

ELECTIONS

## Presidential debate begins with candidate walk-out



PHOTOS BY MELHOR LEONOR/THE BEACON

[Top] Sanjeev Udhvani and Connor Mautner, presidential ticket, remained in GC 140 as candidates Samir Patel and Andres Wu walked out of the SGC debate. [Bottom] Wu and Patel stand next to Alex Castro and Laura Farinas, presidential candidates, in the Betty Chapman Plaza to answer questions.

**MELHOR LEONOR**  
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A presidential debate of three turned into a discussion of one, as two out of the three presidential tickets for the 2012 Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique campus walked out of the debate session on April 2.

The two campaigns signaled a violation of the Elections Code as the reason for their departure.

As the debate was about to begin, Laura Farinas, presidential candidate in the SGA elections, read a definition of the word 'partisan' and quoted article VI of the Elections Code, while Samir Patel, also a presidential candidate, explained that the two campaigns felt it was a violation of the Elections Code to have one of the moderators of the debate show "bias towards one of the candidates."

"As you guys have all seen in today's issue [of *The Beacon*], they endorsed a particular candidate and that does raise some issues for us as one of the moderators is the Editor in Chief of *The Beacon*," Patel said.

The moderators for the event were Alessa Torres, elections commissioner for the Student Government Association and Alexandra Camejo, editor in chief of *The Beacon*.

The morning of the debates, *The Beacon* released "The Beacon Recommends," a voting guide for students, recommending Sanjeev Udhvani and Connor Mautner, the third set of candidates in the presidential race.

"In the elections code, under the section where it describes the moderations for the debate, it clearly states that the moderator for the

debate shall not act in any partisan manner and shall have no affiliation to any party," Farinas said. "Due to the fact that their recent issue, clearly endorsing Sanjeev Udhvani and Connor Mautner, came out this morning, that makes them bias[ed], putting them in direct violation of the Elections Code."

Farinas and Patel announced they would hold a separate debate where "students ask the questions," in the Betty Chapman Plaza, as a large group of their supporters and other students present followed them out.

With a crowd of over 25 students, the tickets answered individual questions and engaged in conversations with the students in non-formal discussions.

"SGA has not been serving their sole purpose, which is to serve the students, and to meet the needs and wants of their constituency," Farinas said when asked about her platform. "For that sole reason what I am planning to do is not just about a platform but it's about a vision, it's to change what SGA does, and how SGA functions."

Andres Wu, running alongside Patel, addressed a question from the crowd regarding tuition increases and spending on environmental initiatives.

"One of the biggest issues that we have had is the tuition hike and I think the green energy fund directly addresses that," Wu said. "The only way that we are going to be able to save on tuition is to lower our costs and one of our greatest costs [is] electricity and power. By using the green energy fund we not only solve problems we

SEE PRESIDENTIAL, PAGE 2

BUDGET

## Rosenberg addresses cuts in video

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The 2011-2012 school year came riddled with financial difficulties that affected every part of the University.

On March 30, President Mark B. Rosenberg sent out an email addressing the budget cuts, and the University's year-long efforts to seek out solutions for the troubles the institution has been facing.

The basis of the financial shortcomings exists in the \$24 million that were cut from the University's budget by the state legislature.

This has been the largest budget cut to date, but according to Rosenberg, "[the] state legislature has promised us that the funding will be restored to us for next year."

The University has brought reserves forward to cover for the one-time budget cut. The remainder was made up for by raising tuition as is called for by the state

legislature.

Among the efforts the University has put into effect, are measures to improve efficiency.

Rosenberg states in the video that

**"[We] have significant capability to withstand the short-term challenges that are presented by this state's budgetary appropriation."**

Mark Rosenberg,  
President  
FIU

"we are currently ranked first among all the public universities in the state in terms of energy efficiency.

"We are currently spending about \$11 million on utilities on an annual

basis, and if we weren't ranked number one," he said, "if we were just managing our energy efficiency at an average level we would be spending double that."

The University has invested in expanding online education to reduce the strain on the facilities as part of this plan.

However optimistic Rosenberg was about the course the University has taken thus far, he did acknowledge in the video that should the legislature not restore funding as promised, the five year World's Ahead Plan will need to be seriously reconsidered.

Until then, the University will proceed as planned.

The legislature did grant \$1 million to the College of Medicine to continue on the process toward full accreditation and enroll its first full class for 2012-2013.

The University will also be hiring approximately 110 new faculty

SEE ROSENBERG, PAGE 2

ELECTIONS

## Candidates talk issues during senate debate

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Senatorial candidates laid out their platforms and goals during this year's debate with over 40 supporters and community members in attendance.

With one day before the first day of voting, the April 2 debate at the Modesto Maidique campus featured four out of the seven at-large and two of the eight lower division candidates.

When asked what the University's most pressing issues were, several candidates focused on expansion and graduation rates.

"We need to try and help students stay on track to graduate," said Liane Sippin, who is currently a lower divi-

sion senator. "This past semester, I've met with SLS students to make sure that they know who their senators are."

Steven Gonzalez emphasized the need to expand into the Youth Fair grounds.

"Our university needs to expand," said Gonzalez. "If we don't, we will need to build three more parking garages. Students need to be informed about that."

Giovanni Castro agreed that University growth is something that students should be aware of.

"FIU really wants to grow," said Castro. "I don't know why we're keeping it a big secret."

He added that having more students coming to FIU every year

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COMING UP | News

Check out Friday's issue for the results of the 2012 Student Government Elections for the presidential/vice-presidential and senatorial seats.

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**NEWS FLASH**

**NATIONAL**

**5 dead in Oakland university shooting**

A suspect was detained Monday in a shooting attack at an Oakland Christian university that sources said has left at least five people dead.

Law enforcement sources close to the investigation told The Associated Press that at least five people have died after the morning shooting at Oikos University.

Meanwhile, police said a suspect was detained in the attack. Officer Johnna Watson did not give any other details about the arrest.

“I can confirm that we do have one person who has been detained that we believe is possibly responsible for this shooting,” Watson said.

**WORLD**

**Bin Laden’s relatives get short prison sentence**

A Pakistani court sentenced Osama bin Laden’s three widows and two of his daughters to 45 days in prison on Monday for illegally living in the country, ordering them deported when the sentence ends, their lawyer said.

With credit for time served, the women and several of their other children will leave Pakistan later this month, said lawyer Mohammed Amir Khalil. They have been in detention since American commandos killed bin Laden in a large house in the Pakistani town of Abbottabad on May 2, but they were formally charged with immigration offenses only last month. The Americans left the women and children behind in the house after they flew off with bin Laden’s corpse.

The women may have information about how bin Laden managed to remain undetected for close to 10 years after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S., despite being the subject of a massive international manhunt.

– Compiled by Melhor Leonor

**CORRECTIONS**

In Vol. 23, Issue 82 of *The Beacon* in the Sports section, the article titled “Defense shines bright as quarterbacks struggle” the photo caption for the top left photo lists Robert Boswell; it should have stated Daquan Hargrett.

*The Beacon* will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

**Two tickets hold separate debate**

**PRESIDENTIAL, PAGE 1**

have now but problem that can carry on in terms of cost.”

Meanwhile, Udhmani and Mautner remained for a question and answer session where they answered questions from the moderators with a crowd of about

25 supporters and students.

“This should still be an open forum,” Udhmani said, soon after the other candidates left the debate. “Conner and I are no strangers to criticism as you can see from our ‘100 ideas for FIU’ initiative. This is your opportunity to voice your concerns and ask us questions.”

Patrick O’Keefe, president of the SGC-MMC, addressed the day’s events.

“I can understand both sides,” O’Keefe said in a statement to FIU Student Media. “Though I hope that there will be some sort of consensus and that people will start working together and that there will be less political stifling.”

**Plans for expansion remain underway**

**ROSENBERG, PAGE 1**

members and continue on its expansive admissions plan.

Currently, there are several building projects in the works.

The construction site in the north of campus near Parking Garage Five will house graduate science classrooms. Within the next few months, another site will be developed that will be home to the school of Social Work and Public Health as well as the International Hurricane Center.

Additionally, a new residence hall and a Student Support Complex are also on the plans.

Student opinion varies on the subject of the continued expansion of the University.

Christopher Caproni, senior studying philosophy said, “I think it’s kind of tough to understand the massive building projects alongside the budget cuts and ‘cries of poverty’ from the administration.”

“I feel like FIU seems to be overextending, particularly as of late, in a particularly tumultuous economic environment,” he said.

On the other hand, Audrey Salbo, senior studying international relations said, “Well, I approve of what I’ve seen thus far. Expanding FIU has definitely been a plus since it has attracted a lot more students from all over the

country.”

However, although Salbo agrees with the plans as she made clear, she also said, “if expanding FIU means increasing tuition, I don’t think they should go ahead with the plan.”

“FIU, as we stand today has significant momentum,” Rosenberg said. “[We] have significant capability to withstand the short-term challenges that are presented by this state’s budgetary appropriation.”

Rosenberg closed in advising of an upcoming town hall meeting which has been scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on May 2, in the MARC Pavilion on the Modesto Maidique Campus.

**Candidates aim to inform students**

**SENATORIAL, PAGE 1**

“is money in the pot” so there should be less of a need for another rise in tuition in the future.

“If we show tally that we’re worlds ahead, then we can fight the tuition increases,” said Castro.

When asked about the previous SGA senate’s accomplishments, Boris Aparicio mentioned that there wasn’t anything that stood out for him.

“I’m not going to say that the past SGA did a horrible job, but I haven’t seen any big projects,” he said.

He also found it concerning that students aren’t aware of where their Activity and

Service fee go or what SGA is.

Lower division senator candidates Benjamin Rosa and Nicholas Alvarez were given the last 15 minutes of the debate hour.

Alvarez said that his main platform is about motivation and inspiration.

“I saw many students in my [first year interest group] fail out of college so I want go out and help other students get on track,” Alvarez said.

Rosa added on the importance of hearing out undergraduate students.

“My main focus is for

undergraduates to get their voices out,” Rosa said. “Undergraduates have a lot of power in the future of this University.”

Voting for Student Government at both the MMC and Biscayne Bay campus began yesterday, April 3, and ends today, April 4.

**THE BEACON**

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FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# SGA ELECTIONS

★★ 2012 ★★

APRIL 3RD - 4TH

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INFORMATION

## BASEBALL

# Henry's grand slam propels Panthers over Warhawks



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Jabari Henry hit a grand slam on April 1 to lift FIU to a 8-6 win.

**EDUARDO ALMAGUER**  
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The Panthers waived goodbye to March with a tough loss in extra innings but welcomed April with a win to clinch the three-game series against University of Louisiana-Monroe on March 31 and April 1.

### ULM 3, FIU 2

A fierce rainstorm delayed not only the start of the game in Miami, but the FIU offense as well.

Despite a career-and-team-high 12 strikeouts from right-hander Mike Ellis, the Warhawks utilized superb starting pitching and a timely home run to sink the Panthers (14-13, 4-5 SBC) 3-2 in 10 innings in a game that ended fifteen minutes past midnight on Saturday.

Ellis (1-2) pitched six innings and allowed two runs and six hits

to go along with his 12 strikeouts. Though he leads his team in strikeouts, the right-hander said that is not his game.

"I try and pitch to contact but I was getting guys to chase out of the zone," Ellis said.

"The ball was jumping out of his hand," added head coach Turtle Thomas.

The speedy Les Aulds singled to lead off the game for ULM (14-14, 2-7) and came around to score after first baseman Joey Rapp roped a single to right field.

Unlike previous games where FIU immediately answered in the bottom of the inning, Warhawk starting pitcher Randy Zeigler dominated the Panther bats and made sure that did not happen.

Ellis allowed another run in the third inning after an RBI single drove in shortstop Jeremy Sy who led the inning off with his fourth triple of the year to make it 2-0.

The game transcended into a pitcher's duel after that, as Ziegler limited the Panthers to two hits until his departure in the bottom of the eighth inning.

Ziegler, who threw more than 140 pitches in the game, gassed out and the Panthers capitalized when freshman Aramis Garcia blooped a two-run single in the eighth inning to tie the game.

ULM broke the tie in the 10th off a Taylor Abdalla home run that silenced the crowd. FIU could not overcome the momentum shift and lost the game.

### FIU 8, ULM 6

It was April Fools' Day, but the starting pitch on either side was not fooling any of the hitters in the game.

As opposed to Saturday's match up, where offense was scarce until the final innings,

**SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4**

## SOFTBALL

# FIU drops first conference series of the season to Troy

**ANTHONY GUIVAS**  
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### FIU 6, TROY 4

With FIU off to a hot 3-1 in conference play thus far, the Panthers continued their hot streak as they beat Troy 6-4 in game one of their doubleheader on March 31.

Troy was not the only opponent that FIU faced that afternoon; mother nature played a critical factor as well. The rain caused the Panthers to wait for over four hours before they stepped on the field to face Troy. The 1 p.m. start time was postponed to 6 p.m.

Once the team hit the field, the Panthers came out swinging. The delay seemed to not play a factor for FIU as they tacked on five runs right out of the gate in the top of the first inning.

The Panthers offensive explosion was ignited first by a Kayla Burri walk that was then followed up by a Beth Peller single and an Ashley McClain walk.

With the bases loaded,



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Megan Horne singled home the final run for the Panthers in their 6-4 win on March 31 against Troy.

the Panthers received consecutive two-run singles from Brie Rojas and Jessy Alfonso. Alex Casals then capped the

five-run inning with a sacrifice fly.

FIU continued to add more runs in the third as catcher Megan Horne

singled home Casals to hand the Panthers their sixth and final run.

That run payed dividends for FIU as Troy put

up three runs in the bottom of the third and one more in the fourth inning, finishing the game 6-4.

The conference leader

in strikeouts, Mariah Dawson, started the game and went 5.1 innings, allowing four runs on six hits.

Dawson was able to pile on seven more strikeouts to her total, handing her 119 on the season thus far.

Jenn Gnaidek grabbed her first save of the 2012 campaign as she secured the victory for FIU.

### TROY 6, FIU 5

After winning game one of a delayed doubleheader against Troy, FIU split game two, narrowly losing to Troy 6-5 in a heartbreaker.

Starting the game for FIU was Jenn Gnaidek who struggled against Troy, pitching 4.2 innings and giving up four earned runs on six hits to go along with three walks.

Troy took advantage and scored two quick runs in the top of the first thanks to a two-run home run by the Trojans' own Nikki Hollett.

The game turned in favor of the Panthers in

**SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 4**

SOFTBALL  
UPCOMING GAMES



APR. 6  
ULM  
4 p.m.  
FRI



APR. 6  
ULM  
6 p.m.  
FRI



APR. 7  
ULM  
1 p.m.  
SAT



APR. 10  
UL  
4 p.m.  
TUE

# FIU takes home series over ULM



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Pablo Bermudez went 1-4 with two strike outs in the 8-6 win over ULM on April 1.

## BASEBALL, PAGE 3

both teams took to the long ball early to score several of the first runs of the morning.

FIU left-hander R.J.

Fondon (3-3) struggled, allowing four earned runs and three walks in four innings of work.

The Warhawks made Fondon work all start, as they recorded hits in every

inning until his departure in the fifth inning.

ULM scored a run in the second inning, followed by a two-run homerun by Abdalla, Saturday's hero for the

Warhawks, to make it 3-0.

The Panthers erupted for seven runs in the third inning, capitalized by Nathan Burns' three-run homerun, his second of the season.

"I was sitting on a slider and got my pitch," Burns said.

ULM surrendered walks to three of the next four batters, and Henry, who has caught fire during the series, smashed a grand slam to put his team ahead 7-3.

"That was the game-winning shot, no doubt about it," said Thomas.

ULM hit back-to-back homeruns in the fifth inning to make it 7-5, chasing Fondon out of the game.

FIU, who didn't record a hit since their seven-run third, rallied with two outs in the seventh inning and scored a run on a wild pitch to extend their lead to 8-5.

Closer Michael Gomez allowed a run in the ninth but held on for the save.

"This was just a total team effort from the hitters and pitchers and just great win," said Burns.

# McClain extends hit streak to nine straight games

## SOFTBALL, PAGE 3

the fifth inning as FIU lit up the scoreboard putting up five runs up in a hurry.

FIU's offensive burst was all started by a Rein Baluja walk which was then followed up by two back-to-back singles from the bats of Erik Arcuri and Kayla Burri, which loaded up the bases.

That brought Beth Peller to the plate, who reached on a fielder's choice and scored the Panthers first run thanks to Troy error.

McClain then followed up with a single to center field that scored two runs, pushing FIU ahead 3-2. The next two runs were via a wild pitch and Alex Casals' single for the Panthers.

Trojans bounced back with two runs in the bottom of the fifth, giving Troy hope in the latter innings. Gniadek, who gave up those runs, was quickly replaced by Mariah Dawson, who struck out the first batter she faced to get FIU out of the inning. But Dawson was not able to keep Troy down for long, as they put up another two runs in the sixth inning, giving them a 6-5 lead.

The Panthers were then quickly dismissed in the seventh having FIU split the double header with Troy.

## TROY 6, FIU 1

The Panthers went on to lose their three-game series to Troy on April 1, 6-1. It was the first conference series that FIU has lost this season.

Dawson got the loss for FIU as she tossed three innings, giving up six runs while walking two batters.

McClain notched a double for the Panthers to extend her hitting streak to nine games, also reaching base on 14 consecutive games, a season-high for the team.

# FIU

## Business

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

We would like to congratulate the students from Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) for achieving 32 awards at the 2012 State Leadership Conference!

We wish you the best of luck in San Antonio, TX this summer!

## THE BIG O



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

Shane Coleman had a 24-yard touchdown run to lead the offense to a 29-22 win over the defense in the Blue and Gold game on March 30. The offense had three touchdown runs on the night, including a 7-yard one from Jerimiah Harden.

## CAMPUS TRENDS

# Students express frustration with the fair

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Crawling with people and surrounded by police cars, the Miami-Dade Youth Fair still had no trouble pulling in a crowd after 61 years. In its three-week run from Thursday, March 15 until Sunday, April 1, it is safe to say that the fair is a big attraction for residents of the county.

The Fair, a private, non-profit organization, aims to showcase youth achievement, with over 50,000 works on display. Among these are artistic and academic works of over 45,000 students.

These works cover a range of areas, such as performing arts, recycling and robotics. A large part of the exhibit is devoted to youth agriculture, where students can display landscape designs, demonstrate animal care and grooming. Students who enter these competitions can win cash prizes, awards, trophies and plaques.

The Fair has a long-standing relationship with Miami-Dade schools. Every year, over 45,000 students in public, private and parochial schools receive free admission to attend The Fair as a school field trip.

In addition, each student receives a coupon for two free admissions to The Fair, encouraging them to visit again with their families. Furthermore, in the past six decades, The Fair has donated over \$8 million in scholarships and awards to students.

Occupying the area adjacent to the University's dorms, The Fair boasts over 100 rides, a petting zoo and several live music

performances. Other attractions vary from appearances by wrestling champions, like "WWE Raw" wrestler, Jinder Mahal, to figure skating and pig races. With events like these, The Fair holds something for everyone.

For college students, one attraction has taken precedence over the rest. That attraction is the 170 food vendors offering traditional fair food. "I went on the first day, so I got to use the opening day discount.

Otherwise it's too expensive," said Tara Delgado, a senior studying management. "I only went for the food. My favorites were the fried dough, candy apples, ice cream sundaes and the shredded pork. It would be nice if they let FIU students in for free if they are just going to buy food and leave," suggested Delgado.

Delgado is not alone—students who are less than pleased with the consequences of having The Fair so close to campus have ventured over to enjoy the culinary delights.

"I went to The Fair once just for food, which is the best part," said Caroline Spitzer, a senior majoring in costume design.

For many students, the food is the only positive side of having The Fair nearby. "The price [to get in] really isn't worth it unless you plan on spending hours there.

The traffic it causes is also frustrating for students that live on campus. I can't run any errands in the late afternoon or early evening as it takes at least 30 minutes to get back on campus from eighth street," said Spitzer.

Complaints about the general admission price of \$10, plus the



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

For some weeks, the Miami-Dade Youth Fair was in full swing by campus, giving students a difficult time with parking due to the closing of lot 5 for the fair.

additional high cost of tickets for rides, are common among University students.

The Fair does offer various discounts to the public: before 5 p.m., the price of admission is cut in half while county employees and anyone with a Miami-Dade library card can get an admission ticket for \$4.

"I think that the people who attend The Fair are not respectful to our campus and to the fact that some people do live here. I've heard stories of vandalism and seen people litter and urinate all over our campus and it is very frustrating," said Kayla Carcone, a sophomore studying business. "I'm not planning on going to The Fair because I feel it is



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

overpriced, but if I was to go, it would probably be for the candy apples," said Carcone.

Earlier this month, a possible deal for the University to acquire The Fair's lot fell through. In part, this was due to a reluctance

to move The Fair outside of the county.

Despite this, the University still desires to expand the campus onto the fairgrounds in hopes of accommodating the school's growing population.

## *Masturbation nation: how to embrace basic pleasure*

### DIY, PAGE 8

Masturbation, in all its glory, has a variety of methods. It is done by touching, stroking, or massaging the penis or clitoris. Also, some women use sex toys to masturbate.

Whichever method you choose remember, we are all human and we have been blessed with sensational nerve endings on our genitalia that are waiting to be explored.

Despite the fact that masturbation is a controversial subject, many chose to continue to go to the palm prom. Why wouldn't they? Besides having an amazing self-stimulation

fest, masturbation offers a healthy stimulating benefits package.

It reduce stress, relieves sexual tension, helps offset insomnia, boosts metabolism and stimulates the production of endorphins — brain chemicals that help ease pain and stress and relieve menstrual cramps and muscle tension.

People masturbate for many different reasons. Some do it because they are horny, single, or they are stressed out.

Whatever your reason may be, masturbation gives you the freedom of a safe sexual alternative for those who wish to avoid pregnancies and the dangers

of sexually transmitted diseases. Doesn't sound so bad after all right?

So whether you're choking the chicken with a dry hand or slippin' and grippin' with lubricant, take the time to experiment and learn what your body's pleasure points are saying to you.

Dr. Dixie Mills once said, "When it comes to your health, your body is the expert, and you are the ultimate authority."

So the next time you are having a stressful day and your body is screaming to release all that pent up stress, remember, take matters into your own hands.

## Night to remember due to good vibes and music

### TAQUITOS, PAGE 8

Starting the set with the song "Summer Days," the band delivered an upbeat, surf-e rhythm that didn't slow down for the rest of the set. The crowd in the front was dancing, climbing on

“  
The crowd in the front was dancing, climbing on each other's shoulders and taking off their shirts  
”

each other's shoulders and taking off their shirts (or at least one guy did) while everyone else just nodded their heads to the beat and watched Sarah Attias, the lead singer, shake her body while working the keys.

"It's surprising how people are here on time. Usually in Miami people are late especially since we are playing at 11:30 p.m., but people came out tonight and that was really awesome," said Mario Fadrigas, the drummer of Little Beard.

The music was solid, no question that even with their new temporary bass player, the band had the right attitude to make the night one to remember.

The only downside was that the vocals could have been louder and clearer, but besides that this band brings us hope that music will never die in Miami.

## RADIATE REVIEWS

*The Shins' new record worth the extended wait*

Calling James Mercer the lead singer of The Shins is not descriptive enough, nor does it truly state the connection between the two. In essence and execution,

Mercer has always been at the helm. Ostensibly, when The Shins went through a clean sweep of their Sub Pop lineup consisting of Dave Hernandez, Martin Crandall and Jesse Sandoval, it seemed that the group would be left dismantled and Mercer would take the solo route.

Since he is the nucleus of The Shins, he could still retain the name and license of the group without fans and critics questioning the legitimacy of a band retaining only one member because he is the only key member.

Five years after the last studio album, Mercer worked with the present-day group of The Shins and came up with "Port of Morrow," an album with a focus that fits their discography perfectly.

The Shins have established the alternative folk genre since their 2003 album "Chutes Too Narrow." However, "Port of Morrow" has a

more produced, grandiose structure to it as the folk-like elements of past releases are seldom found here. The opening track titled "The Rifle's Spiral" starts with fuzzy feedback that almost sounds like tuning through an old radio with its dial only to find a musical transmission that sounds like it's about to beam you up.

Mercer enters in with his clean-cut tenor as the percussion is thumping the song along with synths and the crunch of guitars. Lead single "Simple Song" is a multi-layered track that is lively and joyous with Mercer transitioning naturally from his casual singing to his high-ranged falsetto.

Backed by clanging guitars and poppy piano, Mercer sings "Well this is just a simple song." The up-tempo continues with "Bait And Switch" in its surfer rock, New Wave pop sensibilities that blossoms, but other tracks still shine that don't have the same pop grandeur.

The closest you get to an acoustic love ballad is in the graceful "September." Echo-like harmonies reverberate as Mercer reminisces about how he's "been selfish and full of pride... and it's that she loves in spite of everything else."

It's a mix of mythos and his



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Long time band, The Shins finally come out with a new breakthrough album "Port of Morrow," fitting into their discography elegantly, bringing back a talented band into the spot light once more.

own personal love story that ties together beautifully and Mercer's romantic prose leaves no one guessing as to how he has found solace in love.

The swaying ruminations are introduced in "For A Fool," a song with an elegiac quality that's sharply executed. The mature execution that is found in "For a Fool" also comes out in "Fall of

'82," the closest Mercer will get to sounding Beatlesque while being contemporary. "40 Mark Strasse" avoids the trappings of soft rock musings with a steady acoustic groove and a soaring chorus.

The closer, "Port of Morrow," has a jazzy, ghostly melody that rips in and out. It is almost unnerving how the sounds float in the music.

Even if "Port of Morrow" doesn't elicit the response Natalie Portman gave to "New Slang," you will at least identify with Zach Braff's response to this album: "It's good, I like it."

*Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Michael Hernandez is DJ Mike Manchild on Radiate FM.*



# GRADUATE ON TIME!

## CLASS DISMISSED

### Student expansion surpasses faculty

In the first year of the expansion plan, it looks as if the University is outgrowing its britches a bit too quickly.

According to an FIU Student Media report written by Katherine Ferolito, our faculty-student ratio is at 28:1, which surpasses the already high state average of 22:1.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

This takes away a crucial selling point for the University, which is in opposition to the goal of raising our student population by 2,000 every year.

Naturally, a high student-faculty ratio calls into question the University's overall efficiency, specifically in terms of class availability and student services, making it look unattractive to applicants.

Furthermore, the University is literally running out of space to house the student growth.

The solution is simple: hire more staff and build more classrooms.

However, with \$24 million in cuts on the horizon and no control over the transfer student rate due to an agreement with community colleges, the key to solving this problem becomes all the more lost.

Even so, I commend the University for trying to get around this in a variety of cost-effective ways.

According to Ferlito's article, Thomas Breslin, chairman of the Faculty Senate at the University, is proposing a revised class schedule to ease the strain.

Meanwhile, several colleges within the University have raised their GPA requirements -- but this creates a separate problem when the excess of students crowd into other majors, which will potentially exacerbate the problem.

Truthfully, these solutions are quick fixes for a deeper issue. I admire the University's plan for expansion, but it is already proving to be too much too soon.

While our student body grows exponentially, the availability of class sections and student services remains stag-

nant for the most part.

There's very little sense in having so many students if the University doesn't have enough faculty or space to accommodate them.

It concerns me that the plan to hire more staff is ultimately contingent on whether or not the tight-fisted state

**“The University should seriously reconsider their student enrollment plan and contemplate going inch-by-inch rather than mile-by-mile.”**

gives the University the funding it needs.

Perhaps the small miracle of getting the state to loosen its purse strings will indeed occur and the student-faculty ratio can be managed, if not improved. Otherwise, the 62,000 students the University wants to have enrolled will have an even harder time finding their seat in class.

The University should seriously reconsider their student enrollment plan and contemplate going inch-by-inch rather than mile-by-mile.

True, it may take longer for the University to reach its student enrollment goal, but it will also give faculty availability a fighting chance to catch up.

The University has to go up a size in terms of faculty, or else risk splitting its pants.

*“Class Dismissed” is a weekly column critiquing education in America. Email [jasmyne.elliott@fiusm.com](mailto:jasmyne.elliott@fiusm.com)*

## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Candidate behavior not up for debate

On Monday, the three presidential candidates for the Modesto Maidique Campus' Student Government Council met in the Graham Center for a debate, which had been scheduled with its moderators—*The Beacon's* Editor in Chief Alexandra Camejo and the MMC Elections Commissioner Alessa Torres—at least one week in advance.

Just as the debate kicked off, presidential candidate Laura Farinas, avoiding the first question, said that she wanted to share the definition of the word, “partisan” (a demonstration of bias), from her iPad.

She and presidential candidate Samir Patel went on to agree that, given *The Beacon's* April 2 recommendation of the Sanjeev Udhmani and Connor Mautner ticket, neither of them felt comfortable answering questions from a biased moderator; namely Camejo. Leaving the room abruptly, Patel and Farinas, along with their respective running mates Andres Wu and Alex Castro, held a question-and-answer session outside of G.C.—mostly to a crowd of supporters (as evidenced by their t-shirt endorsements).

While one could recognize the candidates' concern about Camejo's participation, we feel that communication—an aspect of governing both Farinas and Patel have strongly campaigned for—could have avoided this unnecessary drama.

By not voicing their issue with this alleged “bias” to the Elections Commission beforehand, it appeared as though Farinas, Patel, and their running mates were more concerned with marching out of a debate than actually participating in one.

As members of Student Media, our number one concern is that students are informed on issues that affect them. We had hoped that the candidates felt the same. We would have much rather seen a change in moderator than a flat-out avoidance of any real discussion—involving all of the candidates. As presidential candidates—especially ones that call for transparency—we suggest that they practice what they preach. By dodging any confrontation on the points brought against them, Patel and Farinas reemphasized our hesitation towards their tickets.

Their inability to understand the concept of an opinion or how to address those against them provokes the need of another definition. Apparently we must clarify that opinions expressed in the Opinion section are, in fact, opinions. Opinions, by nature, demonstrate a bias. That the section was headlined with the title “The Beacon Recommends” implies a recommendation, which implies an opinion, which—we can safely assume—implies a bias.

And shall we make reference to the hypocrisy of candidates leaving a formalized debate, afraid of fielding questions from a biased audience, so that they could go outside and answer questions from a crowd of people wearing shirts with their name on them?

Disastrous, embarrassing, petty as this debate turned out, it has, on the bright side, drastically simplified the voter's decision-making process. A candidate's immaturity, so fundamental in matters of leadership, renders their platform irrelevant, as no plan, however wise or well-intentioned, can be carried out efficiently if the president does not know how to behave.

## Jewish students neglected at Biscayne Bay Campus

MALORIE DIAZ  
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With all of the clubs and organizations at FIU, it is impossible to be in two places at one time or even attempt to be involved in various activities. Especially, when they continuously meet at one campus and not the other.

One prominent group of individuals who are being increasingly affected by this issue is the Jewish community.

While the majority of Jewish students attend the Biscayne Bay Campus, meetings and activities for those involved in clubs are held at the Modesto Maidique Campus, according to Ivy Siegel, Assistant Director of Campus Life at the BBC.

“In the past years, Jewish organizations represented at BBC were the JCLE (Jewish Collegiate Learning Exchange), Chabad FIU, and Hillel Second Generation,” said Siegel.

While these organizations are still active today, they do not facilitate themselves to where the majority of Jewish students take classes - this needs to change.

“We are missing the representation for the Jewish sector here at the BBC, and I would love to see more involvement here,” said Siegel.

**“While the majority of Jewish students attend the Biscayne Bay Campus, meetings and activities for those involved in clubs are held at the Modesto Maidique campus.”**

According to Rabbi Levi Friedman, head of Chabad FIU, the reason for this “preference” of one campus over the other is intentional.

“We do offer classes and Holiday events at both campuses when possible, but since BBC already has large Jewish involvement both on and off campus, we try to do more at MMC to grow our community there as well,” said Friedman. I agree with Friedman, Jewish students at MMC should be encouraged to be more involved; however, involved BBC students should not be punished.

The organization, which was founded in 2004, “hopes to be a resource for students to explore Judaism,” he said.

Although I understand the reasoning, I think that students are at an unfair advantage. The University should aim to accommodate students at both campuses.

But since the two campuses are so far apart from one another, Friedman tells us they can't be at both at the same time, although they would like to.

Jose Selanikio, a brother of the AEPi Fraternity said, “We are twenty brothers right now, and most of us live near and take classes at BBC.” These students should be able to attend events at BBC - not have to travel over 20 miles to MMC.

“A frat house at BBC would also be nice, since there are none currently on [that] campus,” said Selanikio.

Selanikio pointed out that they don't give BBC students priority because where there are more people and more involvement, there is more money to be made. The obvious choice for their cause is MMC.

Trying to get organizations to BBC has become extremely difficult. With a high traffic of students at MMC, involvement at BBC has nearly diminished.

If students at BBC want more going on at their campus, they will have to start showing it by becoming more involved when events do take place.

Without the proof of commitment and interest by the students, clubs and organizations will not grow.

#### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to [neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com](mailto:neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com) or drop by our offices at either GC210 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.

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## ELECTIONS

# Students weigh in on an uncontested election

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
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Although the presidential election for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus is uncontested, voting has still taken place, beginning yesterday and ending today.

To some, the unchallenged ticket of Pablo Haspel and Oluwatobi Adekoya leaves something to be desired in the elections process. Senior international relations major Maria Reynaga thinks a contested election would have offered more.

"It would have been nice. Just because I feel like there would be more things happening," said Reynaga. "I don't even see the point of campaigning. It's not fun, even if you're the candidate yourself."

Although Reynaga said she supports the candidates, she felt that the Modesto Maidique Campus had "real campaigning."

The election was nearly a contested one when Adekoya's request to split the ticket and form a ticket of his own along



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Pablo Haspel and Oluwatobi Adekoya, Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus president and vice president candidates, respectively, meet and greet with students on April 2, one day before polls open for the 2012 SGA Elections.

with Olwatamilore Odimayo was granted, but the SGC-BBC Supreme Court reversed the decision on March 26.

Some were not even aware the

election was taking place.

"We, as students, should know more about who's running and what the goals are," junior hospitality major Daniel Rozo said.

"But I didn't know. There should be more events that are attractive to students, not just emails that we never read."

Roza, who previously attended

Miami Dade College, said he was always aware of elections there.

"I used to go to MDC and I would hear about it," he said. "They had setups and speeches from what I remember, every semester."

According to a sign in sheet, 23 people attended the candidate debates in Panther Square on April 2, a lower number than secretary of SGC-BBC George Simpson expected.

"A lot of people don't come to events unless there is free food, but there also could have been more promotion," Simpson said.

SGC-BBC announced the event with posters around campus and an email, but the interest still underwhelmed.

For junior hospitality major Walter Diaz, it's a matter of time.

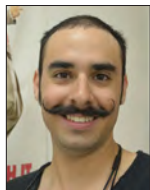
"We're so busy," Diaz said, who takes all of his classes online. "I'm a full time worker and a full time student."

This is the second consecutive year of uncontested elections at SGC-BBC, with Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer acquiring presidential ticket.

## BEAT STREET

# A night on the town takes some unexpected turns

While skating up and down the empty streets of Wynwood, you would never guess anything happens here when the sun goes down.



ANDRES BEDOYA

Inside a warehouse and up an elevator to the 4th floor there were a bunch of artists, crammed in the hallway coming in and out of the Charles Weinberg Museum.

This decent space was host to "Eclipse," an exhibition of work by Berlin-based artist Hannes Bend.

The gallery overflows with wreckage dredged from the Osborne Reef, a failed man made reef off the coast of Fort Lauderdale. The fishy smell was only tolerable by the free PBR's, but even that couldn't stop the hunger. Leaving the museum, we

headed to Small Taco Place on the corner of northwest 29th street and northwest 12th Avenue.

The tent was run by a family selling tacos and corn on a cob from a parking lot next to a convenience store. It seemed sketchy at first but the tacos made me feel closer to Mexico.

It was unlike any other experience with how delicious and authentic the tacos were.

It was time for music and all fingers were pointing to Vagabond to see the band Little Beard. On our way in, bickers flooded the side entrance trying to park their bicycles.

Inside there was a crazy line for the snack shack and their famous veggie bean burgers. Little beard came on at 11:45 p.m. and played to a crowd of about 150 attendees.

**SEE TAQUITOS, PAGE 6**



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Little Beard and their main singer Sarah Attias performed for fans at Vagabound and had the crowd going wild.

## THE TALK

# Sometimes you have to take matters into your own hands

**DEONDRAL CLARKE**  
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You've just arrived home from a long day of school. You're mentally drained and stressed out and your hormones are raging. What do you do to relax? Take a shower? Go to the gym? Nope. You masturbate!

Yes, you heard me correctly. You beat the meat. You play with the kitty. Whatever tech-

nical term you enjoy using, it all serves one purpose: self-stimulation.

Masturbation has been around for centuries and the word still creates an uncomfortable feeling for many. It is funny that we learned about sex as early as the fourth or fifth grade but were never taught much or anything at all about masturbation.

When talking about masturbation, it seems that most males accept the conversation, while most women tend to shy away

from it. Many women feel that masturbating is somehow wrong. Maybe this stems from cultural views on masturbation as immoral. In actuality, it is perfectly healthy.

There are so many benefits to polishing yourself off a few times a month, week, or hell, even a day.

According to a study done by the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior, 83 percent of males and 64 percent of females ages 20-24 reported that they have

masturbated.

A study conducted by Pinkerton, Bogart, Cecil, and Abramson in 2002, found that male college students reported that they masturbate an average of four times per week and female college students reported that they masturbated a little more than one time per week. Masturbation is a very common behavior and many do so throughout their lives.

**SEE DIY, PAGE 7**