

PRESIDENTIAL KICK OFF



PHOTOS BY MELHOR LEONOR/THE BEACON

[Top left] Candidate Sanjeev Udhvani introduces his running mate Connor Mautner. [Bottom left] Vice presidential candidate Andres Wu speaks with a student. [Right] Alex Castro, vice presidential candidate, consults with his campaign advisor.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

MMC senators to look over A&S budget allocations

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The Student Government Senate took a look at the \$13 million University-wide budget at their Monday meeting and now have three weeks to give their approval.

Senate Speaker Donovan Dawson broke down, line by line, the budget document that distributes the student Activity & Service fee to more than 30 campus organizations and facilities during the March 26 meeting.

He emphasized that the senators should make sure that they are content with how much money goes to each group.

"I said in my opening statement to the Senate that I would not force the budget to a vote unless everyone was completely comfortable," Dawson said. "Though I don't want people to stall the budget process because of some kind of political agenda."

If the Senate does not get their adjustments in before the three week deadline ends, the budget will be automatically approved and move to the desk of Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs. University President Mark Rosenberg is the last admin-

istrator needed to fully approve the budget.

Senators retain the right, if there is major issue with an allocation amount, to vote by two thirds majority to change the allocation amount. During the meeting, no line item was contentious though senators engaged in discussions on the allocations to organizations such

"I would not force the budget to a vote... Though I don't want people to stall the budget process because of some kind of political agenda."

Donovan Dawson,
Senate Speaker
SGC-MMC

as *The New York Times* readership program, Orgsync, Panther Camp and Student Media.

Dawson maintains the hope that the Biscayne Bay Campus Senate does not adjust many, if not any, of the allocation amounts.

"My last task as Senate speaker this year is to pass this budget," he said. "Not passing it on time would be irresponsible."

STUDENT MEDIA

Media board appoints new staff

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New additions were made to FIU'S Student Media board which include the editor in chief of *The Beacon*, FIUSM.com director and general manager of WRGP.

Philippe Buteau, currently a staff writer for *The Beacon*, was named editor in chief.

After holding the positions of Biscayne Bay Campus managing editor and news director of Student Media, Buteau says he is "ready to get to work."

He is a junior journalism major and

interned for the Sun Sentinel summer of 2011, an experience he will bring to *The Beacon*.

"I want us to pick up the pace," Buteau said. "Reporting, writing, and eventually publishing, all need to happen faster while also keeping mistakes to a minimum."

John Giralt, sophomore political science major, was named director of FIUSM.com, FIU Student Media's web site.

"I'm very humbled that I was chosen for the position. I really want the FIUSM name to be more known across the student body," Giralt said.

Giralt is currently the copy editor for the

news section of *The Beacon* and assistant FIUSM director.

Current recruitment director for *The Beacon* and DJ for Radiate FM, senior Kyle Pineda was selected for the position of WRGP general manager to oversee day to day operations of the radio station.

"I look forward to bringing the station to the FIU community and getting involved with the University further," Pineda said. "I really feel that we could be the best station in Miami."

Buteau, Giralt and Pineda begin working in their new positions April 23, 2012.

CLASSROOMS

Faculty-student ratio 'going in the wrong direction'

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The University ranks among 25 of the largest universities in the nation, based on enrollment.

During the past few years, enrollment has grown steadily, but the number of faculty in relation to students has not.

The student-to-faculty ratio at FIU has been steadily increasing as the University pursues its aggressive plan to add 20,000

new students by 2020.

FIU's ratio has been the highest (or among the highest) in the state during this period. Research recently published in the *Orlando Sentinel* showed FIU at 28:1, compared with the states average of 22:1, a statewide figure that is considerably higher than most states.

In addition, the number of undergraduate course sections fell from 2,667 in 2006 to 2,395 in 2010.

With course sections decreasing, students have fewer classes to choose

from, which, in turn, could lead to slowing down retention and graduation rates.

Thomas Breslin, the chairman of the Faculty Senate at FIU, said state budget cuts are limiting FIU's ability to hire new faculty.

"We're going in the wrong direction," said Breslin about the worsening trend in the student-to-faculty ratio.

Meanwhile, the state Legislature agreed to cut more than \$24 million next year.

"It is supposedly a one-time cut that

FIU will deal with using the increase in tuition and drawing down its 5 percent state mandated reserves," Breslin said. Even with extra tuition revenue and the rainy-day money, Breslin said "fiscal year 2014 looks grim."

Along with budget cuts, the University has been hiring more academic advisers in an attempt to improve lower-than-average retention and graduation rates.

That spending, Breslin said, reduces the

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COMING UP | News

Check out Monday's issue for "The Beacon Recommends" a student voter guide for the 2012-2013 Student Government Elections.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Miami judge deems bag of radios a lethal threat

A judge citing the Florida statute commonly called the “stand your ground” law has dismissed a murder charge against a man who chased and fatally stabbed a suspected thief.

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Beth Bloom previously decided Greyston Garcia was immune from prosecution in the January killing of Pedro Roteta.

Bloom ruled Tuesday that a bag of stolen car radios Roteta swung at Garcia amounted to a lethal threat. Bloom said Garcia “was well within his rights to pursue the victim and demand the return of his property.”

WORLD

Tibetan exile who set self on fire in India dies

A Tibetan exile who set himself on fire in India to protest a visit by China’s president died Wednesday, while hundreds of other activists were being detained.

Jamphel Yeshe, 27, set himself alight Monday at a demonstration in New Delhi. He ran screaming past other protesters and the media before falling to the ground, his clothing partly disintegrated and nearly his entire body covered in burns.

“Martyr Jamphel Yeshe’s sacrifice will be written in golden letters in the annals of our freedom struggle,” said Dhondup Lhadar, an activist with the Tibetan Youth Congress. “He will live on to inspire and encourage the future generations of Tibetans.”

About 30 people have set themselves on fire over the past year in ethnic Tibetan areas of China in protest against Beijing’s heavy-handed rule in Tibet.

– Compiled by Melhor Leonor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wife defends accused US soldier

AP Staff

The wife of a U.S. soldier accused of killing 17 Afghan civilians says her husband showed no signs of PTSD before he deployed, and she doesn’t feel like she’ll ever believe he was involved in the killings.

“I just don’t think he was involved,” Karilyn Bales said in an interview with Matt Lauer that aired during Monday’s “NBC Nightly News” broadcast. “I don’t know enough information. This is not him. It’s not him.”

Earlier, she said on NBC’s “Today” show that she didn’t know much about PTSD symptoms.

“He doesn’t have nightmares, you know, things like that. No dreams,” Karilyn Bales said.

She defended her husband, Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, in the weekend interview.

Officials say Bales left his base March 11 in southern Afghanistan and killed eight Afghan adults and nine children.

The wife of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier said the accusations are “unbelievable to me.”

“He loves children, he’s like a big kid himself,” she said. “I have no idea what happened, but he would not ... he loves children, and he would not do that.”

He was formally charged Friday

with 17 counts of premeditated murder and other crimes, and is being held at a U.S. military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Karilyn Bales was in a grocery store when she first heard of the rampage in a phone call from her parents.

“They said, well it looks like a U.S. soldier, some Afghan civilians were killed by a soldier,” she said.

She was told about the shootings when she got home.

“They held my hand and they just said that perhaps, you know, they thought that he had left the base, and gone out and perhaps killed the Afghan civilians, and that was really the only sentence, and I just started crying,” she said.

The deaths of the nine Afghan children are especially difficult, she said.

“It’s heartbreaking. I can’t imagine losing my children, so my heart definitely goes out to them for losing all of their children.”

Bales was on his fourth tour of duty in a war zone, having served three tours in Iraq, where he suffered a head injury and a foot injury.

Karilyn Bales said his last deployment was more “secretive” and “more intense.”

His civilian attorney, John Henry Browne, had said the soldier and his family had thought he was done fighting.

“It was a big shock because we weren’t on the schedule to be deployed again, to be honest with you. He didn’t want to miss out on any more of his kids’ life,” Karilyn Bales told “Today.”

Bales said she feels he was mentally fit when he was deployed.

U.S. investigators have said they believe Bales killed in two episodes, returning to his base after the first attack and later slipping away to kill again.

He is reported to have surrendered without a struggle.

Karilyn Bales has spoken to her husband by telephone twice since he was detained.

The soldier called his wife first from overseas shortly after the massacre, and then last week from Fort Leavenworth.

They didn’t talk about what happened, she said.

“Not on the monitored phone call. So we couldn’t discuss those details. He was — seemed a bit confused. As to where he was and why he was there,” she said.

She says he’ll probably tell her about it when they meet.

“I don’t think anything will really change my mind in believing that he did not do this. This is not what it appears to be,” she said.

Karilyn Bales told the “Today” show she has set up a fund to help pay for her husband’s legal defense.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 80 of *The Beacon* in the News section, the article titled “Samir Patel and Andres Wu” on page four and five of the Student Government Council Election 2012, Samir Patel is misquoted. He said “We have teams that are performing at top levels and there is no reason that hundreds of student should not be attending.”

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

Budget cuts to affect ratio effects

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amount of money available to hire faculty and that, in turn, leaves students with fewer course offerings. State budget reductions also restrict FIU’s ability to build more classrooms

to accommodate the explosion in enrollment.

The problem within the articulation agreement FIU has with the community colleges.

The University can’t control the number of transfer students who make up 65 percent of the FIU student body.

“Sooner rather than later we will have more of a crunch in the classrooms,” Breslin said, noting that he wants the Faculty Senate to explore a new class schedule plan.

“I will be asking the Senate’s Academic Policies and Personnel Committee to evaluate the benefits, if any, of a 2-2-2 schedule,” he said.

This schedule would span classes over a six-day period, with students taking courses on a wider array of two-day cycles. Even if approved, he noted, classes will be tight.

“The intent would be to discover if such a schedule would make it easier for students to come to class just two days a week and thereby cut down on commuting and also increase the handling capacity of the present built infrastructure as FIU grows by 2,000 students per year,” Breslin said.

To try and avert this problem, some of the

colleges within the University have increased their entrance GPA require-

we are on target to reach 62,000 students by 2020 and plan to hire the faculty

“**Sooner rather than later we will have more of a crunch in the classrooms.**”

Thomas Breslin,
chair
Faculty Senate

ments, leading to an over-

flow of students flooding other colleges within the University and switching majors. The provost office at FIU has devised a plan and authorized deans to hire more faculty members over the next several years. However, this plan is contingent on getting funding from the state, which is a “difficult challenge,” Breslin said.

FIU is proceeding with the plan to hire faculty, according to Tonja Moore, the associate vice president of Academic Affairs.

“We are closely monitoring the budget situation and still plan to ultimately reach our goal,” Moore said.

“It may mean our expected, incremental growth each year may have to be reevaluated but

to support that growth.”

Moore said the growth plan includes “the categories and resources they would need to meet the expected growth.”

“This included faculty, staff, teaching assistants, adjuncts and other expenses. We also aligned this with space needs and other infrastructure support needs in order to achieve our goals,” she said.

“We are committed to maintaining our current student to faculty ratios and we do expect to make some improvements to that ratio over this time,” Moore said.

This story was researched and written for JOU 3300 Advanced News Writing taught by Dr. Fred Blevens in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

THE BEACON

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BASEBALL

Dodds picks up first win against Bethune-Cookman

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FIU took the first of three games on the season against Bethune-Cookman. Logan Dodds got his first victory of the year going six innings strong and allowing one run on five hits and seven strikeouts.

The Panthers out hit Bethune-Cookman by only two, but they found a way to make the most out of it and took a 5-0 lead into the sixth inning and never looked back, beating the Wildcats 6-2.

First baseman Adam Kirsch led the charge for the Panthers with a home run in the second inning and a double that brought in two runs in the third inning that gave FIU the early lead.

"I just went up to bat and got the fastball first pitch and swung and luckily it went out," Kirsch said. "Basically the same mind set [for the double] he threw me a fastball first pitch, they were both on first pitch."

With the win, the Panthers (11-12, 2-4 SBC) start their longest home stretch of the season on the right foot and avoid their fourth straight back to back losses of the year. More importantly for head coach Turtle Thomas is that his



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Dodds struck out seven batters while giving up one run on six innings pitched in a win against the Wildcats.

team only had to use two pitchers and conserve the bullpen.

"Dodds, John Costa, Adam Kirsch, those are the three right there," said Thomas. "Dodds went out there and pitched, he had established his stuff in the bullpen and he brought it to the mound. We threw practically everybody we had last weekend and it's not like we had eight pitchers who could go in

the game, so we needed a good outing from our starter."

It was Logan Dodds' second start of the year and third appearance. After leading 3-0 through five innings however, he gave up his first and only run of the game, a solo shot to left field by David Lee.

"2-0 [pitch count], just wanted to throw a strike and that kid got every little piece of it," said

Dodds on the home run. "I was getting ahead early, got a fastball down and away. I was hitting my spots and that just setup the slider and change-up," he added on his performance for the game.

After Kirsches three RBI's, Jabari Henry increased the lead in the fifth inning by scoring in two runs, making it five RBI's on the season.

The Wildcats started a come-

back in the eighth inning when relief pitcher John Costa gave up triple to Lee, who brought in a run on the hit. However, he got himself together with two consecutive strikeouts to end the threat.

The Panthers got an insurance run in the bottom of the eighth as Oscar Aguirre scored from second base before Burns was thrown out trying to advance his single into a double that ended the inning.

Costa finished the game off in the ninth, getting the final three outs via strike out to record six K's in just three innings.

Dodds and Costa combined for 13 strikeouts and just two walks, with Dodds facing 22 batters and Costa going against 11. "He came in a little tentative to begin with, but then he started throwing and he did a nice job, so that was big right there," said Thomas about Costa.

Only three batters failed to get a hit for FIU as T.J. Shantz went 0-4, Jabari Henry went 0-4 and Julius Gaines went 0-3.

The Panthers will be at home until April 13 with one game against Florida Gulf Coast, a three-game series versus ULM, a two-game set against Florida A&M and then three games versus Troy to cap the home stand off.

TENNIS

Panthers duel with Bears

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Fresh off a 5-2 victory over Sun Belt foe and rival, Florida Atlantic University, FIU (5-12) will look to keep up their winning ways against Ivy League standout, Brown University. The Bears stroll into South Florida and will do battle against the Panthers on March 30 at the FIU Panther Tennis Center. The match time is slated for 1 p.m.

The Bears, who are projected as the 40th ranked team in the nation, will be the fourth Ivy league school that the Panthers will have faced in their 2012 campaign. The Panthers are 1-2 against the Ivy League opponents, both losses stemming from a 2-4 loss to former Ivy League champion, Yale, and a 2-5 defeat to Columbia. The Panthers' sole Ivy League victory came against Penn when they capped a 4-3 win.

"We are going out there and I want to win those seven points. I feel like the team is getting stronger and each match is progressing," said head coach Melissa Applebaum-Dallau on preparation for the Brown

match. "It's a matter of building on our games and little by little it will all come together."

The Brown Bears have yet to play a match against a team within the Ivy League. The Bears mustered up a 4-3 record against Ivy League competition in the 2011 season and overall registered a 15-9 record.

They finished the year tied for third place, sharing the spot in the standings with Harvard behind Dartmouth and conference champion Yale, who just defeated the Panthers in a 2-4 loss on March 16.

In preparation for the match on Wednesday, team leader Lisa Johnson has been participating in intense individual work in practice leading up to the square off against the Bears. "Individually I've been working primarily on my fitness and consistency for the Brown match," said Johnson. "I know [Brown] is a tough team so I definitely have to stay fit and consistent throughout the match."

Coach Applebaum-Dallau stresses that it's not solely on winning or losing when finishing these final two games on a high note in order to gain some motivation for the upcoming Sun Belt Tournament.

"When trying to finish on a high note, to me it's not necessarily about a win or loss, but I think it's more about going out there and each girl feeling their games and feeling confident that they can hit any ball they want," said Applebaum-Dallau. "It also has to do with how we train...I believe we're one of the more fit teams especially in our conference."

FIU will need another resilient effort by the Panthers' other star senior, Christine Seredni, if it looks to go to 2-0 in its final two games before they launch their mission for a monumental sixth Sun Belt title.

"I think we're all playing better and better," said Seredni. "We're getting together more as a team and we're also just trying to have a lot of fun out there and finish strong." The Bears are led by the dynamic duo of Miami native junior Cassandra Herzberg and California bred sophomore Bianca Aboubakare. Both girls were bestowed the honor of All-Ivy League second team for their remarkable 2011 season.

Johnson and Seredni, who will be paired up against Herzberg and Aboubakare are not fazed by Brown's dynamic duo or the team's ranking.

ALL-AMERICAN WOMAN



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

The 2012 Sun Belt Player of the Year earned more recognition, this time through the Associated Press. Jerica Coley received All-America honorable mention on March 27. Coley led FIU with 23.4 points per game, tied for fifth in the nation.

FOOTBALL



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The Panthers will wrap up spring practice with their blue and gold scrimmage on March 30 at FIU Stadium. The scrimmage is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. and is open to public.

SPRING FEVER

Scrimmage will show new faces

DBs Don't expect any significant changes to the secondary. It is mainly the same as it was last season. Senior Jonathan Cyprien heads into his final year leading a group that had 12 interceptions in 2011. Redshirt sophomore Justin Halley leading the way with four. Junior Sam Miller also returns to the group where he had two interceptions himself, as well as adding another dimension to the return game.



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With the end of the semester fast approaching, so is the end of spring practices. Players are scrambling to try and wrap up their semesters with grades and the final week of practice. But with that comes the last chance before summer workouts to prove to head coach Mario Cristobal and the rest of his staff that they deserve playing time next year. Guys like Lorenzo Hammonds have gone a long way in proving to Cristobal that he is going to compete for the quarterback position.

"Jake [Medlock] has certainly separated himself, he's just getting better and better," Cristobal said. "But those two guys [E.J. Hilliard and Lorenzo Hammonds] are battling right now with Akil [Dan-Fodio] just behind him."

"I'm really proud of Lorenzo Hammonds because we had moved E.J. up a little bit and gave him more reps. Then Lorenzo came out with his back against the wall and he performed well again in the two-minute drill."

Medlock had the opportunity to show himself a bit last year, flashing signs of trying to put his head

through a linebacker. Now, Medlock says that he's learned his lesson a bit.

"No, the only time I'm going to do that is when it's fourth and inches and it's a major part of the game," Medlock said. "I got this new quote that says 'First down, touchdown, get down.' That's my new motto."

I even practiced sliding in the last scrimmage. I'm just not going to try and kill anyone because I got to last this whole season."

Back when he used to play baseball, Medlock joked that he would always slide headfirst, not feet first. After sustaining the injury last fall to his deltoid, Medlock believes that he is at about 90 percent healthy and continues to work hard everyday to improve it.

"I got most of my sensation back in my deltoid," Medlock said. "But I'm working hard in the training room, I'm working hard in the weight room, and I'm doing extras in my room."

Not only has the quarterback been a huge topic of discussion this spring, but also the two transfers from last season, James Louis and Daquan Hargrett. The two came in last year midseason and were not able to participate due to NCAA rules. However, Cristobal is really excited about what he has seen from the two so far.

"This past week they've really come on," Cristobal said. "You got to remember that they got here so late last year that they never really went through camp. So they hit the ground running and had to run the scout teams for us. Both have made some nice plays for us this past week, we expect them both to be good contributors for us."

Not only has the offense improved throughout the spring, but also the defense has taken another step toward getting better. Senior defensive back Jonathan Cyprien thinks that the unit has a lot to look forward to. "We're taking some big steps, we've got a lot of senior leadership," Cyprien said. "As a defense, we're coming out with the mindset of dominating no matter who the opponent is. We know we're all on the same team, but on Friday we're playing against each other just like it's a game."

The team as a whole was left with a bitter taste in its mouth after their loss in the Beef 'O' Brady's bowl last December to Marshall. But Cristobal has seen the hard work paying off in the weight room from his players.

"This offseason, we made a commitment to attacking the day, really attacking every rep, and that's really carried over," Cristobal said.

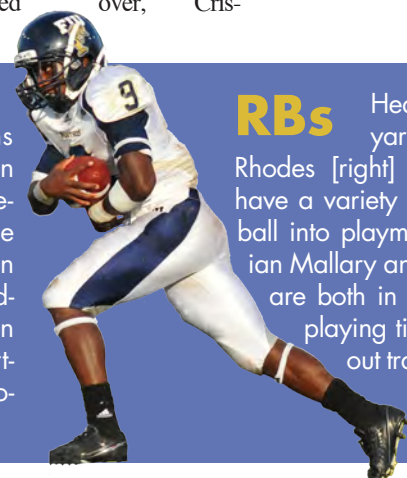
QBs Jake Medlock [below] is the clear-cut starter heading into the summer, but he will be getting pushed by freshman E.J. Hilliard and redshirt freshman Lorenzo Hammonds. Coach Cristobal thinks that Medlock has earned his spot, but Hammonds and Hilliard will be there in case Medlock sustains any kind of injury. The sophomore is coming off of a season where he injured his deltoid and forced him to miss some time.



WRs Jake Medlock will have plenty of receivers to find in the open field, led by Wayne Times and Jacob Younger, who had the most productive year. Junior Willis Wright [Left] can have a big impact in the slot game as well as transfer James Louis.



DLs Tourek Williams [center] returns after a stellar junior season where he led defensive linemen with 4.5 sacks. Isame Faciane could be a star in the making after he recorded three sacks last season and should be the starting defensive end opposite of Williams.



RBs Headed by 1,000-yard rusher Kedrick Rhodes [right], the offense will have a variety of ways to get the ball into playmaker's hands. Darian Mallery and Jerimiah Harden are both in the running to see playing time but don't count out transfer Daquan Hargrett from getting into the mix.

WILD EXPERIENCE

From pom-poms to adventures in the jungle

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The last thing anyone expects to do is travel to the depths of Madagascar, hang in a tent atop high cliffs or swim with great white sharks. However, Mireya Mayor, former NFL cheerleader, can say she has done all of these things.

In the small auditorium in the University's College of Law building, Mayor gave attendees a peek into her wild adventures and how life led her to a path of nature, discovery and conservation in her lecture, "Confluence: Where Life and Science Meet."

Mayor is known as an anthropologist, primatologist and National Geographic correspondent, appearing in shows like "Ultimate Explorer," "Explorer" and "Almost There." She was nominated for two Emmys for her contribution and participation in "Expedition Africa."

"I didn't take the typical scientist route," said Mayor, as she began her story of her wild journey, raised in Miami by "overprotective Cuban parents" who did not allow her to join the Girl Scouts because of its looming dangers.



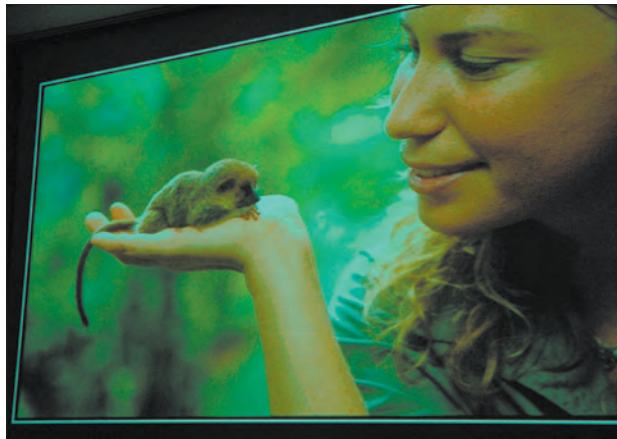
"When I was little, I had a real love, a real passion for animals... I was the weird animal kid who couldn't get enough of all these fascinating creatures." It was only after taking an anthropology course as a science requirement for her then-English and philosophy major that she "fell completely in love" with the study of primates, the starting point in her career.

Her small physique and stint as an NFL cheerleader—"not at all what you'd expect Charles Darwin to be doing on his spare time," as she put it—would make one question her abilities to survive in harsh climate and terrain. With a sense of humor, she used this to her advantage

to build her persona as a "female Indiana Jones."

What was most impressive about her, said Maria Valdes, a University student who attended the lecture for her class, was "watching her go through her ventures, through adversities—and she's a woman." In most of the clips and pictures Mayor shared, she was the only woman in sight.

After receiving her first grant, she went to a remote region in Guyana, not explored by many at the time, and "became totally enamored with the rainforest and with all of its connections with the local people and the interdependence between the two." Even after surviving a near-death experience in her first expe-



TOMAS LOPEZ-MELIS/THE BEACON

Mireya Mayor gave a presentation where she explains her adventures in Madagascar and shows pictures of her trip.

dition, she was "hooked." Upon returning, she came across the article "Death Row" about endangered species in Time Magazine, which prompted her second expedition into the deep jungles of Madagascar.

There, she completed the first genetic study of Perrier's sifaka and the silky sifaka, two of the most endangered species of lemurs in the world. She started to spend three to 10 months out of the year in Madagascar doing research and immersing herself in the jungle life.

In one of her trips to Madagascar, National Geographic was there working on a story.

Lacking material, they asked her to speak about the

lemurs she was studying at the time, and so began her career as an official wildlife correspondent, landing her spots in critically acclaimed shows and allowing her scientific opportunities she took full advantage.

When exploring remote areas, "there are lots and lots of challenges on the way, like being stranded for a week on the side of the road," she said. "But it's really such a worthwhile feeling when you find what it is you are looking for. For me, the sort of passion behind exploration is the sense of wonder and the sense of discovery."

She has traveled back to Madagascar for the last 15 years in an effort to help maintain a sustainable habitat for many of

the exotic and endangered species, where, due to years of deforestation, there is only about 10 percent of natural forest left.

Many of her adventures have led to new discoveries of species and probably helped even save a few from becoming a memory.

It is through her passion and dedication, to the animals and their habitats, that keep Mayor busy and successful.

Back in Miami, devoid of her wild jungle, her family bloomed. She soon learned to balance a life of motherhood to four girls and being a scientist. Arturo Garcia, who attended the lecture with friends from the University, said "it is because she is just a regular girl that makes what she does so remarkable."

She still travels to Madagascar for research, and recently finished filming "Wild Nights with Mireya Mayor" for the National Geographic Channel, where she was able to film in her hometown and be close to family. Her continuous pioneering efforts and drive has made her work more necessary than ever.

For more information:
<http://mireyamayor.com>

COVER TO COVER

"The Marriage Plot:" candy for literature fans

In 1982, Madeleine Hanna graduated from Brown University with an English literature degree that no employer seems to have a place for in the then-terrible economy. As she tries to find a place in the world for herself and the 18th and 19th century novels her education revolved around, she also searches for love like so many of the characters in those novels she obsesses about.

While on its surface, Madeleine's story seems to be about her journey to marriage, it is truly more about the coming-of-age of Madeleine as well as those that surround her, a story written by Jeffery Eugenides in "The Marriage Plot."

The author of "The Virgin Suicides" and "Middlesex" is no stranger to exploring the idea of coming-of-age, and he does so

yet again in his new novel. "The Marriage Plot" is about Madeleine's introduction to the world outside of college, and her relationships with her manic-depressed boyfriend Leonard Bankhead and her love interest, Mitchell Grammaticus.

The love triangle between the three is the subplot of the romantic comedy, which closely follows the three characters through their everyday lives. Also known for writing about sex, Eugenides gives readers a full picture of each character's growth and development in every aspect of the terms.

Ideal for one exiting college in search of a job and a place in the "real world" (whatever that is), "The Marriage Plot" manages to give a description of various ways to deal with coming-of-age and finding one's place in life, without telling the reader exactly how to do it. Its three protagonists—Madeleine, Mitchell and Leonard—all find their ways to their futures in different ways and is unlike other



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

Jeffery Eugenides is the author of popular novels such as "The Virgin Suicides" and "Middlesex." His newest novel is "The Marriage Plot."

books that have been featured in Cover to Cover, which often have been extremely instructive in their life advice.

One of the major downfalls of the book, however, is that it moves so slowly. As the author works hard to develop each character

in his attempt to show the reader every detail of their coming-of-age journey, he often digresses, which sometimes left me with a sense of confusion and drooping eyes.

Despite this factor, the book is literary candy for those interested in the 18th and 19th century

marriage plot novel, and it is refreshing in the way it brings back the literary style.

Furthermore, lit fans will be pleased by the way Eugenides' diction magnificently flows from page to page, like the great authors which he discusses in his book. While for some this writing can seem extensively descriptive, to the literature lover they prove to be genius.

"The New York Times" bestseller is featured in the University's Barnes and Noble bookstore, and is definitely worth checking out. It explores concepts we all can relate to—love, sex, education, careers—and Eugenides' ability to explore such massive, complex concepts in such a beautifully crafted way makes it a great book for anyone who loves spectacular writing and the novel itself.

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

REEL TO REEL

Weisz embodies devastation in “The Deep Blue Sea”

From its opening scenes, one can already feel the dread layered into Terence Davies’ latest film. A ticking clock, a dimly lit room, a tragic piece of music and the haunted face of Rachel Weisz are what is presented—and it is only a preview of the devastation that is to come.

Adapted from Terence Rattigan’s famous play of the same name, “The Deep Blue Sea” is a beautifully heart-wrenching tale of the effects of unrequited love. Hester Collyer is the emotionally stranded lover of a drunken former World War II pilot, as well as the former wife of a high-class judge.

COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

In a desperate attempt to win her lover back and send her ex-husband a message, she attempts to commit suicide and fails, leading her further away from the men in her life and deeper into the depression she seeks to escape.

Time and time again, women have taken the risk of stepping into Collyer’s shoes to deliver a performance they deem is worthy for this character.

The vulnerability and intimacy that Weisz brings to this role is one rarely seen on screen. She remains emotionally distant and gets lost in the moments of passion she shares with Tom Hiddleston, the man who plays her lover Freddie Page.

While most of the supporting cast fades into the background to focus on Weisz, Hiddleston stands out among them, partic-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MUSIC BOX FILMS

Rachel Weisz and Tom Hiddleston share one of many romantic moments in the scene shown above, in the film “The Deep Blue Sea”, currently in theaters.

ularly in his impressive line delivery. His role offers him a range that few small roles can explore, moving from his fits of rage to a sympathetic lover.

The film might seem like the simplest of tales, but the acting and Davies’ camera work really brings this to another level. Davies takes advantage of Weisz’s beauty

with every second of film, focusing on a character trapped in her life so much so that the audience sometimes begins to feel just as trapped.

Such a feeling of being stuck may leave many wishing that the events at hand would speed up. As much as slow-paced cinema might appeal to some, the tedious pacing in

this is a major flaw.

This is not to say certain scenes do not benefit from the pacing. One scene in particular, in which the camera slowly moves in on Weisz and Hiddleston dancing slowly to Jo Stafford’s “You Belong to Me,” fills the air with warmth and sexual tension in a way that has not been seen since David Lean’s classic romance, “Brief Encounter.”

Many moments of silence in the gloomy but intoxicating settings, involving only some light additional music, are those that stand out as the most beautiful of the film. These scenes come often, but at times it seems as though the ones with heavy dialogue fill the film’s length.

The dialogue, heavily adapted from Rattigan’s play for the film, bounces between clunky and refreshing.

A few lengthy discussions in the film seem to have barely any meaning, while others tend to pack the punch that one needs to be drawn back into this tale of despair.

Davies’ “The Deep Blue Sea” truly proves to be a beautifully studied unrequited love, but it is not one without flaws. Aside from being stilted at times, it is worth watching if only to experience a masterful performance from Weisz.

“The Deep Blue Sea” is currently in theaters and showing at AMC Sunset Place.

Reel to Reel is a weekly film review column. Juan Barquin has seen 134 films so far in 2012.



Documentary ignores MPAA's R-rating, remains unrated

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America's children are fragile, particularly those under 17 (the age at which maturity suddenly explodes into full bloom), and there can be little doubt that, if exposed to profanity, their minds will break.

Such has been the retrograde rationale of the Motion Picture Association of America since its immaculate conception in 1922.

The MPAA, much like the Illuminati, is all-powerful, timeless, infallible and unflinching.

They are the men and women who comprise the censorship board that determines the ratings for films released in the United States. Their purpose is to help parents "determine what movies are appropriate for their young children."

The past 90 years of cinema have proven, however, that efforts to determine the maturity of other people's children sometimes prompts controversy.

Over 300,000 signatures have been collected on a petition to have the rating of the upcoming documentary "Bully" changed from R, which restricts children under 17 from seeing it without a guardian, to PG-13.

The petition has also earned the support of such celebrities as Johnny Depp, Meryl

Streep and Ellen Degeneres.

"Bully," which is released today without its MPAA R-rating, follows three students, ages 12, 14 and 16, all of them victims of bullying, and chronicles the grieving processes of two sets of parents, the Longs and Smalleys, whose children committed suicide as a consequence of the bullying they endured in school.

The MPAA's reason for assigning an R rating to this documentary about the torments of school bullying: a scene of profanity.

The MPAA has had, for several years, a very strict "one F-word" policy for PG-13 movies (with occasional exceptions for such movies as "The Social Network"); not only that, the use of that one F-word shall not refer to sex, but must be used simply for the sake of coloring an expression.

Reports point to one particular scene of verbal abuse in "Bully," in which the titular bullies launch a few F-bombs at a fellow student, as the cause for the R rating.

Arguments being made against the MPAA point out that, by restricting the film from kids under 17, they are keeping it from the audience that might reap the most benefit.

Ironically, it would be fair to use this as an example of the degree to which the MPAA bullies filmmakers in America with their asinine formula for what makes a film age-appropriate.

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The MPAA rarely gives credit to the educational or artistic value of a film's use of profanity or suggestive material, but instead applies a stencil of censorship to every film it sees.

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A movie like "Live Free or Die Hard" (2007), in which over 30 people are killed, earns a PG-13 rating, whereas "You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger," which features neither sex nor violence but rather two utterances of the F-word, is rated R.

The MPAA rarely gives credit to the educational or artistic value of a film's use of profanity or suggestive material, but instead applies a stencil of censorship to every film it assesses, forcing it to adhere - which hardly any serious films do, and so directors are forced to return to the editing room to mutilate their work for the sake of earning a PG-13 or R rating and thus, hopefully, a chance at making money at the box office. With age-restricted viewing comes a smaller audience and, in turn, less money.

"The Godfather Part III," "American

Pie," "Scarface" and "Taxi Driver" are a few movies that were originally NC-17 before the filmmakers edited them in accordance with the organizations demands (with Martin Scorsese, ingeniously, simply altering the color contrast so that the blood in "Taxi Driver" looks brown rather than red).

Granted, trying to rate every movie based on its artistic merit rather than its "adult" content would inevitably cause endless debate, and some parents will invariably be angry, and petitions and protests and lawsuits would surely ensue.

But, when the movie in question is being restricted for throwing around some everyday profanity in its effort to be honest and resonant, and to get kids to stop harassing each other and committing suicide, I think the parents of America will forgive a little leeway.

Parents at fault for students facing deportation issues

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Daniela Pelaez is not the first student to be threatened with deportation, nor will she be the last. It is yet another situation in which a child is forced to pay for the parents' mistakes, which is unfair for anyone who finds themselves in a similar circumstance.

Unfortunately for Daniela and her sister, this is simply a matter of not following the law, and until something is done to help faultless children that show signs of having a bright future, things will continue to be the same.

With a stroke of luck, the girls were granted two more years without the threat of deportation. This does not mean deportation in the future is not a possibility, but it certainly presents a window of time to settle things in their favor.

Daniela and her family came to the United States from Barranquilla, Colombia when she was just four years old with a tourist visa. She and her family overstayed their visit.

Since then, only her brother Johan has been able to gain U.S. citizenship, having served in the U.S. Army. Her mother, Ana Gonzalez, has been in Colombia since 2006 after having left to get successful treatment for colon cancer; she has been unable to return to the U.S. since then. Daniela's father, Antonio Pelaez, is the only family member to have gained residency through her brother.

Daniela applied for residency before, but was denied

“

Until something is done to help faultless children that show signs of having a bright future, things will continue to be the same.

”

in 2010. It is unknown whether this was done through the brother or through the father.

With the two years granted to them, the girls are now able to try their luck once more and apply for residency through either family member. Were they to apply through their brother, they would apply as a family member of a U.S. citizen, falling under the "family preference" category. This means they are not "immediate relatives" of the U.S. citizen, which consists of one's spouse, unmarried children under the age of 21 and parents. Were they to apply through the father, they would apply as a family member of a permanent resident who can petition for their spouse and unmarried children of any age.

However, there is generally a waiting period. Immigrant visas for "immediate relatives" of a U.S. citizen are unlimited and are, therefore, always available.

Individuals in a family-sponsored preference category are not as lucky, seeing as immigrant visas are limited to 226,000 per year and are not always

available.

There are even limits to the percentage of visas that can be apportioned to each country. Applying through their father might be their best option at gaining residency because their chances would increase should the father gain citizenship, in turn pushing them up to the "immediate relatives" category.

While I have no hesitation in believing that Daniela and her sister should not be deported, it is her parents' mistakes that make the situation all the more complicated for me. As previously mentioned, this is a matter of following the laws that are set up to prevent such a situation.

Granted, many factors can take part in limiting a parent from securing their child's future. Still, the parents should have applied for residency and citizenship much sooner, which, if successful, could in turn have increased the girls' chances of attaining a visa.

Of course, this is no longer a matter of "should've, could've, would've;" scrutinizing the past will not do anything for the girls' futures.

Whether their parents did or did not take the initiative to do so is unknown. However, it is clear that the girls have no fault in their situation.

If the parents indeed did not do anything beforehand, blaming them for their daughters' predicament will not solve a thing.

If they did at least try to secure their daughters' futures, then it is simply a matter of chance and hoping that the girls will be able to do all that is necessary with their remaining time to finally settle things in their favor, as their parents had once hoped to do.



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ELECTIONS

Increasing allotment of free printing a priority for duo

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Desir Nonhomme will be working alongside Ertha Jean-Francois as Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus' College of Arts and Sciences senators.

Although the fine points of their agendas may differ, Nonhomme and Jean-Francois see eye to eye on key issues.

Nonhomme has placed the scarcity of CAS classes at BBC at the top of his priority list as a senator.

"We are working hard to eliminate the bus ride to [the Modesto Maidique Campus]. We feel it is unnecessary to take a bus ride down there," Nonhomme said.

As a student who personally deals with this issue, Jean-Francois agrees.

"I live in Broward, so it would be easier for me to take all my classes here



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

at BBC," Jean-Francois said.

Nonhomme asserts that SGA's communication method with the student body "is not working" and plans to engage students by throwing "celebrations" and "parties."

He believes that the problem stems

from students not being aware of issues at the University. Jean-Francois adds that advertising throughout the school will aid in keeping students aware and involved with SGA.

One of Nonhomme's focuses as a senator is to bring back the free-printing

privileges in the computer lab.

"That is an important issue to me. I see the effects that it has on the student body," he said.

Jean-Francois feels that recycling on campus is an important program for students to be involved in. She also suggests funding the free-printing program.

"When I first started at FIU, I used to be able to print 30 pages for free. Now I can only print five. It's just not fair to the students," she said.

Nonhomme adds that he believes *The Beacon* should receive full-funding maintaining that, "As you know, this is a country where we care greatly about free-speech. And I believe this is a program that we need to continue to give services to."

Nonhomme has concerns about the advising services within the CAS.

"For example, if a student wants to change his/her major, they have to go to South campus. And this is a service

that we don't need to go down south to have," Nonhomme said.

He will continue to carry his agenda over to the next academic year.

"I plan to keep getting the students involved and fighting for their best interests," he said.

Jean-Francois aspires to have a close relationship with the SGC-BBC.

"I promise to make the right decisions for the student body," Jean-Francois said.

Jean-Francois will be campaigning through Facebook and through advertisements around BBC as Nonhomme takes a more hands on approach.

"I will devote my time to work for the SGA," Nonhomme said. "As a senator, I will improve not only the process, but Biscayne Bay as a whole."

Jean-Francois promises to be there for the students.

"I am a good listener. I will communicate with the students. I will improve anything that I can."

ELECTIONS

Senator wants to move away from 'ineffective' emails

JONATHAN RAMOS
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Christopher Morisset was in his room doing his homework when a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti. Shaken by the rumbling of his roof, Morisset didn't think he would make it out of his Port-au-Prince home.

"I just looked at the ceiling and I said to myself, 'We'll, I'm going to die,'" Morisset said. "I just closed my eyes and then 20 seconds after my dad was like 'Chris, get out! It's an earthquake.'"

Morisset and his family survived, with him moving to the U.S. where he could finish high school and attend college. Morisset would like to move back to Haiti upon graduation and assist with the reconstruction of his home country, but for now he plans on impacting the University as a Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus Lower Division Senator. The position is uncontested.

Morisset's platform focuses on increasing student involvement on campus, while addressing student issues such as smoking and drinking on campus, communica-

tion between students and organizations with SGC, and possible tuition increases. Morisset, freshman biology major, wants to transform students' attitudes toward fee and tuition increases by communicating the reason for them more effectively.

"Every time a student hears the word 'increase,' he or she was unhappy because nobody wants an increase in tuition," Morisset said. "However, some students are not aware of what the fee will accomplish." The Activity and Service fee was recently increased by 3.5 percent, which are distributed to over 60 student organizations and facilities.

Morisset believes that email blasts have been ineffective, and would like for SGC-BBC to have a more personal approach.

"I would suggest that the council as a whole just get together, go outside, and talk to every student that they see and give out the word," he said. "Before that happens, make a party of the sort to let students at least know there is going to be something important around campus."

Morisset plans to propose that there be a crossover meeting twice a month between SGC-BBC, the Student Organizations Council



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

and the Student Programming Council.

"I don't think that SGA, SOC, and SPC members are getting along. So, I think that if these meetings took place, more would be done," he said. An important concern for Morisset is smoking on campus.

Although Morisset did not concede that the Universities social enforcement policy has not worked, he urges students to speak up.

"First of all the campus is a non-smoking

area. If I was the friend of a smoker, I would honestly say 'Hey, the campus is non-smoking and if you want to smoke just go off campus,'" Morisset said. "I know they feel isolated but they have to feel that way because if you smoke around this campus you're not only damaging your health but other peoples' health too."

Morisset's experience in SGC-BBC includes serving as a Lower Division Senator in the fall of 2011 and spring of 2012, as well as holding the role of speaker pro tempore in spring 2012.

This semester, Morisset supported resolutions to fix tiles in Academic One and Two and lower the amount of free printing available to students in the WUC computer lab.

The freshman would also like to have a deadline implemented to have minutes from meetings posed in the archives within two weeks.

His experience with Student Government has been a refreshing one that he hopes to use in the future.

"Things were different back in Haiti," he said. "I never had a chance to voice my opinions. That's why I chose to apply for the Student Government Association."

CAMPUS LIFE

FIU LIVE events to take over the first week of April

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Live it up with FIU LIVE week from April 2 to April 6.

The Student Programming Council has been working to bring tradition to Biscayne Bay Campus students before finals to give them a chance to unwind, according to Yselande Pierre, assistant director of Campus Life and SPC advisor.

On April 2, FIU LIVE kick off will be from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. outside the Wolfe University Center's Panther

Square near the flagpole. DJs will be providing music.

"Every year, we want to do comedy shows, bring special speakers and have different activities for the students," Pierre said.

The April 3 comedy show will be hosted by Wil Sylvince featuring Michelle Buteau and Dave & Ethan.

The doors of the Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre will open at 7 p.m., the show at 7:30 p.m.. The show is free for students with a Panther OneCard.

Wil Sylvince has performed on Black Entertainment Television, Home Box Office DEF Comedy Jam

and Showtime at the Apollo.

Michelle Buteau has made appearances on "Lopez Tonight," "Barrio Mom," and "Neutrogena Vega." Dave & Ethan have been featured on "The Colbert Report," Comedycentral.com, Time Out New York, and "The Millionaire Matchmaker."

On April 4, Kelly Cutrone, founder of People's Revolution and a New York Times best-selling author, will speak to students in the theatre with a meet and greet book signing. The BBC bookstore will be selling her books for students to purchase if they would like her signature. If not, students may also

have her sign a poster.

From 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Cutrone will share her opinion on the communications industry and its rapid change as well as her vision on social media and its revolution. Her public relations management experience will also be beneficial to Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management students. The rest of the time can be spent on questions from students. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., she will sign books and posters in Wolfe Theatre.

Continuing the series of events, Panther Pooza will celebrate the Holi Festival of Colors within the

Indian Culture, co-sponsored by the Indian Students Association and SOC. The event will include a foam pit and a paint war in the soccer field from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SPC will be finishing off with an outdoors glow party in parking lot 4. Pierre is hoping that they will have food trucks but they are awaiting approval from Aramark. All white attire is required and the event will take place from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

"A lot of students say that nothing happens at BBC," Pierre said. "I don't think BBC has many traditions, so we are trying to cater to that need."