet on April 9, six players staged a walk-out when they were being honored.

After serving three seasons at FIU, Isiah Thomas and his entire coaching staff was fired on April 6, just five days before the initial signing period began for basketball recruits.

Because of the popularity of Thomas, the news of his firing and the protest of his former players have brought national attention to FIU from numerous sports outlets.

As a result, the players have found other ways to voice their frustration in the wake of the firing of Thomas.

"It's just sketchy how they have handled it," said Tanner Wozniak, who will be a sophomore next season. "They waited an entire month and a half [to fire Thomas] and that puts us in a hole."

And now just days after walking out, the players, led by DeJuan Wright, have written a letter to University President Mark Rosenberg asking for an explanation on why they are not being allowed to transfer.

"It was all composed by everyone on the team and sent to



BEACON FILE PHOTO

All but four players on the current roster have asked for a release after the firing of Isiah Thomas on April 9.

President Rosenberg through an attachment email," Wright said.

According to Wright, nine out of the 13 players on the current roster are demanding the school to release their scholarships so that they can attempt to transfer out of FIU. Rosenberg declined to comment to Student Media.

"I don't know what I would do [if I can't get my release]," said Wozniak. "I will keep my options open."

Tola Akomolafe (who is a junior college transfer), Cameron Bell, Steven Miro and Manuel Nunez are the only players that have decided to remain on the team for now.

"They should have their freedom [to stay or go] since they came to play for Isiah Thomas and he was fired," said Wright, who served four years at FIU and is not eligible to play for the team next season.

Whether Thomas was the coach at FIU or not, Dominique Ferguson did not want to be in Miami. Ferguson felt homesick and filed a request to release his scholarship in mid-March, nearly three weeks before Thomas was let go. Ferguson will be a junior next season.

"I had a meeting with Julie [Berg] (Senior Associate AD) and I was denied. They didn't give me a reason for why I was being

denied, kind of like how they did not give a reason for Isiah [Thomas] being fired," Ferguson said.

The Athletic Department did not grant his release, so Ferguson considered staying at FIU. But when it was announced that the school was making a coaching change, the Indianapolis native quickly filed an appeal to have his scholarship released. The last player to request a release was Freddy Asprilla in 2009. Asprilla, a 6-10 forward/center, went on to leave FIU to play in the junior collegiate level, enrolling at Miami-Dade College at the time.

If an athlete transfers to another NCAA school, they must sit out a year before becoming eligible to play for that school.

According to Ferguson, a ruling on his appeal will be made on April 13 to decide whether or not he can be free to transfer out of FIU.

"It's not like we came here for FIU. We came here for Isiah Thomas," Ferguson said.

Regardless of the outcome, Ferguson has vowed to never dress in an FIU jersey again.

"I'm done here. It is a business but you can't trust an AD that just fired your coach for no reason," Ferguson said. "I am not attending school here [next year]."

FIU has less than a month to round up their recruiting class for 2012. May 16 is the final day for any recruit to sign their letter of intent. They may need to fill up more spaces in their roster if the school grants any of the nine players who are demanding to transfer out.

Panthers, Cajuns split first two games of series

SOFTBALL, PAGE 3

her back."

Gniadek registered her fifth win of the year, giving up one run and striking out seven Louisiana batters.

"This [game] was probably one of the best [games] I have had in my life," Gniadek said. "This season I've struggled a little bit, so it felt great to finally play better."

With the win, the Panthers remained only two games behind first place in the Sun Belt Conference.

"We're always out for a vengeance for UL," Gniadek said. "They're always usually number one in the conference so we always try to beat them."

Myers got the leadoff walk for the Ragin' Cajuns in the top of the third. Orgeron drove her in with a slicing liner into center field giving ULL a 1-0 lead. Gniadek did not allow another run for the entire game and surrendered just five hits.

In the bottom third, Burri hit a stand up double down the third base line that barely escaped past third basemen Natalie Fernandez.

McClain, who leads the team with a .419 average, trotted to the batter's box. McClain laid down a sacrifice groundout to second as Burri scored the eventual game deciding run, putting FIU up 2-1.

"We came out strong, hitting hard, scoring runs," McClain said. "In the end, it was just who outhit who at the right time."

SAME FIELD, NEW ARENA



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

On April 14, the FIU men's soccer team will play an exhibition match against Nova Southeastern at 10 a.m. at the FIU soccer field. It will be the first game for new head coach Kenny Arena.

SPC



UPROAR

SANA ULLAH
Staff Writer
life@fiusm.com

Students gathered by the soccer field, pushing their way towards the front of the stage for a perfect view of their guest artists: Gym Class Heroes and Big Sean. On April 11, Wednesday night, students roared and shook the base.

The Student Programming Council held a previous competition for students to win a chance to meet the artists back stage. For the concert, SPC positioned the contest winners in the front row.

"I'm so excited to see Big Sean perform! I love his song, 'Memories,'" exclaimed SPC's contest winner, Justin Hu, who is a sophomore studying accounting.

Gym Class Heroes was welcomed on stage by FIU students with howls and cheers. While Travie McCoy joked about the Miami girls being gorgeous, he opened the performance with his hit single, "Cupid's Chokehold", dedicating it to the couples in the crowd. Not only did the Gym Class Heroes sing about rela-

tionships, but they also sang about having confidence in yourself.

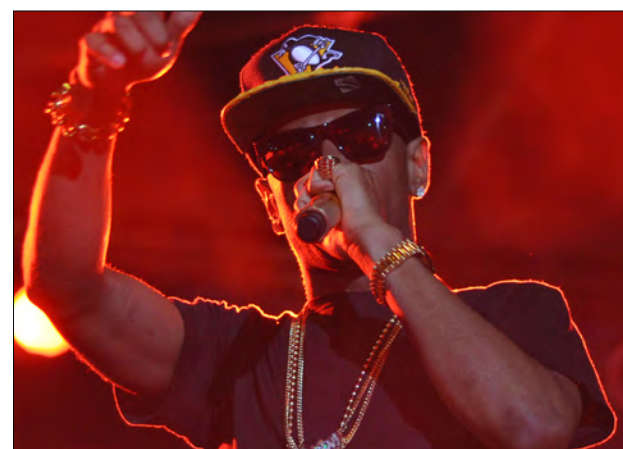
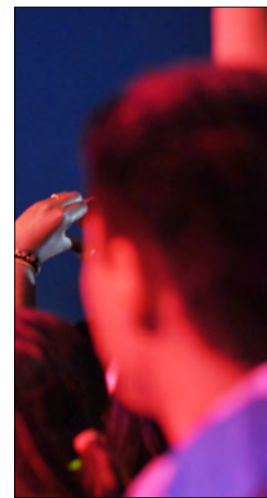
"Raise your fists in the air if you've been pushed into a corner and if someone pointed out your flaws as though you don't already know them," said McCoy.

More than half the crowd raised their clenched hands as high as they can. "Keep your fists in the air because there's six people on stage that believe in you," said McCoy, the lead singer of Gym Class Heroes.

Although a few students fell ill from the congestion and got rowdy from the pushing, the hype was not over. Big Sean walked on stage and the students screamed with excitement.

He played all his hit singles, such as "Marvin Gaye and Chardonnay" and "Dance (Ass)." Big Sean continually told the crowd to repeat after him, "Everybody say 'do it'" and sang his line from Kanye's song, "Mercy,"

The base was accepted and felt in every one's chests, while they hopped with their arms reached out. SPC's UPROAR concert was once again a success.



Big Sean [top left and bottom right] headlined at the UPROAR concert, the annual spring concert hosted by SPC. Travie McCoy, the lead singer for the Gym Class Heroes, entertained the audience as the opening act (bottom left and upper and middle right).

PHOTOS BY SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

REEL TO REEL

"Bully" has good intentions, but terrible execution

Bullying is a disturbing issue that affects people of all ages, and often those who suffer the most are left in silence.

In comes the Weinstein Company, on the highest of horses, to bring the world a documentary that declares "it's time to take a stand" as its tagline. Unfortunately, "Bully" does not even come close to offering a realistic look at bullying in the U.S.

The feature documentary "Bully" shows how different students and families from around America have been affected by bullying. The main focus is a 12-year-old boy named Alex from Iowa.

He suffers regularly from teasing and even physical violence while his encounters with other students, his family and the administration are followed closely by the camera.

Alex's story is not the only one told in the film, as audiences are given a look into the lives of a number of other children.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HLN.TV.COM

Documentary film "Bully" fails to give a real look of what bullying is really like around the nation.

Ja'Meya is a young girl who was sent to juvenile hall after being tormented so much that she had to resort to bringing a gun aboard her school bus.

Another young girl, Kelby, has been ostracized by her community after coming out as lesbian and is attempting to deal with it through the support of her friends and family. Also featured are

stories of parents who have lost children due to suicide and who have even launched the organization Stand for the Silent, which is dedicated to preventing school bullying and youth suicide.

The film's greatest issue is that every story that does not relate to Alex is left to die after being established. Both Ja'Meya and Kelby's stories have key

issues other than bullying that are important for today's generation, including gun violence, race and sexuality.

It is disappointing that a film like this allows these two well-established stories to dissolve into a series of landscape shots and a lot of walking around with friends and families where nobody speaks.

The touchy, but equally important, subject of suicide is handled slightly better, but barely touches anything that would indicate why these kids would take their lives aside from the big bad word "bullying" without actually placing a face on this threat.

While some of these stories are genuinely sad, the film relies on getting as many people to cry on screen as often as possible, allowing for the emotional manipulation of audiences everywhere.

As if the unevenness of the film was not bad enough, some of the camera work makes one wonder how anyone ever gave a camera to director Lee Hirsch. There are one too many landscape shots, as well as shots of teens staring off into the distance, and the amount of times that the camera purposely goes out of focus for no reason is obnoxiously distracting.

Many of the bullying incidents with Alex on his bus route feel entirely staged and would have benefited from using archival footage from the bus itself, as with Ja'Meya's incident.

"Bully" just feels like multiple

SEE BULLY, PAGE 6

COVER TO COVER

Novel leaves readers wanting more

Jude Keffy-Horn and Teddy McNicholas spent the majority of their teenage years in a haze, with their eyes tired and heavy from which-ever drug they managed to get their hands on from day to day.

But all that changed one night when the two passed out after sniffing Freon from an air conditioning unit, and only Jude woke up.

In her popular novel, "Ten Thousand Saints," Eleanor Henderson takes readers through the everyday experiences of Jude's life, as well as many other characters' lives in the novel that are close to him, like Teddy and Jude's family.

After Teddy's death, Jude moves to New York to live with his brother Johnny, who introduces him to the music scene and a new life in the Big Apple.

In the novel, characters like Johnny and his and Jude's mutual love interest, Eliza, often steal the show from Jude, who seems to be the glue that ties their stories together.

As the story transitions through the '80s and into later decades, so

does Jude, as he grows from being a druggie to a "straight-edged punk." In its entirety, the story is about coming-of-age in the midst of a changing culture, and is one that would be easy for anyone to relate to. Whether it is because many have been through a change or coming-of-age like Jude's, or through a familiarity to the characters' personalities, the book is extremely realistic and relatable.

The novel is a nostalgic piece of art that describes the period's music and cultural scenes. If *The Misfits* does not ring a bell, you might feel a little left out of the story from time to time; however, Henderson does not fail in getting the reader to fully grasp her story, with or without an understanding of these references.

However, the greatest flaw of the book is in Henderson's descriptions of such nostalgia. The author describes every facet of every object in every room every character enters in a way that is both repetitive and often times completely unnecessary.

At some point, people stop caring about how gray the sky is and care more about what the characters in the book are actually doing underneath it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BROADWAYWORLD.COM

Eleanor Henderson is the writer of "Ten Thousand Saints."

Besides this, the book left me with very few complaints. It is short, sweet, and besides some frivolous descriptions, the majority of the author's diction proves to be artfully purposeful. The book is not one full of action, horror or glamour, but one that reflects reality in a charming, thought-provoking manner.

Because of all the great aspects of the novel, Henderson's debut has left me and, I can only assume, many other fans of hers in anticipa-

tion of her next book. In the meantime, however, "Ten Thousand Saints" is available at the University's Barnes and Noble.

The novel, which has received great reviews from *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* and *The Boston Globe*, is worth a read, as it is a subtle, outstanding example of modern literature.

Cover to Cover is a biweekly book review column. Email at kelly.malambri@fiusm.com

Bullying film to impact parents

BULLY, PAGE 5

after-school specials. There is the one about bullying with a bunch of reenactments that will not admit to being staged, the one about youth suicide, and the one about how flawed the school administration is.

If you poorly edited together those three with a BBC nature documentary and tried to limit yourself to under 100 minutes, "Bully" would be your result.

One would think with all the time spent attempting to lower the film's MPAA rating from R to PG-13 for the benefit of students, "Bully" would actually be geared toward a younger audience.

It is hard to believe, but those who will probably be most impacted by this film are the susceptible parents who will practically eat up anything.

The few students who actually end up paying money to watch this movie will likely find themselves as restless as the ones in my theater. They will be the

ones who end up walking out with just as little knowledge on the effects of bullying as before.

Maybe it is because I have experienced bullying in my past, but I expect more from a documentary tackling something that causes as much suffering as this.

Every child, parent, student and friend in this movie deserves better. Every person who this film is meant to reach out to deserves better.

Anyone interested in *The Bully Project* should explore their website, as the intent behind the documentary is truly good-hearted.

Everyone deserves a chance to tell their story, and you can read about hundreds of others online.

For those who want to spend \$10 on a poorly made documentary, "Bully" is now playing at AMC Sunset Place.

Reel to Reel is a weekly film review column. *Juan Barquin* has seen 152 films this year and counting.

Tweet Beat!



@BigSean: In Miami...feeling good -Big Sean before headlining the UPRoar concert

UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS

13 FRIDAY

KEYBOARD ARTS SERIES: MUSIC FOR PIANO

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

ENGAGE WORKSHOP: READY TO MANAGE YOUR TIME OR DOES TIME MANAGE YOU?!

WHEN: 12:30-1:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 314

CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES: "AN AFTERNOON WITH SISTER HELEN PRE-JAN"

WHEN: 12:30-2:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC The Stadium Club

14 SATURDAY

ORCHESTRAL MASTERWORKS SERIES: FIU SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

THE 99% SPRING

WHEN: 2:30-6:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC 316

FIU FACULTY, STAFF AND FAMILY SPRING PICNIC

WHEN: 12-4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Between Gold & Blue Garages

FIU SOFTBALL VS. WKU

WHEN: 1 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY Bowling Green, Ky.

FIU BASEBALL VS. LOUISIANA

WHEN: 6-11 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY Lafayette, La.

15 SUNDAY

FIU OPERA WORKSHOP: OPERA SCENES SHOWCASE

WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Concert Hall

FIU SOFTBALL VS. WKU

WHEN: 12 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY Bowling Green, Ky.

FIU BASEBALL VS. LOUISIANA

WHEN: 1-3:45 p.m.
WHERE: AWAY Lafayette, La.

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED EMAIL:

CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Labels a pointless method of tracking political ideologies

LAUREN ROVIRA
Staff Writer
lauren.rovira@fiusm.com

What does it mean to be a conservative these days? What does it mean to be a Republican or a feminist? When you tell another person you are a democrat, what does that say?

My conjecture on the matter is that telling someone you are (insert any label here) means absolutely nothing.

The labels that so divide our society don't really tell us anything about ourselves or others; rather, they provide people a means to compartmentalize based on their own interpretations of the meaning of the label used.

As if the natural psychologically-occurring barriers weren't enough, let's throw a mess of useless, hardly definable terms into the mix.

I first gave this thought on a bus ride with some girls I had just met. We were talking about the possibility of replacing environmentally-damaging energy sources with solar energy.

They started discussing how anti-environment Republicans are, and my brow furrowed.

"I'm a Republican," I told them, somewhat peeved, and they both turned to me confused.

Over the years, it is true that the trend among the majority of "Republicans" has been to dismiss environmental issues as irrelevant or non-existent, but that doesn't mean all Republicans do.

“
Although I can understand and appreciate the organizational benefits of adopting labels, they cease to be helpful when the definition becomes entirely intangible and counterproductive when in use.
”

There is no handbook that says what a Republican is or isn't. For that matter, there is no handbook that says we need to put a label on our beliefs, or that suggests it's even beneficial to do so.

There is an overabundance of partisan dispute on Capitol Hill. When we divide ourselves into groups, even if we only do so to assume a name, we normally begin by citing all the ways we are dissimilar to the outsiders.

Within our own groups, we see the differences among our members, but from inside looking out towards others, we expect that the rest is all of the same breed, color, shape, size and form.

In doing so, we become even more inclined to believe and fight for the exact opposite of what we presume the outsiders believe.

In such a combative atmosphere, nothing productive can get done.

Take, for instance, the break-up of the Latin vote in Congress. Subsequent to a non-policy related disagreement over a member's trip to Cuba, Republican House Representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Henry Bonilla and Mario Diaz-Balart split from Congress and formed the Congressional Hispanic Congress. Since the split in the 1990s, the Caucus has been host to Democrats and the Conference to Republicans.

Whereas, prior to the split, the group could back causes that would benefit the whole of the United States' Latino community, nowadays, they are more caught up in partisan debates.

This is the "us vs. them" effect so often lectured about in political science and social

psychology classes.

This also explains the attitude the girls had toward me thereafter. They picked at the holes in "Republican" viewpoints, and asked me how it was I called myself one (they were "Democrats").

When I sat to think about that question afterward, I really didn't know what to say because there isn't much to be said.

The fact of the matter is, we all have differing viewpoints, and although I can understand and appreciate the organizational benefits of adopting labels, they cease to be helpful when the definition becomes entirely intangible and counterproductive when in use.

I'm socially moderate, which is itself a manner of labeling my beliefs, but I'm going to assume for the sake of this relation that it's a little more specific than branding myself with a political party.

I'm also fiscally conservative. I believe in reducing spending when there is a crisis, and investing in high-profit, high-yield industry when there is the capital and proper timing to do so.

I dislike the idea of big government, and I'm not of the persuasion that socialism of any kind is a fortuitous thing.

For most people, that makes me a Republican. For some it makes me a staunch Republican. For others, it may make me a Libertarian, or a moderate. I don't know if someone else would deem me a Democrat, but I would not be altogether surprised if someone did. The confusion therefore is superfluous.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student "outraged and disgusted" with SGA elections

Thanks to anyone who takes the time to read this and hear me out.

As an FIU student and adult I witnessed conduct unbecoming in any political election and I'm not the type of person to show apathy in these cases.

I'm not for or against any of the candidates.

I'm a 28-year-old husband, father, and readmitted student. Since my return to FIU, my overall GPA of a 1.31 is now at a 2.7, including fall's Dean's list.

With the major of Criminal Justice and aspirations to attend law school, I hope to continue my rapid upward (*sic*). I am not a part of any clubs, Greek organizations, or any subgroup. But I did vote. My agenda is to inform people unlike the overzealous campaigners belonging to Farinas or Sanjeev.

I am truly disturbed and intellectually offended by the manner the SGA Presidential election was conducted and watching campaigners for Sanjeev/Connor and Farinas/Castro and the candidates themselves take no responsibility for their actions or their direct extensions.

Anyone under your supervision to represent you or anything else is a direct extension of your character, maturity, and ability.

Campaigners bombarded students on (*sic*) average of thirty times per hour and students while ignoring the stances, issues, or platform. They lacked courtesy, ability

to understand privacy, oblivious to studying, mealtime, broke election policies, created hostile learning environments and used gross coercion tactics.

The one who I observed run a clean campaign, due to lack of visibility, was Patel/Wu. By the end of this horrendous mess, I was informed with the parties' platforms but the behavior the others campaigns showed. This displayed the absence of foresight offered and abuse of those they rely on for votes.

I present the facts: Campaigning in bathrooms with laptops, the quiet floors of the GL, in GC computer lab, and the resident (*sic*) halls. Interfering with a students' who were actively voting on laptops at PG5 marketplace, conversations of students without being excused or acknowledged, meals in GC, GL, and PG5 Marketplace, and shoving laptops in faces.

The only thing the Patel/Wu campaign did was campaigning at 12:30 a.m. While unorthodox it wasn't negligent and the campaigning came from Mr. Patel himself, working late to get to everyone to be informed and voting.

He didn't have a mob and relied on his ability and what he had to offer. This is admirable through his dedication and relentlessness to give up.

I spoke to the parties' campaigners, displaying misconduct, and one candidate (specifically the "winner") about their unorganized methods and campaigners being rude

and disrespectful. It was insulting when one of Farina's campaigners attacked my integrity by asking "You don't have 5 minutes to vote?" They listened to my complaints but quickly apologized and went on to their rehearsed campaign message – "robot" mode a joke of an election to many of us.

The U.S.'s political elections are crippled by the plethora of misinformation, lack of platform information, and creating uninformed voters.

People eventually become apathetic and most others won't vote. To see that this mirrored and reinforced at FIU was disappointing.

The turnout in voting was perpetrated by the methods used. Most voted without candor and just wanted the excessively intrusive and obnoxiousness to end.

This election was coercion by bullying and aggravation and any opinion labeling this a "nuisance" is an understatement – moderateness isn't acceptable in matters of great importance.

This wasn't an election; it was a battle royale at our expense and arrogance views a title of "voter" and neglects humanity. Stand against this behavior and enforce the rules disregarded by candidates and their campaigners.

I would hate to see FIU's greatness fall short because no one cared about democracy.

-*Outraged and disgusted student*

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com.



Gathering Opinions, Generating Discussion

Mondays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m.
95.3 FM, 88.1 FM, 96.9 FM and online at FIUSM.com
Call in at (305)348-3575

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @PublicReason

ENVIRONMENT

Squirrels are ‘funny critters who are fun to observe’

STEPHANIE FELDMAN

Staff Writer

stephanie.feldman@fiusm.com

Scurrying up and down trees and popping their heads out of the blue garbage cans that line the University’s buildings, squirrels seem to be at home on the Biscayne Bay Campus.

One of South Florida’s most common native animals, the Grey Squirrel, is exceptionally adaptive and athletic as demonstrated by its ability to jump from second story railings to trees and back.

Squirrels are active during the day, where they spend most of their time on the ground scavenging for food. This frantic search for lunch has led many students to come in direct contact with these creatures.

Students walking to class are often footsteps away from squirrels, and those who chose to enjoy their meal outside often attract several bushy tailed guests.

Although squirrels are usually vegetarian, with seeds, acorns, and nuts making up most of their diet, they have become spoiled by the abundance of food and garbage left on campus. Squirrels are urban scavengers, with a keen eyesight, sense of smell, and amazing ability to dive in and out of the trash bins equipped with swinging doors.

This seemingly endless and easy to obtain food source, fueled by people feeding them, has resulted in many of the squirrels losing their fear of people. Alex Lasky, a senior International Relations major, feels that this increase in squirrels on campus is disturbing.

“I felt the squirrels kept watching me

eat. It has become quite uncomfortable with them around,” Lasky said. “Very uninvited guests.”

She along with many students realize that as soon as they sit down beneath the shade of a tree, they are under the watch of many black beady eyes, waiting for a crumb to fall.

According to Joel Heinen, a professor of Environmental Studies, squirrels “lose their fear as people feed them and can become rather aggressive in trying to get food.”

As far as a dramatic increase on campus, Heinen explains that “Squirrels are rodents and many rodents go through natural population cycles of booms and busts.”

Eastern Grey squirrels breed twice a year and can give birth to up to eight young per litter. With the squirrels living up to twelve years in the wild, access to year round food sources, and a lack of predators, populations have grown.

And while squirrels are capable of becoming infected with and spreading Rabies, this is extremely rare, but students should still avoid feeding or touching the wild animals.

“There is little need to worry about squirrels from a disease or human safety standpoint,” Heinen said.

Brany Boza, a junior advertising major, is not bothered by the animals as he sees the squirrels on campus as entertaining.

“[They’re] funny critters who are fun to observe and bother no one,” Boza said.

According to Heinen, squirrels are not harmful. He does not believe the University should take any steps in eradicating or reducing their populations.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Squirrels’ population on campus has increased. Students walking to class or sitting outside find themselves coming in contact with the quick creatures. Their boldness around people is fueled by students feeding them and the abundant garbage left on campus.

BAKING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Monique Navarro, chemistry major and junior used the kitchen in the hospitality to bake a cake. Students had to put together a team of three students and bake a cake for the Perfect Paw Dessert Challenge sponsored by the Student Alumni Association held Thur. April 12 in Panther Square.

LGBT

Author to address gender identity issues in lecture

STEVE MESA

Staff Writer

steve.mesa@fiusm.com

Author and activist Chaz Bono will speak as part of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness Week on April 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center ballroom.

Bono has written three books including his latest one, “Transition: The Story of How I Became A Man,” which about his struggle to match his gender identity with his own body and his transformation from female to male.

Bono was also a competitor on last season’s “Dancing with the Stars.”

“His life and his book are a taboo topic that shouldn’t be because everyone is entitled to personal freedom of choice whatever it may be,” said Lauren Gonzalez, a senior

journalism major.

In his lecture on Monday night, Bono will talk about his life experiences, including gaining acceptance from his family, and will touch upon a variety of LGBT issues such as marriage and transgender equality.

“I think he is a great speaker,” said Jeffrey McNamee, associate director of Multicultural Programs and Services. “He has a great platform and a great story to tell in his lecture.”

Craig Cunningham, the director of Campus Life, said that some FIU students did not understand the needs of transgender individuals.

“Many people at FIU are not aware that we have transgender student on our campus,” Cunningham said. “There are some needs for transgendered individ-

uals such as gender-neutral bathrooms on campus and that they might have some special physical and emotional health services available to them.”

McNamee says that he hopes that people will come away with something good from the lecture by listening to Bono’s story with an open mind.

Tickets are available at the Information Desk in WUC for FIU students, faculty and staff. It is \$10 in advance for the general public and \$20 at the door. The lecture will be sponsored by Student Government Association, Student Programming Council and other FIU organizations.

“I hope they will learn more about gender-identity and understand that we as a community need to be conscious of the needs of transgender individuals,” Cunningham said.