

SGA

## Senate allocates funds for organization trips

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Four student organizations received funding for trips from the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

During the SGC-MMC meeting on Feb 27, the Senate approved the funding allocations for the organizations though some senators felt that certain programs should be allocated more money.

“Just because we have a lot of money doesn’t mean we should just throw it out there,” said Samir Patel, speaker pro tempore.

Many organizations have trips taking place next month and await funds from the Finance Committee for expenses such as conference fees, airfare, and hotel stays. Currently, the committee is working with \$20,000 of their remaining \$30,000 budget.

The trips include the Honors College “Confronting America” trip to Washington, D.C., Engineers Without Borders’ trip to an 2012 EWB International Conference in Las Vegas, the Fine Arts Student Association’s trip to the 2012 Society for Photographic Education Conference in San Francisco and the FIU Lunabotics Team’s trip to NASA’s Lunabotics Mining Competition at the Kennedy Space Center.

The SGC Finance Committee assures that funds are “properly handled for the

benefit of all students.” They hear presentations, investigate, and deliberate over all requests for funding.

EWB’s funds were one of the most contentious among the Senate. Several senators pushed for EWB to be funded \$100 more per student to help them cover airfare. The organization was given \$1,000 for the conference fee.

Members of the Finance Committee emphasized that it would not be practical or equitable to give EWB additional funds since there are other organizations in need of funding as well.

“There have been plenty of groups that have come to us and have done great things,” said Jose Garcia, vice-chair of the Finance Committee and Honors College senator. “We just want to be fair.”

The FIU Lunabotics team received full funding for their trip. Previously, they were set to receive \$244 for a banner and t-shirts; but after deliberation among the senators, they were allocated \$2,169 to include the group’s hotel expenses.

Finance Committee Chair Giovanni Correale had been against funding hotel and airfare for any of the groups since spending money on those expenses does not directly “benefit the student body.”

Andrea Fajardo, engineering and computing senator, felt differently.

“If you don’t stay at a hotel, you won’t be able to be there to put a banner out and actually put FIU’s name out there,” said Fajardo.

## FIU INK



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Trudy Brown, a freshman nursing major, gets an airbrush tattoo from Christina Menditino, also known as The Henna Girl, during a Student Programming Council event held in the Graham Center pit on February 27.

FACULTY

## Graham Center director brings life experiences to work



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Ruth Hamilton, director of the Graham Center, talks to Brandon Jones, student coordinator for building operations and Sanjeev Udhvani, SGC-MMC vice-president about new GC programs.

**JUAN UGARTE**  
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The Graham University Center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus is the hub of student life at the University.

With food venues, a hair salon, computer lab, an information desk, game room, bookstore and an art gallery, GC is always full of life and the place to be.

The essence that can be seen, felt and heard in GC is a mirror image of Ruth Hamilton, the GC executive director. Hamilton, who has held her position for the past 15 years, has been at the

helm of making GC what it is and what it eventually will become. What makes Hamilton unique is not her position, her title, nor her power, but the journey she traveled to get to where she is.

“She is definitely the face of GC,” said Vijay Pradeep, GC coordinator of multipurpose facilities.

“Everybody can put a face with a name when they hear the name ‘Ruth Hamilton.’ She has done this for a very long time and she embodies FIU and you know I’m surprised she is not even president for some of those things.”

Born in Lima, Peru, Hamilton lost both her

parents at a young age.

“It was a tough time, you know, being an orphan and you’re only 10 years old,” Hamilton said. “But I learned that God has a purpose and the rest was my job. I knew I had to work and fight for it because people were not going to give it to me.”

Having gone through countless Peruvian government programs as a child, Hamilton received a scholarship to attend a missionary high school in Peru.

In her senior year, David Patton, a minister from Ohio whose church

**SEE RUTH, PAGE 2**

COMING UP | Sports

Check out Friday’s issue for the coverage of the Sun Belt Conference tournament for men’s and women’s basketball.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Number of 'F' schools could surge under changes

The number of Florida schools given an 'F' could increase dramatically under a proposal the Board of Education will consider Tuesday.

The proposed changes to the school grading calculation have been met with heavy opposition from superintendents, parents, and advocates for disabled students and English language learners.

Under the changes, schools where less than 25 percent of students score as proficient in reading on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test would automatically be given an 'F.'

WORLD

German lawmakers approve new Greek bailout

The German parliament approved a second, euro130 billion (\$173 billion) loan package for Greece on Monday after Chancellor Angela Merkel warned lawmakers that it would be irresponsible to abandon the country to bankruptcy.

Although the motion was always expected to be easily approved — the final tally Monday was 496-90 with five abstentions — the idea of bailing out Greece has remained very unpopular in Germany, among the public and many politicians

"The road that lies in front of Greece is long and truly not without risk," Merkel told lawmakers.

– Compiled by Melhor Leonor

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 70 of *The Beacon* in the Life! section, the article "380 students work with industry's best at WFF event" incorrectly states that Rachael Ray is a Food Network celebrity chef. She is a Food Network celebrity cook.

In Vol. 23, Issue 70 of *The Beacon* in the Sports section, the article "Seniors start fresh against Jaguars" incorrectly states that the men's basketball team will be playing FAU on March 3. They are playing WKU.

In Vol. 23, Issue 70 of *The Beacon* in the At the Bay section, the article "Students get a taste of the industry at the Village" the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management is misspelled.

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

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Law to drug test welfare recipients

BEN NEARY AND IVAN MORENO  
AP Staff

Conservatives who say welfare recipients should have to pass a drug test to receive government assistance have momentum on their side.

The issue has come up in the Republican presidential campaign, with front-runner Mitt Romney saying it's an "excellent idea."

Nearly two dozen states are considering plans this session that would make drug testing mandatory for welfare recipients, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. And Wyoming lawmakers advanced such a proposal this week.

Driving the measures is a perception that people on public assistance are misusing the funds and that cutting off their benefits would save money for tight state budgets — even as statistics have largely proved both notions untrue.

"The idea, from Joe Taxpayer is, 'I don't mind helping you out, but you need to show that you're looking for work, or better yet that you're employed, and that you're drug and alcohol free,'" said Wyoming Republican House Speaker Ed Buchanan on Friday.

"This legislation assumes suspicion on this group of people. It assumes that they're drug abusers," said Wyoming Democratic Rep. Patrick Goggles during a heated debate on the measure late Thursday.

But as lawmakers seek new ways to fight off the effect of the recession on state budgets and Republican politics dominate the national discussion as the party seeks a presidential nominee, the idea has sparked political debates across the nation.

Romney, in an interview this month in Georgia, supported the idea. "People who are receiving welfare benefits, government benefits, we should make sure they're not using those benefits to pay for drugs," Romney said to WXIA-TV in Atlanta.

Newt Gingrich addressed the topic with Yahoo News in November, saying he considered testing as a way to curb drug use and lower related costs to public programs.

"It could be through testing before you get any kind of federal aid — unemployment compensation, food stamps, you name it," he said.

For more than a decade, no other state moved to implement such a law.

"The biggest piece that has held

up action now and in the past are the constitutional questions," said Rochelle Finzel, the Children and Families Program manager at the NCSL.

But Florida last year passed legislation that was eventually halted by a federal court ruling that cited constitutional concerns.

Finzel said some states are trying to avoid court challenges by requiring drug tests only in cases where there's reasonable cause to believe there's substance abuse, instead of requiring everyone to take a test.

Sonnenberg said his bill also seeks to help drug users get clean because applicants must complete rehab to qualify for government aid again.

Sonnenberg's critics said the idea feeds off the negative — and unsubstantiated — stereotype that low-income communities are more likely to use drugs. Sonnenberg said he's not picking on any group, and pointed out that the legislation would likely have a narrow effect.

"The five percent, or the four percent, or whatever that percentage is that is on drugs, will have a choice to make. They will either do what they can to get clean, or not have their (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) funds," he said.

Hamilton planning GC expansion

RUTH, PAGE 1

supported her missionary school, traveled to Peru to see how the funds were being used.

At that time, Hamilton was second in her class and had just finished being featured in the newspaper for an award. After finding out that she would not have any

way of continuing her collegiate studies, Patton decided to sponsor Hamilton at the University of Mount Union in Ohio.

"A wonderful soul, he is my American father and I adore him," she said of Patton. "He took a chance with me and he didn't even know me."

After studying education and earning her bachelor's, Hamilton got her master's in counseling from Kent State University, opening up her world to administration.

Daily, you can find Hamilton pacing GC in her business suit, high heels and her 80s-style big hair.

"Ruth, in one word, is exuberant. She is full of life," Pradeep said. "She just keeps going and going. But the great thing about Ruth is that in the decisions she makes, she does it to benefit GC in one way or another."

Three years ago, Hamilton once again faced a challenge when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. "This was a shock because you go through life busy, full of energy and feeling well," she said. Her hopes, though swayed, were not broken. "I learned that God put me in this place for a purpose and understand that it is not forever," Hamilton said.

Whenever the chance presents itself, Hamilton does not hesitate to help students.

"I needed a job and I ran into Ruth at Fresh Foods

and we had a talk right then and there," said Danny Hernandez, a student custodial staff worker in GC.

"She hired me right on the spot, not judging me for how I was dressed back then. It goes to show that she really cares about the students."

**“She has an incredible vision, not only for the building but for the institution as a whole.”**

Ana Cuba de la Fe,  
Director  
Orientation and Commuter Services

Having known and worked with Hamilton since 1991, Maxine Hylton, director of GC and Hamilton's top advisor, brands Hamilton as a teacher much more than anything else.

"There is no way you can work with her [Ruth] and not learn," Hylton said. "She's a motivator, a leader and most of all compassionate."

Ana Cuba de la Fe, who was Hamilton's student assistant 17 years ago and is now director of Orientation & Commuter Student Services, said those characteristics allow Hamilton to focus tightly on the future.

"She has an incred-

ible vision, not only for the building but for the institution as a whole," Cuba de la Fe said. "That is why people love her and respect her so much and why so many great things have happened and will continue to happen here."

Already having coordinated four expansions to the Graham Center, Hamilton has plans for more.

"I think what we have here now [in GC] is fantastic," Hamilton said. "As we speak, there are proposals to expand because in talking to the students, we feel like there are some weaknesses."

Those expansion proposals include increasing the indoor recreational facilities room, space for student organizations and a spiritual center for students to have the opportunity to practice their religions on campus.

"Another thing I really think we need to have is a communications wing for the students," she said. "It would be ideal to put the newspaper, the radio [in the same wing] and we would need to bring back the yearbook again. That is the history of the students and their memories."

*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. You can see this and other class work by going to thenews-wave.org*



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## SOFTBALL

# Faltering offense leads to three losses in Boca Raton

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The Panthers dropped three games out of four over the weekend in Boca Raton. The team combined to score seven runs in four games during the Strike Out Cancer Tournament, also known as the FAU Invitational.

FIU finished the FAU Invitational 1-3 and left with an even .500 record of 7-7.

### TULSA 4, FIU 1

With FIU coming off the heels of a five-game winning streak, the Panthers hit a snag as to start out the Strike Out Cancer Tournament with a 4-1 loss against Tulsa on Feb. 24.

Right out of the gate the Panthers didn't skip a beat as Ashley McClain hit a leadoff home run in the first, giving FIU a quick lead. That one run was all FIU could muster in the contest as Tulsa's pitching kept the Panthers' bats quiet.

Opportunities became more and more scarce for the Panthers. FIU had an opportunity in the third when they loaded up the bases with no out but could not cash in, stranding three runners on base that inning.

Hurricanes' starter Lacey Middlebrooks got out of the jam with a fielder's choice off the bat of Brie Rojas,



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Kayla Burri (above) scored the first of five runs in the Panthers only victory of the weekend against FAMU.

AJ Woodward and Kayla Burri then subsequently struck out, taking out the air from FIU's momentum. FIU recorded only four hits in the game.

Mariah Dawson started the game and pitched five innings, giving up three runs and striking out two in a less than stellar performance.

Tulsa won the pitching battle and their offense was able to execute sporadically, scoring a pair in the fourth inning and one in the fifth and sixth

respectively.

### LOYOLA MARYMOUNT 3, FIU 0

The Panthers' bats once again could not wake from their slumber as they only recorded four hits through seven innings against Loyola Marymount. The Lions shut the Panthers out 3-0 in the second game of the tournament on Feb. 24.

The only chance FIU had of making any noise came in the fourth inning when Brie Rojas advanced all the way to third base. And with two out, Jessy Alonso came to the plate but lined out, leaving Rojas stranded.

With the lack of run support, the pressure on FIU's starter Jenn Gniadek was that much greater. Gniadek stood strong for four innings, giving up just a run on a double in the second inning, but was tagged for two more runs in the fifth inning and was replaced by McClain.

LMU's pitching was spectacular as their starter Molly Medeiros kept the Panther bats off-balance, surrendering four hits and striking out two.

FIU now falls to an even .500, standing at 6-6 after starting out FAU Invitational at 6-4.

### AUBURN 3, FIU 1

After dropping the first two games

**SEE SOFTBALL, PAGE 4**

## BASEBALL

# Errors cost rubber game at FSU



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jabari Henry (Right) went 0 for 3 with a walk in the final game of the series against the Seminoles on Feb 26.

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Among the biggest issues in 2011 for the Panthers was the propensity to commit errors. They led the Sun Belt Conference last season with 98, and an error in Sunday's game may have cost them the chance to win their series against Florida State University.

Florida International University (1-5) dropped the third and final match of the series against No. 8 FSU (6-1) on

a day where the Panthers did not score their first run until the eighth inning. They eventually lost 2-1. Sophomore right-hander Michael Ellis was one of the few bright spots of the day, pitching six innings, allowing only three hits and striking out six batters in his first start of the year.

Senior Pablo Bermudez got on base four times in five chances and junior Adam Kirsch had the team's lone RBI.

Panther killer James Ramsey, the player responsible for the Seminoles'

three runs on Saturday, struck again on Sunday with a solo homerun in the fourth inning to put his team on the board.

The Panthers committed an error they could not afford in the seventh inning when reliever John Costa over-threw fielded a bunt and sailed it over first baseman Mike Martinez's head. The error made it 2-0.

Kirsch later drove in T.J. Shantz in the very next inning and the Panthers

**SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4**

## TENNIS

# Panthers split two conference matches

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The two years of dominance in the Sun Belt Conference has come to a halt - at least for now.

In an attempt to initiate their Sun Belt Conference matches on a high note, FIU returned home with a 4-3 victory versus the Jaguars of South Alabama but faltered against the North Texas Mean Green in a 4-3 defeat.

The last time FIU (2-9) suffered a loss to a Sun Belt team was against the North Texas Mean Green, defeating the Panthers in the 2010 Sun Belt Championship match. Their loss to North Texas snapped a 10-game unbeaten streak in the conference.

### FIU 4, USA 3

The Feb. 25 match that pinned 74th ranked FIU against unranked South Alabama (4-4) marked the first victory for the Panthers over a team within the Sun Belt for the 2012 season.

FIU got off to a positive start in doubles play with a stellar performance by the

duo of junior Rita Maisak and freshman Sarah Mclean, who downed Emily Newton and Chane Hines 9-8.

The Panthers could not keep up their winning ways, squandering to 0-2 in the doubles portion of the match.

"Overall we had some beautiful moments in all of our matches. Even though we did not show our front foot in doubles [play] against South Alabama, we turned it around in singles [play]," coach Applebaum-Dallau said.

Despite South Alabama taking the edge in doubles, the Panthers clawed their way back in and won their singles match in convincing fashion with victories from senior Lisa Johnson leading the pack.

"I think our team played very well and showed a lot intensity," Johnson said. "Our team kept up the focus and emotion and came out with the win."

Johnson dominated her opponent, two sets to none (7-6, 6-4) victory.

Maisak, Mclean and freshman sensation Karyn

**SEE TENNIS, PAGE 4**



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Lisa Johnson won her doubles match against UNT on Feb. 26.

# FIU suffers first conference defeat

## TENNIS, PAGE 3

Guttormsen joined in on the party as all three women added to the win column. Maisak went undefeated in her first two matches against Sun Belt competition, dismantling her opponent 6-2, 6-1. Mclean exhausted her opponent in a 6-1, 6-2 victory followed by Guttormsen's 6-3, 6-3 win.

Guttormsen is showing a glimpse of greatness in her freshman year of collegiate tennis. Despite going an impressive 2-0, the humble freshman does not believe it was still her best performance of the season.

"I think I played well, but I do not think it could be my best performance. I still need to improve my game and play better each and every game," Guttormsen said.

### UNT 4, FIU 3

FIU could not add another conference victory as the host team, 60th ranked North Texas, defeated them.

Contrary to the South Alabama doubles matches, the Panthers bounced back against doubles in North Texas as Giulietta Boha and Guttormsen showed a resilient effort in a long 9-7 win over Valentina Starkova and Kseniya Bardabush.

However, the same could not be said for the Mean Green as they came out with a vengeance during the singles matches as they upended FIU 4-2. A 6-3, 6-3, win by conference player of the week Nadia Lee over Mclean contributed to the Mean Green defeat of the Panthers.

Maisak had a stand out performance in her match for the Panthers as she delivered a 6-3, 7-5 triumph over Kseniya Bardabush.

There was a Christine Seredni sighting as the senior made her first appearance in the court since playing sixth ranked Georgia on Feb. 5. She went 0-2 in her singles matches.

Despite Panthers coming up short versus UNT, Applebaum-Dallau had nothing but positive things to say about her young, resilient team.

"We need to be confident and keep our mentality going in the right direction. To me confidence is not measured by wins and losses, but by doing the right things in order to be the best player you can be," Applebaum-Dallau said about moving forward on the 2012 season.

With the loss, the Panthers failed to beat their highest ranked opponent of the year and missed a chance to start undefeated in conference play. They

are off to their worst start in the past six seasons.

The Panthers started the season off playing through a gauntlet of ranked teams.

From a player's perspective, Johnson said her players have a hard time adjusting to playing such high caliber teams right off the gate.

"We're used to having to play harder teams as the season went on and had to get better towards the end of the season, but now we've had to start out stronger at the beginning of the year and then play into a softer schedule," Johnson said. "We just have to play with confidence and maintain our focus for the rest of the year and we should be back on track right away."

Applebaum-Dallau commended the team for regaining focus in their doubles match and putting the past loss aside versus North Texas. Despite the drawbacks, Applebaum-Dallau is confident in her girls.

"It looks like it's all going in the right direction," Applebaum-Dallau said. "We are a team that our schedule has been very tough and I do that on purpose... We are not training to play against all the non-ranked teams. We are training to play against the toughest teams in the country."

# Panthers salvage a victory against Florida A&M

## SOFTBALL, PAGE 3

of the FAU Invitational, FIU's losing streak would reach to three games as the Panthers dropped a 2-1 contest against No. 24 Auburn on Feb. 25.

For the third game in a row the Panthers' bats were stifled, this time by Tigers Angel Bunner who allowed a total of three hits all of which came off the bat of Beth Peller.

The lone run for FIU came in the second inning when Peller laced a double to right center and then scored on an error by Auburn.

The second inning was FIU's sole opportunity to score as Bunner kept the Panther bats quiet.

With just a one-run lead, FIU's starter Jenn Gniadek spun a complete game but allowed two runs, which were more than enough for the Tigers to secure the win.

Auburn's runs came both in the third and sixth respectively. In the third the Tigers' Lauren Guzman singled home a run, which tied the game, and then ultimately in the sixth, a triple scored the decisive game-winning run.

So with FIU coming into the Invita-

tional at 6-4 and on a five game winning streak, they have now fallen to a game under .500 at 6-7. FIU now looks to salvage what's left of the invitational as they take on Florida A&M.

### FIU 5, FAMU 1

After suffering a third loss in the FAU Invitational, the Panthers finished the tournament on a high note, beating Florida A&M 5-1 on Feb. 25.

For the third time in the invitational the Panthers got out to a quick lead but this time hung on and gave their pitching staff a much needed breather.

The Panthers opened up the scoring in first when Kayla Burri got on with a bunt single and then scored on an McClain single right after. And for the first time during that weekend, the offense continued to tack on more runs in the following inning when Jenny Welch drove in Beth Peller on a ground out.

FIU's bats continued to warm up in the fourth inning when first baseman Shelby Graves delivered her first career home run in the fourth and added another RBI in the sixth on a squeeze play. And lastly Kelsey Grabiak

scorched a pitch for a double, delivering the fifth run of the ballgame.

As the bats got going, their starter, Mariah Dawson pitched her best game of the year. The sophomore from Camas, Washington threw a complete game striking out 10 Rattlers. She also kept Florida A&M to just three hits.

FIU will now look to get over .500 again as they travel to Fullerton, California to start off the Cal S. Fullerton Tournament.

It won't be an easy task for FIU as they will take on No. 3 California and host Cal State Fullerton on March 3.

Student Government Council - Biscayne Bay Campus  
Lecture Series Presents

**Adrian Grenier**  
The Teenage Paparazzo

Wednesday, March 7  
WUC Ballrooms

Florida International University  
3000 NE 151st St., North Miami, FL 33181

Doors open at 6:00 PM  
Event starts at 6:30 PM

\*Free showing of "The Teenage Paparazzo"  
March 5th & 6th - 4 PM & 7 PM - Mary Ann Wolfe Theatre

FIU Student Government Association  
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# FIU pitchers have issued 53 walks in first six games

## BASEBALL, PAGE 3

were on the verge of tying it until an odd play unraveled before them. Junior Jabari Henry hit a line drive to the third baseman that rebounded off him and right into the hands of the second baseman for a force out. A hit would have tied the game.

Robert Benincasa then closed the game for FSU.

For the second straight series, FIU out hit their opponents. They tallied 26 hits over the weekend, seven more than the Seminoles.

Bermudez, who got off to a slow start in the first series, was back in his old form hitting for a .384 average in the series with three runs and three walks.

Martinez showed why his bat was sorely needed in the Rice series, hitting for a whopping .500 average with three walks to boost his on-base percentage even higher.

The Panthers' starting pitching was solid overall, managing a 3.57 ERA and striking out 17 Seminoles in only 15 1/3 innings. The walks, however, just continued to pile up, with 14 from the starters alone. The relievers chipped in 12 more, bringing the series total to 27.

FIU has now walked 53 batters in six games, or about nine per game. Head coach Turtle Thomas wants three per game.

FIU returns to Miami for its home opener on March 2 against Brown University at 7 p.m. The Panthers will be seeking to win their first home opener in two years.

## THEATRE BEAT

# Audiences should expect unique experience at Arabian Nights



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Arabian Nights tells the story of the young maiden, Scheherazade, who tries to prevent her death at the hands of King Shahryar by capturing his attention through the stories she tells. In doing so, she demonstrates the importance and power of storytelling.

The play, written by Mary Zimmerman and directed by Associate Professor Phillip Church will be the last production of the semester.

"When we think about everything we do [on a daily basis], we tell a story or are living a story and sometimes the story can be about the future through a dream or wish," said Church.

"The importance of storytelling is [displayed in the way] Scheherazade tells a story and engages the king's attention. [It] sends the message that we live by storytelling; it's a diet that keeps you alive."

"I don't think [our] society really gives full value to stories. We don't realize how we feed each other. We are so literal, like 'How many calo-



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

Top: The set for Arabian Nights. Bottom: Marilyn Skow, the costume designer displays one of the headpieces she created for the production. Skow made of all the turbans used for costume by hand.

ries are in my bottle of water?' We also need to feed our minds through imagination," continued Church. "I anticipate that the audience will take away a greater sense of what stories truly mean. Hopefully they leave thinking more about the value of the stories."

The set design of Jesse Dreikosen, head of design and production at the

Department of Theatre, relies heavily on the audience's imagination.

"There are multiple locations throughout the piece and the scenery needs to simply define those spaces very quickly. The design of the set needed to be abstract, suggestive and

**SEE ARABIAN, PAGE 6**

# Students' votes decide Movie on the Lawn event at The Frost

**MARCY DIAZ**  
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After one month of uncertainty, the Frost Museum has finally announced the winner to the movie that will be airing in this month's Movie on the Lawn event. For the first time, students were able to decide what will be the highlight of the evening.

Popular series like "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Harry Potter" may have won a lot in the box office, but they trailed behind in the polls. Even

winner of the Academy Award, such as "Wall-E" and "The King's Speech," were only able to tie for second place.

Showing across the Blue Garage on the Frost Museum's wall, the 1968 film, "2001: A Space Odyssey," is expecting a big turnout on March 1. This science fiction film was produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick.

The story deals with two astronauts on a space voyage as they trace a mysterious signal emitted by alien technology found on the moon. Accompanying them is HAL

9000, the supercomputer that holds control of the spaceship Discovery One. This film is often praised for its two and half hour length and influence of the science fiction genre.

"I had no idea this movie had such a big following here at FIU," said Gabby Portela, coordinator of the event and communications assistant at the Frost Museum.

"I keep hearing such good feedback. [This] could mean that this system of picking movies might be used again." With music that will be provided by Radiate FM and food

made by the famous CheeseMe truck cooks, there will be something to enjoy even before the scheduled 6:45 p.m. show time.

"I love the concept and I'm looking forward to watching great films with the FIU family on our beautiful campus," said student voter Lori-Ann Cox.

The Patricia and Phillip Frost Museum asks that students bring blankets, chairs and most importantly friends to find out why "2001: A Space Odyssey" was voted to be seen by the University's student body.

## HAUTE TOPIC

# Paltrow shines at award ceremony

When it comes to watching the Academy Awards, the statues come in second to the dresses. Here are the actresses that I noticed for their choice in dress, bad and good.

### COLUMNIST



ESRA ERDOGAN

### Natalie Portman:

Portman wore a vintage red Christian Dior polka dotted gown. This look is completely underwhelming and I'm shocked that Vogue put her on their best dressed list.

Portman isn't the type that can pull off a vintage gown like this one; the volume and cut overwhelmed her tiny figure. This style of dress should have been hemmed at her ankles so that we could see her shoes. Also, letting the dress touch the ground made her look short.

To top it off, her accessories made her look even older. With some more modern accessories and a pair of interesting and visible shoes, this dress could have wowed me.

### Jennifer Lopez:

I'm pretty sure Lopez has worn a dress exactly like the Zuhair Murad couture she wore, to every event she's ever been invited to, leaving me yawning permanently.

Don't get me wrong, the dress is an incredible piece of art. The sunburst design in shiny beading over a see-through gown is completely gorgeous. For Lopez to have looked more original, I would have taken the sleeves off completely.

I'm also tired of her wearing her hair in a high bun. Pairing some soft waves with this glamorous dress would have been fresh and youthful.

### Gwyneth Paltrow:

When I saw this white Tom Ford on Gwyneth Paltrow, I actually got the chills. The sleek white floor length gown and matching cape— yes, you read that correctly— was the number one look of the night.

The one-shoulder gown had minimal draping, which let the cape look like an extension of the dress. Paltrow wore her hair straight and sleek in a low pony and kept the makeup minimal. She wore a diamond cuff and ring— that was it.

She didn't even wear nail polish. The simplicity suited her perfectly and was the best example of not letting a dress overpower you. I am obsessed.

### Emma Stone:

She's been on my best dressed list every single time this awards season, but I feel like Stone let me down

**SEE AWARDS, PAGE 6**



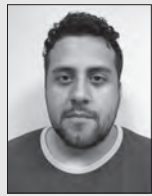
CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP IMAGES

Gwyneth Paltrow pulls off a sleek and elegant creme Tom Ford design including a lavish cape, with simple hair and makeup.

## RADIATE REVIEWS

## Nashville-rooted album is lush and full of soul

Kurt Wagner of Lambchop has all the makings of the stereotypical Nashville musician: he drives a manual pickup truck, wears a dusty cap and knows a thing about Memphis-rubbed dry ribs. However, the image of Wagner isn't necessarily reflected in his music and with "Mr. M," it progresses with such casualness, class and identity.



MICHAEL HERNANDEZ

At its most basic, the album is produced with strings and layers that squall in every track, but it is filled with detailed imagery and emotional gravitas. They don't make country like this anymore.

The opening words to "If Not I'll Just Die" doesn't feel as out of place when you juxtapose it to the album's purpose: a dedication to Wagner's close friend

and fellow musician, Vic Chestnutt. The music comes off as cathartic in "Mr. M" regardless of Wagner's intention.

In an interview, Wagner said, "[I've never bought the idea] that music is some sort of therapy." You wouldn't get those sentiments upon listening to "Never My Love", but sonically and thematically, it's very captivating.

There's lots of room for the music to spread as the soft, provincial feel of the 1970s country is meshed with modern idiosyncrasies, like ambient strings and extended instrumentals, that find a perfect equilibrium between the sonic shifts of the nostalgic and the current.

The subtleties in Wagner's voice blend effortlessly with the intricate production work of a piano and the soft strums of acoustics. It may all sound like a minimalist effort, but producer Mark Nevers mixes all

these layers that culminate into grandeur effectiveness. Instrumental track "Gar" sounds like something you would play on a reflective Sunday: pleasant

country symphony. It is an up-tempo bluegrass number with Wagner singing in his natural shaky vibrato that feels like he is always close to breaking

comes from something else" or how he sometimes "find things on the street" to more poetic passages like "the wine tasted like sunshine in the basement." Wagner crafts a mood and a setting in his songs.

He tells about memories that seem simple on paper but take on sentiments of personal discovery and how everyday fixtures can contain rich beauty. The musical elements begin to vary with cues, such as a rattling snare, looping guitars and a bevy of strings ranging from cellos to violins that swell up and crash together like sea waves.

"Mr. M" is a medley of overlapping sound paving a landscape with significant storytelling that's comforting as it is timorous.

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Southern band Lambchop promotes their latest effort, "Mr. M."

in the day but bittersweet with the looming sunset. The first half of the standout track, "Gone Tomorrow," works like a

down in tears by how tender and wrought his voice gets. There is a lot of alluring literal imagery describing how "water

## Oscar's red carpet filled with glamour and style 2012

## AWARDS, PAGE 5

this time. She wore a raspberry Giambattista Valli dress with a bow around her neck and a cinched waist. I did not like this dress at all.

In addition to being way too similar to a red dress Nicole Kidman wore at the Oscars in 2007, Stone looked like the dress was wearing her. The top part was way too voluminous and took all the attention away from her fresh face and very chignon hair.

**Angelina Jolie:**

Jolie's been stunning me left and right with unexpected choices this awards season so it was just a matter of time before she picked

something too safe. The Atelier Versace dress was beautiful, but boring. I wish she would have at least chosen a pair of colored heels.

**Michelle Williams:**

This gown was one of my favorites. Williams wore a bright gown with peplum detail by Louis Vuitton. The fun coral color popped on the carpet and looked stunning with her pale skin. This gown fit her so inexplicably well and had such amazing detail on the bodice and the skirt with delicate details of chiffon.

The brooch pinned on her waist was also a very cute touch. The only thing I didn't like about her look was her lipstick, which was too

similar to the color of her dress. A darker pink or mauve would have looked amazing.

**Glenn Close:**

I can't go on without mentioning Close's amazing take on Zac Posen. The 64-year-old paired a gown with a jacket from a different outfit from the Fall 2012 collection.

The metallic-looking dark green gown hit her in all the right places and the color complimented her skin and hair. Not many women can pull off a structured gown that calls attention to the waist and hips like this one does, but Close pulled it off. That's just not fair.

**Rooney Mara:**

Mara's edgy looks are always a favorite of

mine and her Givenchy gown was no exception. But what really made the lacy white dress stand out was Mara's hair and makeup.

I feel like a lot of times the hair and makeup are overlooked when it comes to awards night looks, but they shouldn't be.

Mara was channeling a Bettie Page look with her short bangs and hair in a tight bun, along with a bright red lip.

It really made her dress suit her, which would have looked mediocre with natural hair and makeup.

*Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Email esra.erdogan@fiusm.com.*

## Bands outshine the delayed start at the Electric Pickle

## PICKLE, PAGE 8

Next up was The State Of, a female duo fueled by their emo driven lyrics, attitude infested drumming, and the whimsical handling of digital ivory keys. At this point of the night, at about 12:30 a.m., the Pickle held its largest crowd with the entire patio area filled with shoulder-to-shoulder bobble heads.

The State Of put on a solid performance that had the crowd eating out of the palms of their hands, but as soon as the last note of the keyboard had rung out, the mob packed up their bags and began calling it a night, which was a shame since they were still two acts left to go.

However, it was too early in the night - even though it was 2 a.m. - for the music to stop as Can't Stop played to the residual crowd.

Can't Stop was awesome.

A two piece band - drums and guitar - with the drummer manning the mic and belting out

lyrics as he artfully banged away at his five-piece set.

Although the guitar came secondary to the energy oozing out of the drums, the chorus effect on the instruments gave a full bodied sound with little, if any, room for

“**The State Of put on a solid performance that had the crowd eating out of the palms of their hands.**”

improvement.

As Can't Stop stopped playing, a mild shower blew in in between sets, which only contributed to the final exodus of all spectators, minus those who were somehow affiliated to the overall production - except for one guy, whose dancing style at the outset of

Sumsung's time on stage made it safe to assume that he was having the time of his life on a bit of MDMA.

By 3 a.m., there was only a one man crowd for an act from Palm Beach, and I'm sorry to say that this was the point in the night when I couldn't help but call it a night after hearing a single one of Sumsung's songs.

It's not that he wasn't good. The thing is that due to the small turnout at the start of the night, Electric Pickle decided to push back the start of the show by an hour which caused the final act to start after 3 a.m. This was the only aspect of the night since, at least out of respect, I would've liked to finish out Sumsung's set, but it was past my bedtime.

Other than The Delayed Start, the show was a success. Kudos to all.

*Beat Street is a weekly column about locals shows. Email at jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com*

## Production gets creative with set

## ARABIAN, PAGE 5

symbolic to allow the actors in costume to tell the stories. The lighting really creates the atmosphere for the world we are in."

Dreikosen's design came to him quickly through a discussion with Church about doing something different with the space of the theater.

It involved research of the architecture of the different regions and cultures present in the play in order to make sure that these came out in the design of the space.

"I quickly decided that I needed to incorporate the entire theater architectural space, which meant putting the audience up on stage and thrusting the stage out into the house of the theater," explained Dreikosen.

"This allowed the action of the play to be up, in and around the entire audience— sort of in your face. The audience should feel like members of the company."

The abstract set design has allowed Tony Galaska, assistant professor of lighting design and stage management, to use light to establish the spaces of the play.

"Every production presents its own unique challenges in terms of the script. Lighting comes from what the playwright gives as instructions as well as the different people in the lighting team who present different design elements," said Galaska.

"As there are less items on stage, the lighting becomes more prominent in defining time and space. It's a storytelling piece and it's really fun for lighting to define the spaces in a visual sense."

For more on Arabian Nights, check out the rest of this story under the Life! tab at

[www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com)

## CLASS DISMISSED

### College dropouts a financial liability

The dire financial state of Florida's colleges has an additional culprit that is often overlooked, but is now being addressed by several state colleges and universities, including our own.

COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

According to the *Orlando Business Journal*, the American Institutes for Research found that “Florida lost \$132 million in earnings income and \$19 million in federal taxes in 2010 due to its college dropout rate.”

The article explains that this loss may be even higher as the college dropout rate has risen.

In Florida, 2 million students do not complete their college education for a variety of reasons.

Some argue that a lack of financial aid is the reason why many college students forego their education in favor of entering the workforce, but other circumstances, such as bad health or a family crisis, also have to come into play.

Naturally, the solution to this problem is to find ways to keep students in the classroom, but this is easier said than done.

With further reductions in financial aid, students will find it difficult to attend college full time.

Furthermore, it has been proven that part-time students in two or four-year programs are even more likely to drop out, especially in Florida.

“**Florida and the rest of the nation must work on the greater issue of keeping students on track in their college education.**”

According to a report in the *Sun Sentinel*, only 43 percent of part-time students in a four-year college receive their bachelor's degree, while less than 10 percent of students at a community college receive their associate's degree.

In Florida, however, a program to assist college dropouts in completing their education is in the works.

According to an FIU Student Media news report, written by Melissa Caceres, several state universities are implementing the Complete College Florida Pilot.

The pilot is a fully online program geared toward college dropouts with 60-90 credits under their belt that offers coursework in the career-centric concentrations of entrepreneurship, business and communications.

With this program, Florida's universities can begin reclaiming some of the funding lost by way of college dropouts while these students can take care of their unfinished business in the comfort of their own home, which will likely enable them to maintain steady employment.

In the case of the Universi-

ty's status as a commuter school, it will also allow those enrolled in the program to cut down on the expenses of traveling to the campus.

According to FIU Student Media, the program will expand its offerings based on its initial success.

If marketed properly, I am confident that the program will become a major part of the University.

As great an opportunity this program may offer, though, Florida and the rest of the nation must work on the greater issue of keeping students on track in their college education.

It isn't enough to merely attract a large student body; the trick is keeping it intact so students can receive their education so colleges won't be at such a financial loss.

College retention rates must go on the upswing if the nation wants to alleviate the financial strain placed on higher education.

*“Class Dismissed” is a weekly column critiquing education in America.*

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## THE BEACON | Editorial

### Lack of transparency affects students

The Student Government Association is responsible for allocating Activity and Service Fee monies for student organizations and facilities. All organizations are required to submit a budget request that indicates the reasons for the requested budget.

In an attempt to understand and better explain to our readers the current deliberations, we made an effort to attain the budget binders, containing all of the line item requests by the 60 plus student organizations and facilities that are funded by A & S fees.

After several attempts were made to acquire physical copies of these binders, *The Beacon* was able to obtain a password protected digital version of said public document through sources within Student Government—something a typical student would never have access to.

This is a critical period for so many organizations that are waiting upon their upcoming budgets, and it is a joint responsibility between student media and the government to relay up-to-date news, but these types of obstacles hinder the ability to effectively disseminate this information.

This lack of transparency in the budgeting process is only symptomatic of the overall lack of transparency within Student Government as a whole.

While we don't expect an average student to check on SGA meeting minutes every week, we do expect Student Government to post them online accordingly. As of press time, SGC-MMC last posted Senate meeting minutes on Feb. 13 and the most recent meeting minutes posted for SGC-BBC were from the Senate meeting on Nov. 16, 2011.

The unavailability of this information prompted us to make an official request on Dec. 19 as per the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, for all minutes from SGC-BBC's Executive Cabinet; Student Advocacy Committee; Internal Affairs Committee; Finance Committee; Operational Review Committee; and Rules, Legislation and Judiciary Committee.

No response was received from either SGC-BBC Executive Chief of Staff Suyen Fernandez, or from the five senate committee chairs, all of whom are responsible for documenting their activities.

We understand that SGA, just like those it funds with A&S fee monies, is student-run and that other responsibilities often hinder the effectiveness of their positions; however, the trouble that it takes to acquire what should be public information is unwarrantable.

The lack of transparency was best highlighted during the impeachment allegations against SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin when charges against Halpin were dropped before the proper public procedure of impeachment was followed, as reported in the Oct. 26 editorial.

Even during the nomination and appointment process of the SGC-BBC senate's Internal Affairs Committee chair, Oluwatamilore S. Odimayo, who sits as the SGC-BBC Finance Committee Chair asked applicants what plan they have for keeping SGA matters private—an aspect of governing they should strive to avoid.

Ongoing governmental developments, such as budget deliberations, should be easily accessible for everyone, not just those who ask.

The matters of the government are public, and no matter how small FIU student participation might be in them, we believe that SGA has the responsibility to ensure that they remain public.

### Discouraging remarks regarding sexuality harmful

JUNETTE REYES  
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On Feb. 9, the personalities of The Rickey Smiley Morning Show, a nationally syndicated radio show that broadcasts locally on 99.1 Jamz, made crass comments regarding the gay community.

They said that members of the gay community should not “come out of the closet” until they are done with any kind of schooling, including college.

In addition, it was mentioned that one's sexuality “was nobody's business,” and that it should be kept private. In agreement with the latter statement, sexuality is certainly a private matter.

However, it is also “nobody's business” when determining at what point one should or come out.

Such comments might have been stated with

“**The only one who should be concerned about their sexuality is the person themselves.**”

regard to the many bullying cases in schools against the gay community, some of which that have even led to suicide.

The well-being of anyone in the gay community is no doubt important, as it is with everyone.

Even so, this does not mean that they should be discouraged further by such remarks, especially when some are already struggling with their sexual identity.

As mentioned before, it is a private matter.

Therefore, the only one who should be concerned about their sexuality is the person themselves.

This should also relate when deciding whether or not to come out and who they want to come out to.

Given such a sensitive issue, radio personalities should be careful with how they go about commenting on personal matters as daunting as this one.

Yes, freedom of speech is by all means

allowed, but in a case like this, remarks such as these only make matters worse.

As previously mentioned, they should either leave these matters to the ones that actually need to deal with them, or at least encourage people to be comfortable and accept themselves.

Each bullying case that has led to suicide proves that acceptance is really what the gay community needs, not one more reason to think there is something wrong with them.

The people with the real problem are the ones who are offended to the point of hurting another simply due to a difference in personal matters.

Overall, discouraging statements like this only do more harm than good, despite the good intentions behind them.

We should leave these matters to those who need to deal with them and simply support them as much as we can. In doing so, acceptance of themselves and acceptance from others may very well be achieved.

## DISCLAIMER

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

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (500 word maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

## HEALTH

# Pros and cons of a 'morning after' vending machine

**KATHERINE MAS**  
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A university in Pennsylvania has raised questions about a vending machine that dispenses the morning after pill, condoms, pregnancy tests and decongestants in their self-help care center, and many students are wondering if such a machine might make its way to FIU.

The vending machine has caused a controversy at Shippensburg University of whether Plan B, the "morning after," pill should be easily accessible to students.

According to an article published by Catholic Online, some of Shippensburg's 8,000 students are enthusiastic about the services provided by the vending machine.

University Health Services at FIU distributes free contraceptives such as condoms to promote safe sex but having a vending machine hasn't been considered yet. Plan B is an emergency contraceptive that consists of one tablet that must be taken orally within 72 hours of unprotected sexual intercourse. The sooner the over-the-counter drug is taken, the higher the percentage of effectiveness.

"I believe it might only prove to be effective if students need to get a



KATHERINE MAS/THE BEACON

A vending machine such as the one placed in Shippensburg University offering easier access to contraception could prove problematic if placed on Biscayne Bay Campus, due to the proximity of underage students in the local community.

hold of any of these items after our closing hours," said Ludovica Virgile, Program Assistant at the Biscayne Bay Campus Wellness Center.

Kevin Soler, a junior and journalism major, feels that the machine would prove be beneficial.

"It's convenient for people with lack of transportation and avoids

embarrassment," Soler said.

Frederick Blevens, a professor at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, agreed.

"Sure, it should be allowed the same as Pepsi machines," Blevens said.

Soler and Blevens believe that if students can go to a pharmacy and buy

it legally and over-the-counter, then it should be accessible to students here on campus.

However, not everyone thinks the machine is a good idea. Junior and public relations major Diana Pons feels that having vending machines dispensing these products is like giving students a "free pass to have

sex with anyone."

CVS pharmacists Brenda Herrera Soto and Jose Molina believe it's not correct for Plan B to be sold without proper guidance from a healthcare professional.

"People would get the idea that Plan B is as harmless as buying a soda or a sandwich," Molina said. "If misinformed people get their hands on it and over do it, the drug can cause side effects like blood clots and strokes."

According to Herrera-Soto, Plan B is a high level form of progestin and brings along unwanted side effects.

Condoms, on the other hand, are not a drug but a form of protection that can not only protect from pregnancy but can prevent sexually transmitted diseases. Students are sometimes so concerned with getting pregnant they rely on Plan B and forget to protect themselves from STDs.

However, BBC's unique geography places it near the David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center and the Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Senior High School, which may make such a machine's presence a problem.

"We have underage [students] in proximity to us," Virgile said. "I wouldn't recommend it at all."

*Additional Reporting by Nadra Mabrouk*

## CAMPUS LIFE

# Lust for a healthier body image in Panther Square

**NADRA MABROUK**  
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In the United States, approximately 10 million females and one million males are fighting an emaciating battle with an eating disorder such as anorexia or bulimia, according to [nationaleating-disorders.org](http://nationaleating-disorders.org).

National Eating Disorders week began on Feb. 26. Counseling and Psychological Services will be hosting "Lust for Life" in the Panther Square at the Wolfe University Center today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"Lust for Life" will coincide with the National Eating Disorder week to introduce students to programs on campus that could help them in the case that they feel uncomfortable with their bodies and to assist them in building themselves to reach their full potential. They will offer information that they have available about having a healthy body image.

Among the resources present for the event will be the Recreation Center, the Women's Center, Career Services, Multicultural Programs and Services and the Counseling and Psychological Services.

In order to make the event more

interactive, there will be games such as Jeopardy and Wheel of Fortune to engage the students' participation.

Students will also participate in a body image collage. The collage will consist of post-it notes that "talk back" to the media about the body image that they portray to the world.

The three main eating disorders are anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating. Anorexia is characterized by an obsession with losing weight, vomiting and starvation. Bulimia is cyclical binge eating and purging. Binge eating consists of compulsive overeating followed by episodes of excessive dieting.

According to the National Eating Disorder Association, all eating disorders require medical attention and mingle together anxiety and depression.

## LUST FOR LIFE

- Time: 10 a.m.
- When: Feb. 29
- Where: Panther Square

## BEAT STREET

# At the very least, three out of the four bands got a solid crowd

In the midst of the hustle and bustle that is the South Beach Wine and Food

Festival, a brief refuge from all the glamour and glitz of the yearly culinary circus came out of Midtown Miami's Electric Pickle.

On Feb. 25, Beached Miami and Grolsch Brewery sponsored a show featuring local to South Florida acts Honey Train, The State Of, Can't Stop, and Sumsung.

The show started out with Honey Train taking the outdoor stage at the Pickle at around 11:30 p.m. to a moderate sized crowd.

It's worth noting that the venue pushed back the start time due to the size of the crowd, or lack thereof. But more on that later.

Anyways, Honey Train threw down the longest set of the night that was driven by their rugged and raunchy guitar tones that brought back memories of Weezer's "Pinkerton" with Jack White like vocals.



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Can't Stop takes over the Electric Pickle's patio to close out the night for the majority of those in attendance.

The uppity feel came off as a perfect compliment to the necessary push to get you off the couch on a lazy Sunday afternoon, fresh off a sesh, to go on an obstacle filled quest to the nearest munchy spot, think White Castle, or in South Florida's case the now illusive Sonic Drive-In.

At first, I thought that these guys needed to tighten up their

sound due to an early rough patch through a guitar riff. But as they proceeded with their set, I stood corrected.

During a hard-played guitar solo in one of the songs towards the tail end of their set, rain bags were literally blown off of the PA speakers - or maybe it was just the wind.

SEE PICKLE, PAGE 6