

EYE ON T.Y.



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

T.Y. Hilton ran an unofficial 4.36 in his 40-yard dash on his pro day. It would have been the fastest time at the NFL Combine if he participated.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Council allocates additional funds

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After an increase of 3.5 percent in the Activity & Service Fee, the University Wide Council reconvened on March 8 to allocate additional funds to several campus organizations.

The council deliberated on an additional amount of about \$1.5 million. This deliberation would adhere to the original allocations seen by the council on Feb. 15 and 18, where \$10,760,955 were allocated to around 30 University wide organizations and facilities.

"It's all going very smoothly," said Patrick O'Keefe, Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique

Campus, during the deliberations. O'Keefe was originally against the A&S fee increase.

The most contentious debate was over providing additional funds to Homecoming, with a motion by Patrick O'Keefe to fund it an additional \$200,000. "Now that we have the increase, let's look at this as securing our investments," Udhmani said. "This is something that directly impacts students one way or the next."

Emilio Collyer, SGC-BBC vice president, argued that if more than \$87,500 were added to Homecoming, BBC organizations and activities "[would] not have enough money to cover their expenses."

"As vice president of

SEE U-WIDE, PAGE 2

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

State-wide budget cuts may lead to tuition increase

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The Florida legislature recently released its State University System budget for the 2012-2013 school year. The \$70 billion budget included a \$300 million cut to the 11 state universities.

"FIU ended up with approximately \$24.3 million in reductions which we have been told are nonrecurring," said Kenneth Jessell, chief financial officer at the University. "The hope would be that next year the legislature would

restore the \$300 million to the SUS budget."

This potential restoration will "be dependent upon the level of revenue that the state has for the next school year.

The model that was used to decide by how much each university would be cut individually was divided into three parts.

Half of the cuts were based on carry-forward fund balances that go into critical investments such as classroom upgrades, one-third were based on the base budget of each university

"I know that as a student you worry about being able to make your tuition payments and we don't lose sight of that."

Ken Jessell,
Chief Financial Officer
FIU

and the last one-sixth "on the level of tuition that each institution would generate under the House and Senate-approved tuition plan."

The legislature also authorized a 15 percent tuition increase for undergraduate students and an 8 percent tuition increase for graduate and out-of-state

components, although FIU "will [not] exercise the full eight percent for graduate and out-of-state [students]," according to Jessell.

"We've really out-priced ourselves relative to other states in respect to out-of-state tuition," Jessell said. "We're probably going to be looking at a tuition increase that would approximate a couple hundred dollars a semester for undergraduate students."

"As a result of the budget cuts, there are going to be tuition hikes,"

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ASTRONOMY

University observatory construction underway

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Building a campus observatory has been a dream of James R. Webb, a University physics professor, for almost 20 years.

With a groundbreaking event on Feb. 21 and construction beginning in late March or early April of this year, the idea will become a reality through the creation of the Stocker AstroScience Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Webb, who is also the director of the South-

eastern Association for Research in Astronomy at Kitt Peak National Observatory, said the project has been in the works for a while.

"I don't know why it took over 15 years of effort to reach this goal," said Webb. "It is a mystery to me."

The physics professor has been the main supporter for the construction of an observatory on campus.

"I have lobbied the administration, raised money for it on my own, eventually securing a \$800,000 private donation that was matched eventually by \$160,000 from State PECO funds,

to build the observatory," he said.

With Webb's own design being used, he worked with both architects and the facility management at FIU to make sure the facility meets the needs of the astronomy students and the community.

The observatory is to be three stories tall with an astronomy lab, a lecture hall, faculty offices, a library, an observation platform on the roof and a 12 to 24 inch telescope. It is also designed to be used in spite of the interference of light pollution. Light pollution is excessive or obtrusive artificial light which dramatically reduces the visibility of

stars, and is a major concern for both professional and amateur star gazers.

"Light pollution is a very serious problem in America, Miami, Kendall and all across the world," said Webb.

Since the observatory is not a research observatory, it does not need a completely dark sky and is designed to work in a light-polluted area.

The observing pad and the dome are to be constructed above the Chemistry and Physics building and Owa Ehan. This is to give an unob-

SEE STARS, PAGE 2

COMING UP | Opinion

Check out Wednesday's issue for 'Class Dismissed,' the column about all things education by Jasmyn Elliott.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Side entrances to Ft. Lauderdale airport to close

Getting into Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport will be a little more difficult as construction of a new runway begins.

Officials say the side entrances to the airport will close starting Wednesday.

Until the new runway opens in 2014, the only way into the airport will be from U.S. 1.

The closures along Perimeter Road will allow crews to build the bridge structure of the runway, which will be elevated 60 feet so trains and trucks can pass in tunnels underneath.

NATIONAL

Santorum wins Ala., Miss.; Romney takes Hawaii

A resurgent Rick Santorum swept primaries in Alabama and Mississippi Tuesday night, upending the race for the Republican presidential nomination yet again and nudging Newt Gingrich toward the sidelines.

Mitt Romney finished third in both states, but he salvaged a win in the Hawaii caucuses and won the support of all nine delegates at GOP caucuses in American Samoa.

"We did it again," Santorum told cheering supporters in Lafayette, La. He added, "Now is the time for conservatives to pull together" in an effort to defeat Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who still is the faraway leader in the delegate competition to pick an opponent to President Barack Obama in the fall.

WORLD

Sobbing families identify Swiss bus crash victims

Relatives of the 28 people killed when a bus from Belgium crashed inside a Swiss tunnel faced a heartbreaking task Thursday: identifying the bodies ahead of their repatriation. Most of the dead were children.

Family members, some sobbing, were driven from a hotel in the southern Swiss town of Sion to the nearby morgue, where the bodies of some of the 22 schoolchildren and six adults killed in Tuesday's crash were being kept.

"Where possible, the bodies will be shown to the families," police spokesman Jean-Marie Bornet told The Associated Press. "In some cases this is not possible because the bodies are too badly injured."

—Compiled by Melhor Leonor

Student activities not affected by cuts

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said Anthony Maneiro, a junior in political science. "That's the unfortunate truth."

Of the 15 percent, 30 percent will go to financial aid, as the full 15 percent is considered to be differential tuition, the practice of charging some students more than others based on their financial status.

Jessell explained that the net increase in tuition would be about 10 percent.

"We're going to be looking at the plan over the next several weeks, we anticipate that about \$12 million will come in for tuition based upon our estimates," Jessell said.

This, however, leaves the University with a remaining \$12 million deficit that it must make up for.

In order to account for this, certain strategic investments will be cut back on and the University may have to use its statutory reserves.

Although the Florida legislature has announced the cuts to be nonrecurring, it is unsure as to what the state budget will be for the 2013-2014 school year.

"I know that as a student you worry about being able to make your tuition payments and we don't lose sight of that," Jessell said. "The tuition increase is relatively minor in terms of the cost of going to school."

The areas of the University that will be cut, reduced or left alone will be decided upon this upcoming June at a Board of Trustees meeting.

"FIU is very lucky, but I can't say anyone is lucky at this point," said Patrick O'Keefe, Student Government Council president at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

Among the hardest hit by the cuts was Florida State University, receiving a \$65.8 million cut.

FSU, along with the University of

Florida, recently received the approval of the Florida House regarding a bill allowing the two universities to raise tuition above the 15 percent cap.

There is a possibility that the bill will be vetoed by Governor Scott.

O'Keefe explained student activities and organizations would not be impacted because the Activity and Services Office is separate from tuition and state cuts. The A&S fee committee voted for a 3.5 percent fee increase.

"[The budget cuts are] not going to affect any student programming, in fact [the programming is] going to increase," O'Keefe said.

"There will be increased programming, you will probably see better and better programming because the increase... is sheltered," O'Keefe said. "[The budget cuts are] not going to affect any student programming, in fact [the programming is] going to increase."

Facility to open by next spring

STARS, PAGE 1

structed view of the night sky, compared to stargazing at the ground level. It is also said to closely resemble the bridge of the USS Enterprise from the popular science fiction franchise, Star Trek.

"The great thing about it is, it will have the feel of being in a 'starship,' but it won't be a Hollywood stage, it will be an optimized, fully functional telescope control room" said Webb. "This room will be as close as you can get to exploring the stars."

Other professors on campus

have also been involved in the project, among them Dr. Walter Van Hamme, professor and chairperson of the Physics Department and Dr. Caroline Simpson, associate professor of physics.

The Observatory will be open to students, both science and non-science majors.

"Our frequent star parties and events will afford every FIU student a chance to look through the telescopes," said Webb.

The FIU Astronomy Club will have a dedicated space to hold meetings. The center is currently looking for funding for a 24-inch lens telescope

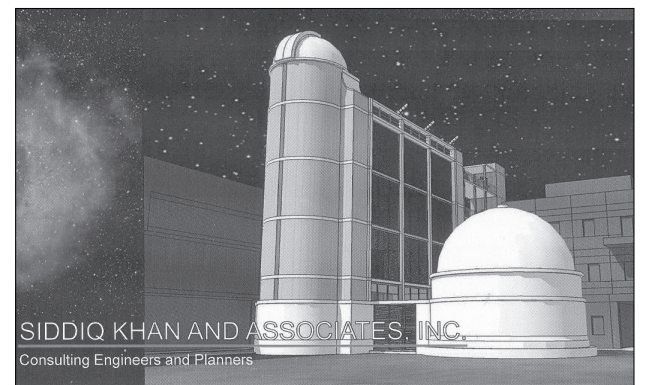


PHOTO COURTESY OF ASTROSCIENCE.FIU.EDU

The Stocker Astroscience Center will be composed of observing pad and dome.

for the main dome. Construction is expected to last through December of this year.

"By spring of next year, we should be in the facility and using it for classes," said Webb.

Homecoming allotted extra \$150,000

U-WIDE, PAGE 1

BBC, I have to keep in mind the needs of the Biscayne Bay Campus," said Collyer.

Ultimately, the council voted to allocate an additional \$150,000 through a motion by O'Keefe, funding Homecoming at a total of \$550,000.

The additional funds were parted to several of the organizations, many of which had received less than their requested amounts. The Wolfe University Center and University Wide Leadership were all fully funded to their requests during the first budget deliberations. Among the smaller additional allocations were the \$1,000 that went to the Honors College, which had previously received \$8,000 of their requested \$43,995.

Debate arose over the college's funds, as many in the council agreed that not all students who pay the A&S fee can take part in the events and activities of the Honors College.

"I know we're trying to move away from funding any colleges, but we shouldn't cripple the program all at once in one year," said Senate Speaker Donovan Dawson.

Denise Halpin, Student Government Council president at the Biscayne Bay Campus, added that the SGA finance committee has funds to allocate toward Honors College conferences.

"[The Honors College] is an academic center that shouldn't be confused as being part of activities and services," said Halpin, who mentioned that she would be meeting the University provost of academic affairs to see where the college can get other sources of funding.

The Black Student Union was allocated an additional \$9,000 with a motion by Sanjeev Udhani, SGC-MMC vice president, who praised the success the organization has had in having well attended events and bringing students to the BBC.

"They've produced a high caliber level of programming and have great turnouts," said Udhani. "A lot of students rely on them."

FIUSM.com and The Beacon also received an additional \$5,600 and \$3,545 respectively.

The New York Times Readership Program did not receive any funding during this delib-

eration or the previous of their total requested \$33,860. It remained the only program to receive zero funding from the U-wide council.

Additional money was given to the Center for Leadership and Service and Multicultural Programs and Services, for coordinator and director positions.

After concluding U-wide deliberations, the council for MMC campus specific deliberations met to allocate the funds to the MMC specific organizations.

With \$96,555 left of campus specific budget, the committee voted to kick the amount back to the University Wide Council, which will reconvene once more for further deliberation of these funds.

Furthermore, amounts allocated to the various organizations are preliminary amounts and will be reviewed pending approval by the SGA Senate at both campuses, the Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones and University President Mark Rosenberg.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers crush Hatters in first round of WNIT



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Fanni Hutlassa (above) scored 13 points in FIU's 75-47 victory over Stetson on Mar. 15.

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After playing their way into the Women's National Invitational Tournament, the FIU Panthers showed exactly why they belonged there, defeating the Stetson Hatters 75-47.

When the brackets were announced last week, two Sun Belt teams made the NCAA tournament, Middle Tennessee and UALR. This left a spot for a Sun Belt team in the WNIT. That spot was quickly taken by FAU.

However, because of their performance throughout the year and in the Sun Belt tournament, the FIU Panthers found themselves in their first postseason tournament since 2005-'06.

On March 15, the Panthers dismantled the Hatters in their 28-point victory - their first postseason victory since the '05-'06 season when they defeated Cincinnati 81-75 in overtime.

Head coach Cindy Russo thought her team did exactly what they needed to do to

come out on top.

"We played our game, we put our pressure defense, we rebounded well," Russo said. "All the things you need to do to win a ball game."

Leading the team in scoring was sophomore sensation Jerica Coley with 21 points on 9-17 shooting. She admits that she needed the time off.

"We did a lot of cold tub treatment and we had a few days off," Coley said. "Coach was telling me to try to penetrate more and look for the options. It just helped."

Not only did the Panthers get a solid contribution from their All-American hopeful, but three other Panthers reached double figures in scoring, including Carmen Miloglav who came up one point shy of her career high with 12 points. She knows that this wasn't a normal night for her.

"Today everything was going in and [Coley] found me in a good spot. I just shot it," said Miloglav.

Along with Miloglav's 12, junior Finda Mansare recorded her sixth double-

double of the season, going for 14 points and 12 rebounds.

This was the largest blowout for FIU in the Women's NIT, surpassing their victory over UAB in 1992 where they won 95-74. With the win, the Panthers will head to Tampa for a matchup with South Florida, who defeated cross-town rival FAU 76-20.

This will be the first time since 1992-'93 that the Panthers have made it out of the first round of the tournament.

If the Panthers defeat the Bulls, they will face the winner of James Madison and Wake Forest.

But before the Panthers could start to think about that, they knew that they had business to take care of first, and that was Atlantic Sun Player of the Year Victoria McGowan and the Hatters.

McGowan, who is comparable to Coley in every aspect of her game, went just 6-18 from the field and 1-5 from three-point range. The junior

SEE WOMEN'S, PAGE 4

FOOTBALL

Scouts impressed by Hilton's speed at pro day

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In his last chance to show pro scouts what he was made of, T.Y. Hilton was forced to play with an injured quadricep that did not allow him to play at his highest level. Today he finally got his second chance. And he did not disappoint.

On his first run of the 40-yard dash, Hilton ran a blazing 4.36, which would have tied for the best time if it had been run at the NFL Combine. Hilton noted that the scouts were impressed by his performance.

"Coming from an injury in the bowl game, they said I did really well," Hilton said. "They said they could see me playing in the National Football League."

When it came time for Hilton to catch passes from his quarterback, Wesley Carroll, he only dropped one pass. On what would be his final catch of the day, Hilton caught the pass but began



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

T.Y. Hilton will have individual workouts for New England, Kansas City, and Oakland in the coming weeks.

to wince. Then, he spiked the ball as hard as he could against the wall in agony.

"I started cramping in that area. The coaches told

me to just shut it down," said Hilton.

Not only did all the scouts take notice, but so did his dad, Tyrone Hilton, who was excited

to see him back in action.

"It's very interesting because he's been hurt since the bowl game and to see him out here running full speed for

the first time since then,"

Tyrone said. "To run a 4.3 (40), that's pretty good."

Before the day got started, the elder Hilton gave his son some fatherly

advice.

"I just told him to play within yourself," Tyrone said. "All the people that are out here, all the teams out here, don't worry. Just be within yourself."

Hilton did just that, performing as he did the past four seasons at FIU, to the max. His father wishes that his son could end up on his favorite team, the Oakland Raiders, but he knows that he has no control over it.

"My team is the Raiders," Tyrone said with a chuckle. "But whatever team he goes to, I know he's going to bring some quality, some explosiveness to the slot receiver position."

Hilton now begins his opportunity to visit with the different teams around the country. He will be heading the New England, Kansas City and Philadelphia in the coming weeks for individual workouts.

His dad knows that this is only the beginning of an extremely long process.

"It's going to get crazy after this day," Hilton's father said.

Head trauma becoming more prevalent in other sports

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The violence involved in a typical football play is the same kind of trauma that many people claim to experience in a head on collision with a semi-truck.

Director of Athletic Training Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo believes that this is a problem not only for football, but for any sport that has physical contact.

"The focus has been on football primarily for years. The focus has to change," Doherty-Restrepo said. "Things just have to shift. Unfortunately, sometimes it takes someone getting injured, some kind of big

bad injury, for people to stand up and take notice."

Now that it has become such a big topic of discussion nationwide, many athletes are aware of the symptoms of concussion.

Knowing what they are, many try to hide the fact that they have sustained a concussion from trainers. Doherty-Restrepo says this is the worst thing they can do.

"Athletes are more aware of what the signs and symptoms are and more aware that if they display those signs and symptoms that they may be pulled out," Doherty-Restrepo said. "So unfortunately, not that it's a smart decision, some athletes don't want to

report those signs."

Athletes think that if they hide those symptoms, it will benefit them in some way. But, most of the time, as Doherty-Restrepo says, it's not just the kids who think it is the right thing to do.

"I've seen cases where it's been pressure from the outside," Doherty-Restrepo said. "Whether it's coaches, peers, parents, there's that pressure to compete, to win and to not be viewed as weak. Those pressures are out there because it's really competitive."

Doherty-Restrepo says that those symptoms can range from ringing in the ears to memory loss and confusion. More severe

cases could result in loss of consciousness.

Rick Burkholder, the Head Athletic Trainer for the Philadelphia Eagles, has been around football and football-related injuries in the National Football League for over 13 years.

He believes that football is not as dangerous as everyone thinks it is.

"I don't think it's a terribly dangerous game because our commissioner Roger Goodell has done a great job to try to make it safer."

"The standard of equipment is unbelievable," Burkholder said. "The game could be way more dangerous than it is. I think it's a little violent,

but that's the draw to America. America likes that."

As a group, the NFL is trying its best to make a very physical, somewhat violent game safer."

The sport as a whole is built around the quarterback position and Burkholder, as well as the NFL, realizes that they need to be protected.

"We need to protect our marquee players. Our product is not any good if the Peyton Manning's, Tom Brady's, Michael Vick's, those type of players, are down," Burkholder said. "It doesn't help our game, it doesn't help our product."

We are in the entertainment business and if the

stars aren't playing then our product's not as good. It's like going to see a concert and the lead singer's not there; it's not the same."

Not only has football recently seen a growth in concussions, but lacrosse as well.

"Lacrosse is the big one right now because they just did a study with the high schools and the numbers went up; they thought whether it was because of recognition," Burkholder said. "Then, they added lacrosse into the study, and it sent the numbers through the roof. Men's lacrosse is getting it from athlete to athlete contact and girls are getting it from equipment."

Panthers earn first postseason win since 2005

WOMEN'S, PAGE 3

guard also committed six turnovers against the stingy defense of the Panthers. Russo commends her defense for forcing McGowan into difficult situations.

"We tried to deny the ball as much as possible to push them

out," Russo said. "They have spots they like to catch the ball and penetrate to shoot, so we got her way out of what we call our B area so it was much more difficult for her to penetrate. We had some help coming inside so the game was really denying the ball."

This marks the 10th time this

season that the Panthers have reached at least 70 points. In those 10 games, the Panthers are 9-1 with their only loss coming way back on Nov. 14 to Florida Gulf Coast, who Stetson lost to Atlantic Sun Championship to this year.

That home crowd advantage

led to the Panthers stifling the Hatter's offense, as they shot just 26 percent from the field on the night as well as committing 11 turnovers.

With both teams coming into the game with very similar statistics, it was going to come down to who wanted more and Milo-

glav knew that her team was going to be just that.

"They had almost the same record as us so we didn't take them easy. I think we just wanted it much more," Miloglav said. "I'm just grateful that a lot of people came, which is not what usually happens."

Election 2012:

How The New York Times Covers the Run for the Presidency

A presentation by

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3 – 4 PM

Modesto Maidique Campus, Graham Center (GC) 140

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STUDENT MEDIA

Radiate FM offers unique sounds on airwaves

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WRGP Radiate FM; Music & News 24/7.

Hector Mojena, also known as DJ Count Goldblum, knows what makes the University's radio station so unique and distinct to the community.

"We offer a wide array of shows covering a multitude of genres that certainly puts our station in a unique position in terms of reaching as many audiences as possible," said Mojena.

WRGP Radiate FM is a student-run radio station which airs from the second floor of the Graham Center.

As a commercial-free station funded by students' Activity & Service fees, Radiate FM not only offers a wide variety of music but it also airs Panther Sports Talk, which gives live feedback of different games along with commentary, and Panther Wire, which focuses on University, local, state and national news.

"It's important to represent various aspects of our local culture, and that's what Radiate strives to do," said music director Krista Lopez.

FIU, however, is not the only local university with a radio station; there is also University of Miami's WVUM The Voice.

"It's friendly competition. They have a great slate of programming, and I think both stations challenge each other to constantly innovate," said Mojena.

"I think we're lucky to live in a city with two underground



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDRA SARDI/THE BEACON

[Left] Junior Hector Mojena (left) and Sophomore Michelle Granado (right) host a show in the Radiate FM studio. [Right] Anthropology major Krista Lopez looks through the record archives.

outlets for music that isn't chosen by record executives and Clear Channel," Lopez added.

Radiate FM staff has a variety of music they have to offer to their listeners.

"On any given Monday, you can tune in to hear one of our rotation shows playing the best in new music, hear a sampling of old-school disco and other dance music on 'Supernature,' and end the night with a selection of dream pop and chill wave with 'The Dreamers' and metal on 'The Midnight Metal Maelstrom,'" said Mojena.

Music heard on Radiate FM includes hip-hop, elastic, electronic, rock and much more. With over 70 on air staff members, Radiate definitely has a variation

of different music selections to offer as well as news and other student media shows.

"We truly believe in the power of the DJ, so we have quite a few," said Lopez. "I think our station is unique in its dedication to eclectic tastes and keeping true to the college radio ideologies of the '90s: underground music that is at the forefront of trends and talent."

Not only does Radiate FM offer music and news, they also have interviews on the air. Recently, on Mojena's show, "Wall of Sound," he interviewed a German noise rock group called Grabbel and the Final Cut as well as Gainesville outfit, Averkiou.

"Wall of Sound" airs Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to



midnight. Mojena and his cohost, DJ Torgo, play a mix of shoe-gaze, scintillating psychedelic, and caterwauling noise rock on their weekly program; however, there are many different types of shows broadcasted by various DJs.

DJ Michelle G's rotation show embraces a variety of new releases of independent music along with some of her own taste as well to

make her show something interesting and fresh to listen to.

Radiate FM can be heard on 88.1 in the Homestead and Kendall area, 95.3 near the University's campuses, and 96.9 in North Miami; the station can also be streamed online worldwide and can be heard any day at any time on FIUSM.com. Students are encouraged to request songs at 305-FIU-3575.

SPRING BREAK

Students giving back over Spring Break

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A beach full of liquor, loud music and half naked adolescents is the generally accepted, MTV version of spring break. After toiling away at the books all semester, or at least tweeting about doing so, students often use the time to relax and vacation. But for some students, spring break offers an opportunity of a different kind: a chance to give back.

This spring 160 students will be part taking in Alternative Breaks, organized volunteer trips in which a group of college students take part in a service project addressing a variety of issues like poverty, education reform, refugee resettlement and the environment.

Over the years alternative breaks trips have become a popular substitute for the 'traditional' spring break. Prior to embarking on the trip students are educated on the social issues they will be working on.

Once they arrive the group works in conjunction with local non-profit organizations to complete the project.

The University has a long history of being involved with Alternative Breaks, opening its own chapter just a year after the organization began in 1994. The University's program now ranks second in the nation.

This spring break a group of students traveled to Nicaragua to help build a kitchen for a local elementary school. The kitchen will be used to feed close to 150 underfed children. Nicaragua is a country highly affected by malnutrition, especially for young children, as many there live on less than \$1 a day.

Other FIU students went to Costa Rica to engage in a reforestation project for a rain forest that once was the home for a number of endangered species, among which were the jaguar, harpy eagle and scarlet macaw.

Meanwhile, a third group of students spent their spring breaks in California, working alongside AIDS Project Los Angeles, an

organization whose goal is to improve the lives of people affected by HIV.

Rashad Sapphire, a hospitality major and senior at FIU, has been working with Alternative breaks since his freshman year, when he went to Guatemala to help build a school. This year he is going to LA to help out with AIDS Project Los Angeles.

There he and his peers will be distributing food to people who are HIV positive, working with the social workers from the organization, helping out with a marathon the organization is participating in, and also learning more about HIV/AIDS to help break the stigma that surrounds it.

"I got involved with Alternative Breaks because I really feel that living in America and attending college is such a privilege and that those of us with this privilege should give back somehow, so I found the best program that would allow me to do that," said Sapphire.

"I have a lot of fun on these service trips,

so it's not like I'm missing anything. I can party any weekend in Miami, so this is something different," Sapphire said.

Other students have also found ways to give back this spring break, on their own. Blair William, a senior and physical education major, planned to help out at the Special Olympics over his spring break.

"This is my first time getting involved in an event like this so I'm pretty excited. I think it's very important to give back because it helps the community come together and grow." Williams said of his upcoming volunteer work.

Ideally, Alternative Breaks and other volunteer organizations hope that by immersing young people in diverse environments and challenging them to react to the local problems, students will not only gain awareness, but a true desire to help others which they will carry with them for the rest of their lives, encouraging others to do the same.

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BORDERLESS WITH BROOKLYN

KONY 2012 impedes progress in Uganda

Remember when it was cool to try to 'save Darfur?' Wait, where? It's that place in Africa, the one that everyone wore the green bracelet for and felt better about our leaders not really doing anything to confront 21st century genocide.

COLUMNIST



BROOKLYN MIDDLETON

Shortly, we will experience a similar collective amnesia in regard to what Jezebel.com referred to as the "Meme Du Jour," Kony2012.

The 30-minute video from Invisible Children, the organization that created the campaign to make Joseph Kony, Ugandan war monger and leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, infamous, is heartbreaking.

But what is even more heartbreaking is the notion that people are donating money to an organization whose mission is at best short-sighted and at worst ineffective.

Kony2012 experienced an incredible social media success; awareness has officially been raised. "Change the world, watch this video!" was said by at least one person on your Facebook feed, everywhere. Maybe you even have your action kit purchased on Kony2012's website.

Now what?

This type of pseudo-activism is not just ineffective, it actually impedes progress from occurring. By directing our attention to this organization, we remain oblivious to other organizations that actually cultivate real change.

It should be noted that this organization and the

"This type of pseudo-activism is not just ineffective, it actually impedes progress. By directing our attention to this organization, we remain oblivious to other organizations that are actually cultivating real change."

West's response is aligned with the ideology that Africa has to be saved. This is a falsehood, overall, and particularly untrue in regard to Kony.

Kony is a horrible person who has committed vile atrocities. But putting him at the forefront of the entire issue oversimplifies an incredibly complex problem.

Furthermore, it's really questionable whether the catchphrase and intent of "making Kony infamous" is truly the best tactic to take.

According to Aljazeera, the LRA has not even operated in Uganda for at least five years. Additionally, the video in Uganda has angered citizens.

The GlobalPost quoted Pius Bigirimana, the permanent Secretary of Uganda's Prime Minister, saying, "Kony is of no consequence. He is a peripheral issue. It's some of these people from outside who get excited

over these things."

And we did get excited. However, a problem arises when everyone gets excited and feels like they are doing something productive – when in actuality they have accomplished nothing – and then a total failure ensues.

Indeed, initiatives that address the systemic roots of war-torn Uganda and the child-soldier epidemic are much needed, but a western organization who supports military intervention is not the authority on this.

Kony might be dead, he is probably not in Uganda, and if "they" (but who?) do capture and kill him, does the entire global issue of children soldiers cease to exist – NO.

Now that Kony has been made infamous, perhaps we can shift our support towards campaigns that more accurately reflect Ugandan politics and society.

The founder of Invisible Children has admitted people are probably confused about what the organization does and does not do.

With only 37 percent of the overall budget going directly towards central African-related programs, the founder said, "We are not an aid organization, and we don't intend to be. I think people think we're over there delivering shoes or food. But we are an advocacy and awareness organization."

Advocacy and awareness are important. But if the entire effort ends with everyone being aware for 35 minutes or so and then going back to their lives, it is not just an insufficient cause, but detrimental to organizations whose efforts continue on long after YouTube clicks off.

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New state university drains funds from Florida schools

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Sometimes I worry people in charge don't know what they are doing.

The state legislature is currently in the working stages of making the University of South Florida's Polytechnic campus its own University.

This would make USF Polytechnic the 12th state university in the State University System, which is managed by the SUS Board of Governors.

USF Polytechnic is the Lakeland campus of USF. Polytechnic focuses on the programs of science, technology, engineering and math.

With all due respect to the gentlemen on the legislature, the last thing the SUS needs is to be a complete dozen. This applies if looking five or 10 years into the future.

Florida, let alone the entire country, is still reeling from the effects of the recession. Public funding has and is still on the decline. Let's take our own university for example.

This fiscal year, 2011-2012, the University received \$157 million from the state

compared to last year's number of \$228 million.

That number is down by \$71 million – about 33 percent. And FIU isn't high on the legislature's list of state universities to receive funding. So imagine what a possible new university to the SUS would receive in funding.

The legislature hasn't shown any signs of possibly providing more funding, causing FIU and other public state universities to seek alternate sources of revenue.

The main one being students. Compare the \$157 million FIU received from the state to the \$174 million students paid in tuition to FIU. In 2007, tuition was \$106 million.

So, again, imagine what the tuition would be for the students of a new state university. Or even if Polytechnic starts with low tuition and raises it every year, I don't think that plus its unique nature would appeal to students more than the established state universities.

This also creates smaller pieces from an already shrinking pie for the current state universities.

All the universities in the state system are seeing cuts in their state funding,

some more than others. So adding another university could mean deeper cuts from year to year. The state could even divert more money to the new university that would desperately need it. Understandable, but not in the best interest of the

"Adding another university could mean deeper cuts for other state universities from year to year."

entire SUS.

While the pie is getting smaller, student money is being used to somewhat fill the hole left by the decreasing state money, an understandable concept, but I disagree.

But I really don't want to be a student when it becomes readily apparent state money is disappearing much faster than tuition increases.

This also has political undertones as the timing of the release of the proposal was not too long after Gov. Rick Scott made comments about the state not graduating enough students with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) degrees and too many students with anthropology degrees.

"Is it a vital interest of the state to have more anthropologists?" Scott said. "I don't think so."

There will be a 12th state university as the legislature hasn't shown any signs of wavering on their position – they've shown by this ignoring the complaints of USF Polytechnic's students, faculty and staff.

Thankfully, my heart will beat easier as USF Polytechnic will have several benchmarks to achieve over the next five years to completely achieve independent status. The benchmarks are available for viewing on the BoG's website.

I just hope that by the time USF Polytechnic reaches its benchmarks, if it does, Florida and its higher-education customers – eventual students and parents – are more capable of supporting another university. And the people in charge will know how to use that support.



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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Elections Board rules against its own codes

JONATHAN SZYDLO
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The Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus' Election Board met on March 7 to hear, deliberate, and decide on two issues that affect the contention of SGC-BBC's presidency in this year's elections.

The issues decided upon were whether Oluwatobi Adekoya could switch from being Pablo Haspel's running-mate, and vice presidential candidate, to being a presidential candidate a week after the deadline for candidate applications had expired; and whether or not Haspel met the regulations, as stipulated by the SGC-BBC Elections Code, as being an eligible presidential candidate.

On March 5, via email, Adekoya contacted SGC-BBC Election Board Commissioner Weiyi Wang requesting a change be made to the candidate application he had submitted for review to the SGC-BBC Election Board.

According to the SGC-BBC's Elections Code 703.06 Subsection XI, "Once a student has filed an application for a certain office, he or she may not change to any other office unless the original applica-

tion is withdrawn and the application period is still open."

The deadline for applications was on Feb. 29 at 5 p.m.

The SGC-BBC Elections Board unanimously voted in favor of allowing Adekoya to switch his candidacy from SGC-BBC vice president to president with Odimayo Oluwatamilore as his running-mate.

According to the SGC-BBC Elections Code 703.06 Subsection VII, "A candidate must file all registration documents with the Elections Board Commissioner on or before the deadline date and time designated by the Student Elections Board."

Oluwatamilore previously submitted an application to be a SGC-BBC vice presidential candidate, but it was voided in lieu of a second application for him to run as an incumbent for the SGC-BBC Senator at Large seat by the Feb. 29 application deadline.

The SGC-BBC Elections Board proceeded to hear the matter of whether Pablo Haspel was an eligible SGC-BBC presidential candidate. Pending his acceptance as a grad student in fall 2012, Haspel would not be registered for classes.

According to the SGC-BBC Elections Code 703.06 Subsection XIII, the elections board commis-

NEED A LIFT?



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

As students are off on spring break, the University begins on pending renovation projects through out the campus. Workers (above) construct a ramp to allow access for a crane to begin repairs on the interior of Academic One.

sioner will verify that all applicants meet the requirements for being eligible candidates through the Office of the Registrar.

703.06 Subsection XIII.1 continues, "The Elections Commissioner shall then strike from the list of candidates the names of those persons who have failed to qualify for their intended office."

An official SGC-BBC 2012 Elec-

tions Candidate List was released to Student Media by SGC-BBC Public Relations Coordinator Samantha Metayer on March 5, after Wang had confirmed the eligibility of each candidate.

Haspel was on that list.

After deliberating on the matter, with the majority of the opposition's debate being led by SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin, who

attended the March 7 meeting as an observer and general member of the public, the Election Board unanimously voted to allow Haspel to continue his presidential candidacy upon presenting the board with a letter from the dean of the graduate program that he is applying for verifying the his graduate school application is currently being considered.

JUDICIAL REVIEW

Presidential candidate challenges election board decision

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In light of a recent Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus Election Board decision, presidential candidate Pablo Haspel filed a writ of certiorari on March 14 with the SGC-BBC Supreme Court contesting the decision reached at the March 7 Election Board meeting.

The writ contests the

legality of the SGC-BBC Election Board's decision at the March 7 meeting to allow Oluwatobi Adekoya to switch from running for SGC-BBC vice president to president despite the Feb. 29 application deadline.

Citing SGC-BBC Elections Code 703.06 Subsection VII and 703.6 Subsection XI, Haspel is demanding that "the justices review this case, and make a determination that will fix the gross neglect of

deadlines and procedures that occurred. There has to be legitimacy restored to deadlines or else no one will respect any of the governing documents of SGA."

Haspel originally submitted a writ on March 9 with the SGC at the Modesto Maidique Campus Supreme Court due to fears that the BBC court would not rule partially upon his case.

"I am requesting that the MMC Supreme Court hear

this case as opposed to the BBC court because I fear that the justices might be put under pressure by certain members of SGC-BBC and would like to have a fair judgement dealt that has no personal bias," wrote Haspel in the writ submitted to the SGC-MMC Supreme Court.

The SGC-MMC Supreme Court denied Haspel's request to hear his writ.

"To hear this case would be unconstitutional," said

SGC-MMC Supreme Court Chief Justice Octavio Melo in a written response to Haspel. "I'd like to emphasize that our vote to deny this case was not based on the merits of the claim, but on the jurisdictional issue presented."

Regardless of the MMC court's decision, Haspel is moving forward in attempting to rectify the violations that he has witnessed within SGC-BBC.

"The [SGC-BBC] elections

board decision is a disgrace to SGA and a clear violation its own constitution," said Haspel. "I hope that that BBC judiciary upholds its responsibility of being impartial and that they continue to be unbiased, regardless of outside influences."

At time of press, no response was received from SGC-BBC Supreme Court Chief Justice Martha Ochoa regarding whether or not the BBC court will hear the case.

SUSTAINABILITY

SEAS provides alternative to tossing out old electronics

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Think about it. If recycling one million laptops can power 3,657 U.S. homes, what else can be done with unwanted electronic?

Alternative recycling of electronics and other materials was launched at Biscayne Bay Campus last April and is coordinated by the School of Environment, Arts and Science. "We had these baskets set out to collect all of these [materials], and people were asking

for permanent locations," said Jennifer Grimm, environment programs manager of SEAS and coordinator of the project.

Since the fall, cardboard boxes were distributed in seven different locations at BBC where people can drop their e-waste. The current locations are: Academic I 300, Academic II 320, WUC 141, WUC Information desk, Recreation Center, Library 311, Marine Science building 350.

According to Daniela Bueso, intern at SEAS and organizer of the alternative recycling program, in about a month,

the company Etronic Ewaste LLC will provide bins specifically made for the alternative recycling program that will be distributed around several locations on campus.

"We want to make it easier for people," Bueso said.

The program recycles plastic bags, printer cartridges, batteries, and all types of electronics that run on batteries or can be plugged in, such as cell phones, mp3 players, computers, cameras, wires and chargers. Light bulbs are also accepted, but they should be dropped off at the SEAS office to avoid breaking.

According to Grimm, there are difficulties finding a good company that recycles electronics or alternative materials. Not many companies recycle for free as they charge to distribute bins. Also, some corporations are not transparent about the recycling so it's impossible to know if their procedure is environmentally friendly.

The company that SEAS uses for the alternative recycle program, Electronic Recycling Center, is certified by EPA.

"So if they are taking apart computer monitors, that's all documented,"

Grimm said. "Even the places abroad are all documented and certified."

Not all products can be recycled by Electronic Recycling Center. Plastic bags are taken to Publix, and light bulbs to Home Depot.

The alternative recycle program is available only at BBC.

Modesto Maidique Campus is still working on the regular recycle program; it is harder to get all the bins in the right places and spread the information. However, Bueso affirms that they intend to expand the alternative recycle program to MMC.