BSU initiative extends Green Library hours

NADINE MATAS
Staff Writer nadine.matas@fiusm.com

Back in the Fall 2015 semester, a group of students from the Black Student Union, headed by Rashaad Perry-Patterson, a Political Science and Pre-Law Program Junior, set forth an education initiative for the University.

During the months of October and November Perry-Patterson and his team worked toward academic improvement on campus. Their main focus was extending the Green Library’s hours of operation.

This campaign came about due to a hacking incident of the FIU website, which was blasted through the social media portal of Yeti, where it claimed special trained police dogs on campus.

In response to this occurrence, the Black Student Union formed several committees in collaboration with the BEACON.

Pre-Law Program Junior, set forth an education initiative for the University.

Access FIU presidential and vice presidential candidates, Jose Sirven and Devendra Shaw, are now eligible to run, according to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. The candidates will be able to remain on the ballot for SGC-MMC elections.

In addition, the SGA elections on both campuses have been postponed to April 19 and 20 to give the two political parties enough time to campaign.

According to the MMC Supreme Court case Gilkes v. Sirven, presidential candidate Sirven had been disqualified from the SGC-MMC elections on the grounds that he had not held an SGC-MMC position. It has now been determined, according to Student Affairs, that an inadequate quorum was held when appointing the justices for the case.

Access FIU provided Student Media with this information from the e-mail sent out by Eric Arneson, assistant vice president of student affairs.

Shaw’s running mate, Devendra Shaw, brought forward information to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, and submitted a petition for appeal suggesting the possibility of an inadequate quorum. This second appeal contained new evidence in Sirven’s favor.

“Last week I submitted a 13 page appeal to Arneson in the hopes of encouraging the administration to revisit the decision issued by the Supreme Court,” Shaw said in a statement to Student Media. “I did not and still do not believe the ruling issued by the Supreme Court (which was recently declared illegitimate) was made in the interest of democracy and justice but for political gain.”

“Has happened to Jose and I was extremely unfortunate,” especially considering that we both have a personal relationship with the individual who filed the suit against us (Juan Gilkes) and the leadership in the party he represents [FYIYOU],” she said. “I am thrilled that the administration reviewed our appeal and decided to uphold to students.”

Shaw said, “Thanks to the SGA Elections Board and the FIU administration, Jose and I finally have an equal opportunity at winning this election.”

“Subsequent to the issuance of the March 30, 2016 opinion, new evidence has come to light that was not readily available to the student body that the associate justices of the Student Supreme Court-MMC were

CAT NAP

Alkeim Paisili, senior psychology major, takes a break between classes by cuddling up to the FIU panther statue Thursday, February 25.

In the absence of a quorum, any substantive actions taken are null and void. Thus, none of the justices were confirmed, leaving only the Chief Justice who cannot act alone

Eric Arneson PhD Asst. Vice President Student Affairs

Student Affairs reverses SGA supreme court ruling, Access FIU back on ballot

STEPHANIE ESPELLAT
Asst. News Director stephie Espellat@fiusm.com

Access FIU presidential and vice presidential candidates, Jose Sirven and Devendra Shaw, are now eligible to run, according to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. The candidates will be able to remain on the ballot for SGC-MMC elections.

In addition, the SGA elections on both campuses have been postponed to April 19 and 20 to give the two political parties enough time to campaign.

According to the MMC Supreme Court case Gilkes v. Sirven, presidential candidate Sirven had been disqualified from the SGC-MMC elections on the grounds that he had not held an SGC-MMC position. It has now been determined, according to Student Affairs, that an inadequate quorum was held when appointing the justices for the case.

Access FIU provided Student Media with this information from the e-mail sent out by Eric Arneson, assistant vice president of student affairs.

Sirven’s running mate, Devendra Shaw, brought forward information to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, and submitted a petition for appeal suggesting the possibility of an inadequate quorum. This second appeal contained new evidence in Sirven’s favor.

“Last week I submitted a 13 page appeal to Arneson in the hopes of encouraging the administration to revisit the decision issued by the Supreme Court,” Shaw said in a statement to Student Media. “I did not and still do not believe the ruling issued by the Supreme Court (which was recently declared illegitimate) was made in the interest of democracy and justice but for political gain.”

“Has happened to Jose and I was extremely unfortunate,” especially considering that we both have a personal relationship with the individual who filed the suit against us (Juan Gilkes) and the leadership in the party he represents [FYIYOU],” she said. “I am thrilled that the administration reviewed our appeal and decided to uphold to students.”

Shaw said, “Thanks to the SGA Elections Board and the FIU administration, Jose and I finally have an equal opportunity at winning this election.”

“Subsequent to the issuance of the March 30, 2016 opinion, new evidence has come to light that was not readily available to the student body that the associate justices of the Student Supreme Court-MMC were

the original ruling of the SGA Elections Board, giving us a chance to demonstrate our passion and our commitment not duly confirmed by the MMC Senate at the Feb. 8, 2016 meeting because the MMC Senate lacked a quorum,” Arneson wrote in the email. “Given the timing of this opinion, I am delaying the SGA election to provide both parties adequate time to campaign on the issues.”

“Given that the Student Supreme Court-MMC decision was null and void, the review of that decision by the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs is being withdrawn and replaced by this opinion,” said Arneson.

It was also reflected in the e-mail on whether or not student related cases within SGC-MMC jurisdiction would be able to take the writ of certiorari to the BBC Supreme Court for additional review.

Arneson was able to comment by saying “the Student Supreme Court-BBC cannot entertain any appeals for the Student Supreme Court-MMC because the SGA governing documents make it clear that the two campuses have independent authority,” he said when discussing on whether or not Sirven was able to take the grievance to the BBC Supreme Court.
**NATION & WORLD BRIEFS**

**Princeton retains Woodrow Wilson nameakes**

Princeton University will keep Woodrow Wilson’s name on its school of public and international affairs and its undergraduate residential college despite the former president’s racist past, the university announced Monday. The university had been under pressure from student protestors to remove the name of its former president because of Wilson’s racist views and policies, including keeping black students from enrolling at Princeton when he headed it. But a board of trustees committee considered the arguments and decided to retain the name.

**Iceland prime minister resigns following protests**

Asst. Sports Directors

Laura González

Lynna Generoso

Jaclyn Spain

Sports Director

Alexandre Alvarado

News Director

Alvaro Zavala

Editor-in-Chief

Sara Medina

GyuthShina Altena

Cayla Bush

Opinion Director

Michelle Marchante

BRIEFS

Christopher Allen

Entertainment

Darius Depuy

Producers

Rene Alvarado

Alexis Mayzlin

Asst. News Director

Eric Santoyo

Production Manager

Sarah Medina

Design Coordinator

Cica Brou

News Director

Eric Santoyo

Asst. News Director

Alvaro Zavala

Statement

Erik Tronsrud

President

Cayla Bush

CONTACT INFORMATION

Medrano Madrigal Campus

GC 270, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.

(305) 348-6994

nn@fiu.edu

Biscayne Bay Campus

WBC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.

(305) 348-6722

bsu@fiu.edu

Fax:

(305) 348-2712

editor@beaconfiu.com

Althena Fisher

 advert@beaconfiu.com

Library extends hours for finals

BSU, PAGE 1

worked closely with Perry-Patterson and his team was Anne Prestamo, Dean of Libraries at Florida International University.

Prestamo worked in collaboration with BSU to refine the plans on this idea of extended hours.

Prestamo as well as Perry-Patterson, said that there was not much time to promote the hours.

“There was not much time in [fall].” Prestamo says, “but we did move forward with exploration for the week before finals as well as the week of finals.”

The response for the first couple of days was not what they expected. With the lack of advertisement the students had not heard about the opportunity.

“The best way to spread the word around [last semester],” was students hearing from friends or classmates.” Prestamo states. “The number of students coming to the Library during finals week went up.

Prestamo believes that last semester’s numbers are not a fair assessment of the potential demand of students for extended library hours.

As a result, this past February, BSU promoted a survey for students to take, in order to obtain statistical data and have a better idea of what students thought of the initiative. Prestamo says that BSU received over 2,500 responses within the two week period, the majority with positive feedback for the project.

The office of the President, Provost, as well as the Chief Financial Officer, gave the green light to running another pilot during this Spring 2016 Semester.

Since news of the extended Library hours became public, several students are looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunity.

“The extended hours benefit me as a student in many ways. It is very convenient to be able to go to areas that are less packed with students when studying for finals,” Hira Ahmad, a senior psychology student says, “Usually, I go to the library to study and do my homework.”

“Whether it’s working on academics or personal projects, the Library is a place where I can escape distractions to accomplish my task,” Joshua Soto, a second year International Business & Marketing major, says, “These extended library hours not only allow me, but other students as well, to get that extra study time in for my classes.”

“Libraries couldn’t do this by themselves” Prestamo says. “There are a lot of costs to consider.”

Prestamo and Perry-Patterson both list different factors that need to be taken into consideration for this initiative to move forward. Among these things there is the costs of staff, custodial, security, utilities, as well as infrastructure changes that would have to be made in order to accommodate the longer hours.

Perry-Patterson and Prestamo believe it is not an unreachable compromise: “It’s a possible outlook,” said Perry-Patterson.

“There is good support in literature and in the university,” Prestamo says. She references the Student Success Goal #1 (H) from the Strategic Plan of the University, where the plan talks about improvement in space management to achieve student success.

The main concerns, she says, is figuring out what it is that is needed and most beneficial to the students who will be taking advantage of the extended hours.

According to Prestamo, the survey included that information to get a better concept of how much of the Library the students would want to have access to, if it came down to only certain areas remaining open for the extended hours in the future.

“As far as specific locations I would say maybe the first two floors,” Soto says, “Personally what I usually do at the Library is find a spot where I can clear my mind from all distractions and focus on what needs to be done.”

Prestamo says there were staff members appointed to count the number of people on every floor each hour during the last extended period in December. During the 24 hour period in November and December that there was about 9000 students on the second floor alone, according to Prestamo. There are also records about laptop and book uses in the Library during this time, all in effort of providing as much numerical and physical data of the benefits of the 245 extended hour project.

“As a student who is heavily involved on campus, most of my studying is done through the night, I think it’s an amazing idea,” says Soto, “There are plenty of students who will benefit from this.”

According to the official website of the Library as well as an email sent out by External Relations, the extended hours will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 24 and will remain open through Friday, April 29 at midnight, for the first week. On Saturday, April 30 the hours will be 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., and then the Library opens again Sunday, May 1 at 10 a.m. and remain open through Friday, May 6 at midnight.

“Between now and this [the extended hours pilot] time period,” Perry Patterson says, “You will see BSU start a marketing campaign in the Library and GC to get students motivated to take advantage of this opportunity.”
There’s a funny tendency that governments run by a tiny, nepotistic minority shun corruption. Our student government is far from immune. It’s easy to ignore what SGA is up to because, frankly, campus politics don’t seem to hold all that much weight. 

Why should we have reason to believe these millennials who are running a small part of the University bureaucracy are going to legislate anything other than banaality? Aside from the control over how the $18 million in A&F/revenue gets spent, SGA has the unique characteristic of being situated right before the beginning of adulthood for virtually all of its members.

In this compulsively productive society, universities are the sunrise of a long career in service-sector capitalism. Once an institution dedicated to the production of knowledge, the university has become subservient to the kind of neucentric commoners that would chase callousness and disengenuity at the expense of just about anyone who’s a rung below in the ladder.

It’s an unspoken relation that compels even the most philosophically principled mind to feel as if they bear the pressures of an unrelenting cut-throat social structure that constitutes the political economy of the United States today. It’s all about the hustle. It’s about knowing the right people and doing the right favors. It’s about a career. 

Put in fewer words, there’s an incentive. Keep you and your party’s rule going for as long as the duration of your stay in college permits, play ball with University administration and the networking and the back-ups should come all on their own, with the hopes that one day you’ll get a slice of that sweet - and illiory - apple pie we call the “American Dream.”

SGA has placed the all mighty career before their duties and responsibilities in governance by flagrantly thumbing to follow the law it set for itself.

For starters, the Supreme Court hearing and subsequent decision that disqualified Access FIU presidential and vice-presidential candidates Jose Sirven and Devondra Shaw was a naked sham so bare it defies the imagination that there aren’t pitchforks and torches0 marching in the streets of SGA offices right now.

The current SGA Supreme Court, which has a duty to definitively settle constitutional questions, appears unconstitutional in composition; the position of supreme court justice is explicitly reserved for “students enrolled and in good academic standing at the FIU College of Law,” according to Article V Section 5.02 of the SGA constitution.

There’s no missing language, no room for loopholes: an FIU SGA Supreme Court Justice appointee has to be in FIU Law.

Chief Justice Sergio Molina and at least one of the associate justices, are under the legal assumptions that constitutionally prohibited from making a decision on Giles v. Sirven, or anything else for that matter. No matter how smart or well-intentioned the justices may be, the law is the law. 

That nobody has noticed how blatantly unconstitutional the appointments are is shockeding: that not one SGA Senator objected when confirming not just one, but five of these justices, is outrageous and grounds to throw every single current senator out of office.

Yet even if we, god forbid, decide to uphold the law in the court of law and accept the legitimacy of this supreme court, there still ought to be some careful consideration of the fairness of the adjudication.

Potential conflict of interests risk the impartial application of justice and undermine the truthfulness and utility of legal interpretation doesn’t it? So shouldn’t it be plainly obvious that if the Supreme Court has a clear interest in one outcome of the case that they should rescue themselves? To this supreme court, it is not.

They’re telling us that Molina can fairly and impartially adjudicate the case of the presidential candidacy of that of his fellow Theta Chi brother, FIYoo’s Allanial Callozo; that Justice Gabriela Melendez, a sister of Phi Mu; that Justice Hayed Kare has no compelling interest in disqualifying Shaw from running against Michelle Juarez, who is also in Phi Mu; that Justice Hayed Kare... 

On the Scene is a commentary on politics and economics. For suggestions, contact Juan at opinion@fiusm.com.

Send us your letters! Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124.

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

SGA supreme court a ‘kangaroo court’ ‘self-serving’

After national outrage and pressure provoked by the Players and Corporations, Hollywood and other sectors, incited by a discriminatory religious liberties bill in Georgia, Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed the controversial bill.

Despite the veto, corporations and organizations nationwide continue to keep a close eye on how religious liberty is perceived and what pressures it is under to public restrooms for the sex they identify as, among other legislative components which limit the ability of organizations to go about their businesses.

In response to the outrageous legislation that was passed in North Carolina, the prominent musical composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz, the iconic writer and producer of hit Broadway musicals such as “Wicked,” “Pippin” and “Godspell,” announced that he has consulted with his licensing organizations and his team of producers to deny the right to any theatre or similar organization in North Carolina to produce any of his shows.

Friday, April 1, the online theatre publication BroadwayWorld.com published an e-mail written by Schwartz, expressing his intolerance for discriminatory legislation: “To my fellow theatre writers and producers... I feel that it is very important that we prevent any state that pass such a law suffer economic and cultural consequences, partly because it is deserved and partly to discourage other states from doing so following suit.”

Schwartz added, “Therefore, I and my collaborators are acting to deny the right to any theatre or organization based in North Carolina to produce any of our shows. We have informed our licensing organizations and touring producers of this decision and I’m happy to say have met with compliance and approval from them.”

Schwartz’s bold response to discriminatory legislation is not solely marshalling the Broadway world to fight back — his actions serve as an example to all individuals and organizations nationwide to incite constructive dialogue.

Though the United States has grown and has made significant steps towards anti-discriminatory laws, the legislative decisions in North Carolina not only paradox this progress but also represent a degenerative regression to backward thinking.

Though Schwartz made a bold choice by proposing to ban performances and productions in North Carolina, I contend that his efforts serve as a platform for positive and constructive change.

I remain hopeful that Schwartz’s example, among the many other efforts put forth by organizations, corporations and the voices and ideas of American people continue to forge a progressive path toward the future.

On the Scene is a commentary on the hot pop culture topics. For suggestions, contact Gabrielle at gabrielle.garces@fiusm.com.

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

One doesn’t have to guess too hard as to why the nailing party, FIYoo, turned a blind eye to this clear miscarriage of justice; disfracification is a signature tactic, an old friend to turn to when the election cycle comes around.

Sirven and Shaw are only the latest examples; look to the attempted disfracification of Stefan Bahad and Kristen Nymen last year or the successful disfracification of Philip Koening and Adriana McLamb the year before that.

In the world of FIYoo, a supreme court is for the creation of favorable election climates. FIYoo claims that they want to empower students. Seems to me they’re more interested in perpetuating their own power.

Room 101 is a column about politics and economics. For suggestions, contact Juan at opinion@fiusm.com.
New Com Truise EP does nothing new - it’s okay

As a whole, “Silicon Tare” makes me desire a new album four years after the lush and fairly empty “In Decay,” but listeners are treated to a sample of Com Truise’s new direction, which may be more optimistic, situational and maybe even more “synth wave” than necessary from an artist who spills onto chill wave and generally well-crafted electronic music.

The issue with “Tare” is that it is incapable of knowing what opinion it has on its own source material - the 80s synth pop scene. The opening track ‘Sunspot,’ is not only the best track on the album, but the only one that makes any significant changes in its own song structure worth remembering. This is the song we call “the soundtrack to every 80s film,” a seminal almost cohesive answer to an introduction to the artist. The retro synths are bubby against a moody percussion, side chained to perfection.

On the other hand, the other songs on this album seem to miss that mark completely, opting for an experimentation in how far you can push a genre based on nostalgia for a genre which already exists. ‘Forgive’ should be a dancey track, influenced with some kind of ironic tinge from the 90s, but doesn’t seem to deliver that inspiration for dance that is so well crafted on his first album “Galactic Melt” back in 2011. I don’t think synthwave’s main goal is dance, particularly considering the genre is consumed by the types of music aficionados who dwell in basements and lurk elusive Japanese funk samples.

...the genre is consumed by the types of music aficionados who dwell in basements and lurk elusive Japanese funk samples...
Duo delivers short, sweet pop sound

Honeyuck, a two piece band from Satellite Beach, FL, presented the world with “Very Tiny Songs,” August of last year. They’re entire sound for this album is based on light and airy vocals tied with bittersweet memories of school yard days.

The band describes themselves as, “two cute girls making cute tunes,” and their inspiration for this album was a whirlwind romance that was never really reciprocated.

“Strawberries” is a perfect example of what a poppy sound these girls have. It’s your typical love song with a hint of romance that was never reciprocated. Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been pretty quiet for a while so one can only hope they’re planning something big.

They used to compete against one another, now they’re unified in a fight to save humanity and what’s left of their careers.

Members of boy bands Backstreet Boys, 98 Degrees, O-Town and former members of NSYNC have joined forces as a posse of fictional gunslingers for the Syfy network original film “Dead 7,” which by no coincidence airs on April Fools’ Day. Call them the not-so-Magnificent 7.

This post-apocalyptic zombie western, created by the same brain trust that gave us “Sharknado,” stars Backstreet Boy Nick Carter (who also wrote the screenplay), O-Town’s Erik-Michael Estrada, 98 Degree’s Jeff Timmons and more of their all-but-forgotten 90s contemporaries — the film also stars members of male pop groups All-4-One and No Authority — as a group of ragged mercenaries out to save the human race while looking really hot in tight T-shirts.

An epidemic has turned much of the Earth’s population into flesh-eating zombies. The gallant army’s leader, Apocolypta (Debra Wilson), and her diabolical henchman Johnny Vermillion (BSB’s A.J. McLean) are amassing troops in hopes of taking over the planet.

It’s up to the hard-drinking Whiskey Joe (‘NSync’s Joey Fatone), sharp-shooter the Vaquero (BSB’s Howie Dorough) and several more former MTV heartthrobs (Chris Kirkpatrick, Jacob Underwood) to protect the living by destroying Apocolypta. And if there’s anything these guys know how to do (aside from syncopated dance numbers), it’s how to fight off mindless, crazed mobs who want to devour them.

But why, you ask, do we need a zombie western starring men in 90s and 40s whose names once graced your sixth-grade notebook? Well, you’re reading this, aren’t you? Morbid curiosity — and that tender connection to your tweens years — are powerful motivators.

It doesn’t really matter that the plot is as thin as the supermodels they used to date, the dialogue as awkward as a lip-sync track gone wrong or the action as clumsy as you were when you tried to copy that Justin Timberlake dance move (and no, he’s not in this film). The spot-your-favorite-boy quotient here, and the fact that they all appear to be in on the joke, makes “Dead 7” a blast to watch.

There are nods to the characters they once played in their respective boy bands — expect headbands, backward baseball hats and plenty of brooding looks along with those cowboy boots and ponchos. As for the zombies, they all look suspiciously in the right age group to be former teen heartthrobs.

Together they parody the zombie genre with over-the-top blood and gore. Limb-ripping fight scenes, blood-splattered cleavage needed to complete a production of this caliber. As for other non-boy band actors, Jon Secada plays the mutton-chopped sheriff and Everclear’s Art Alexakis the nasty guy in the saloon.

And, of course, the film is accompanied by a new, original song: the Backstreet-98-O-Town-Sync collective number, “In the End.” It’s as artful as the film.

Surely “Dancing With The Stars” or doing a reality show about substance abuse, weight gain, stripping or the torturous miniafa of family life would be safer ways back into the public eye — some have gone down this path already — than a western with dialogue so stiff it practically creaks like those old floorboards in the saloon. (“I’ll take every bit of fight we have left to save what remains of humanity ... if that’s what you want to call it,” says the narrator.)

But these guys saved you once before, even if it was only from the painful onslaught of puberty. It only seems right for them to return in the hero role again, if only to make you laugh.
The city of Miami is well known to produce young talented athletes from major sports. Yet boxing is not one of them. However, a young up-and-coming boxer from Chicago, Illinois name Julian “Juju” Martinez is looking to change all of that as he competes in the USIBA National Tournament in Los Angeles, California starting on April 7.

USIBA stands for the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association. It was created in 2012 by current intercollegiate boxing coaches and student leaders that believed it provides ethical, safe and positive experience for their teams.

Their main goal was to reinvent boxing to colleges and Universities’ athletics.

Fresh out of graduation, Martinez has been training non stop for his preparation for this 3-day tournament. Since February, Martinez would start his day joggging around his neighborhood every morning just to get himself warmed up. He would then begin his training at a local boxing gym in North Miami with a few other FIU Students, University of Miami students and Nova Southeastern University students. They all come together to compete and would train with one another with different set of goals in mind.

For Martinez, his main goal is to finish on top and be a national champion. “My normal schedule will consist of running at around 5 a.m. just to get it out the way,” Martinez said. “If not, I would spend an average day attending pro day, and are looking to bring in NFL prospects to their facilities and give them private workouts before making their official draft board.

As we still in the middle of the first round pick, the five teams from number 16-20 could be crucial to them since these were the teams that were on the hunt last season in making the playoffs, but failed to execute. This draft could make a huge difference for these five NFL teams selecting in the mid-first round.

10. Detroit Lions (7-9)

Julian “Juju” Martinez (right) trains for the USIBA National Tournament with his sparring partner. Sparring is one of the training methods Martinez uses to get quicker hands to throw.

Peter Holland Jr. / The Beacon

Contact Us
Alejandro Aguirre
Sports Director
alejandro.aguirre@fiusm.com

SPORTS

A graduate competes in USIBA boxing tournament

PETER HOLLAND JR.
Staff Writer
peter.holland@fiusm.com

NFL mock draft predicts potential defensive stars

Pete’s Picks: NFL Mock Draft

1. Tennessee Titans: Linebacker Telvin Smith, Jr. (Ohio State)  
2. Cleveland Browns: Linebacker Joe Schobert (Ohio State)  
3. San Diego Chargers: Linebacker Anthony Walker (Miami)  
4. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)  
5. Jacksonville Jaguars: Linebacker Myles Jack ( UCLA)  
6. Baltimore Ravens: Linebacker B.J. Bello (Temple)  
7. San Francisco 49ers: Linebacker Reuben Foster (Alabama)  
9. Tennessee Titans: Cornerback Tramon Williams (Auburn)  
10. New York Jets: Linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin (Georgia)  
11. Chicago Bears: Defensive End Akiem Hicks (Mississippi State)  
12. New Orleans Saints: Linebacker Hau’oli Kikaha (Washington)  
13. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Elandon Roberts (Boston College)  
14. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)  
15. Los Angeles Rams: Cornerback Jalen Mills (Penn State)  
16. Detroit Lions: Linebacker C.J. Mosley ( Alabama)  
17. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Darron Lee (Ohio State)  
18. Buffalo Bills: Linebacker Butch Johnson (Boston College)  
19. New York Jets: Defensive End Christian Beltre (Southern Utah)  
20. New York Jets: Defensive End Marquis Copeland (Lafayette)

Peter Holland Jr. / The Beacon

Peter’s Picks: NFL Mock Draft

1. Tennessee Titans: Linebacker Telvin Smith, Jr. (Ohio State)
2. Cleveland Browns: Linebacker Joe Schobert (Ohio State)
3. San Diego Chargers: Linebacker Anthony Walker (Miami)
4. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)
5. Jacksonville Jaguars: Linebacker Myles Jack (UCLA)
6. Baltimore Ravens: Linebacker B.J. Bello (Temple)
7. San Francisco 49ers: Linebacker Reuben Foster (Alabama)
9. Tennessee Titans: Cornerback Tramon Williams (Auburn)
10. New York Jets: Linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin (Georgia)
11. Chicago Bears: Defensive End Akiem Hicks (Mississippi State)
12. New Orleans Saints: Linebacker Hau’oli Kikaha (Washington)
13. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Elandon Roberts (Boston College)
14. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)
15. Los Angeles Rams: Cornerback Jalen Mills (Penn State)
16. Detroit Lions: Linebacker C.J. Mosley (Auburn)
17. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Darron Lee (Ohio State)
18. Buffalo Bills: Linebacker Butch Johnson (Boston College)
19. New York Jets: Defensive End Christian Beltre (Southern Utah)
20. New York Jets: Defensive End Marquis Copeland (Lafayette)

Peter Holland Jr. / The Beacon

NFL mock draft predicts potential defensive stars

Pete’s Picks: NFL Mock Draft

1. Tennessee Titans: Linebacker Telvin Smith, Jr. (Ohio State)  
2. Cleveland Browns: Linebacker Joe Schobert (Ohio State)  
3. San Diego Chargers: Linebacker Anthony Walker (Miami)  
4. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)  
5. Jacksonville Jaguars: Linebacker Myles Jack ( UCLA)  
6. Baltimore Ravens: Linebacker B.J. Bello (Temple)  
7. San Francisco 49ers: Linebacker Reuben Foster (Alabama)  
9. Tennessee Titans: Cornerback Tramon Williams (Auburn)  
10. New York Jets: Linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin (Georgia)  
11. Chicago Bears: Defensive End Akiem Hicks (Mississippi State)  
12. New Orleans Saints: Linebacker Hau’oli Kikaha (Washington)  
13. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Elandon Roberts (Boston College)  
14. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)  
15. Los Angeles Rams: Cornerback Jalen Mills (Penn State)  
16. Detroit Lions: Linebacker C.J. Mosley ( UCLA)  
17. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Darron Lee (Ohio State)  
18. Buffalo Bills: Linebacker Butch Johnson (Boston College)  
19. New York Jets: Defensive End Christian Beltre (Southern Utah)  
20. New York Jets: Defensive End Marquis Copeland (Lafayette)

Peter Holland Jr. / The Beacon

Football mock draft predicts potential defensive stars

Pete’s Picks: NFL Mock Draft

1. Tennessee Titans: Linebacker Telvin Smith, Jr. (Ohio State)
2. Cleveland Browns: Linebacker Joe Schobert (Ohio State)
3. San Diego Chargers: Linebacker Anthony Walker (Miami)
4. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)
5. Jacksonville Jaguars: Linebacker Myles Jack (UCLA)
6. Baltimore Ravens: Linebacker B.J. Bello (Temple)
7. San Francisco 49ers: Linebacker Reuben Foster (Alabama)
9. Tennessee Titans: Cornerback Tramon Williams (Auburn)
10. New York Jets: Linebacker Lorenzo Mauldin (Georgia)
11. Chicago Bears: Defensive End Akiem Hicks (Mississippi State)
12. New Orleans Saints: Linebacker Hau’oli Kikaha (Washington)
13. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Elandon Roberts (Boston College)
14. Dallas Cowboys: Linebacker Jaylon Smith (Florida State)
15. Los Angeles Rams: Cornerback Jalen Mills (Penn State)
16. Detroit Lions: Linebacker C.J. Mosley (UCLA)
17. Miami Dolphins: Linebacker Darron Lee (Ohio State)
18. Buffalo Bills: Linebacker Butch Johnson (Boston College)
19. New York Jets: Defensive End Christian Beltre (Southern Utah)
20. New York Jets: Defensive End Marquis Copeland (Lafayette)
Ending playoff drought is No. 1 goal for Marlins

CLARK SPENCER
Miami Herald
TNS Staff

If so much as one menacing cloud strays anywhere near Marlins Park on Tuesday, orders will be given to close the retractable roof and avoid a repeat of last year’s Opening Day blunder when raindrops sent fans scurrying and caused a delay.

This time, unlike last year, Marlins president David Samson said he won’t be relying on his smartphone’s weather app to make that decision.

“Let me be clear,” Samson said. “I have emptied all apps off my phone. Instead, we’re putting live people on the roof with binoculars looking for thunder clouds. If anyone sees clouds in any direction, the roof will be closed.”

The Marlins might have licked their rain problem at the ballpark.

But they’re still looking to end their long drought on the playing field.

When the Marlins embark on their 24th season with Tuesday’s opener against the Detroit Tigers with offseason acquisition Wei-Yin Chen facing Justin Verlander, they will be seeking their first winning season since 2003.

That’s the longest current run of losing seasons in the majors.

And if they can manage to experience the playoffs for the first time since Josh Beckett tagged Jorge Posada for the final out of the 2003 World Series, it will end the second-longest postseason dry spell in the majors.

Only the Seattle Mariners, by two years, have gone longer.

Samson doesn’t need to look at past standings to (2015) you name it. But the Marlins have valid reasons that this season could be different.

They have a new manager in Don Mattingly and hitting coach in Barry Bonds, marquee stars in their playing days.

Their own two stars Giancarlo Stanton and Jose Fernandez are healthy.

There are at least a half-dozen dreadful teams in the National League, including two in their own division, Philadelphia and Atlanta on which they can feast and pile up wins. They have 64 games against six rebuilding NL teams that are already being written off.

“They like our chances,” said Fernandez, the Marlins’ 23-year-old pitching ace who is beginning the season with the Marlins for the first time since 2014, shortly before an arm knocked him off the mound for 13 months. “We have the talent. If we put it together, we can do some amazing things.”

Most baseball media experts are dismissing the Marlins this season, ranking them a distant third behind the New York Mets and Washington Nationals in a NL East division they have never won. At best, be optimistic about the Marlins’ chances not until they prove otherwise.

“If we want to prove people wrong, we have to prove it prove it by winning.”

Gordon said. “It’s pretty simple. We can’t expect people to come when you’re not good. Who would spend money on us? I’m not going to watch a terrible football or basketball team. We have to prove it prove it by winning.”

Gordon said his Marlins teammates who have been with the team longer are “sick and tired of not winning.”

Yet he is hopeful the losing is about to stop.

“There’s no reason for me to show up if I don’t have confidence,” Gordon said. “If you don’t have confidence, why are you here?”

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria is quietly confident, and he’s fine that few are picking the Marlins to end their long playoff drought.

“I’m thrilled to death no one’s picking us for anything,” Loria said with a smile while watching the Marlins take batting practice during Monday’s workout. “I don’t like predictions. It’s like a curse.”

Young talent can bring league to new heights

18. Indianapolis Colts (8-8) Taylor Decker Offensive Tackle 6’7” 315 Ohio State University

Protecting Andrew Luck has always been an issue for the Colts. It won’t be surprising if the evaluators decide to draft the best offensive lineman available. Decker is a long and lengthy tackle that can’t be passed on. Decker, with a basketball background, has amazing footwork and low pad level when it comes to pass blocking. Most likely he might start off at right tackle while the coaches develop him to be a solid left tackle in the future.


Look for the Bills’ front office to focus heavily on defense on this year’s draft. They could start with a defensive end now that former starter Mario Williams signed with the Miami Dolphins. Shaq Lawson is a beast at defensive end, and a quarterback’s worst nightmare. Having Lawson in a Bills uniform looks like a Rex Ryan move knowing that he is a defensive minded head coach. If Lawson is available, look for the Bills to be on top of drafting the two time All-American.

20. New York Jets (10-6) Sheldon Rankins Defensive Lineman 6’2” 287 University of Louisville

Speaking of defensive minded head coaches, the Jets’ Head Coach Todd Bowles might be looking to beef up his defensive line once again. With the team that was one game shy of clinching a playoff spot last season, the Jets could be one or two draft picks away of being a playoff contender again. Adding Rankins from Louisville could be another steal in this year’s draft. Not only that he fits their 3-4 scheme as a 3-technique defensive end, he is capable of lining up on the edge when getting off blocks, and he is incredible penetration when it comes to stopping the run. Look for the Jets to focus on the front seven, or get a quarterback.

Pete’s Picks is a biweekly column about the NFL and FIU Football. For commentary and suggestions, email Peter Holland Jr. at peter.holland@fiusm.com.
Stand-up comedian dies of heart attack, changed the face of television

STEVE JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune
TSN Staff

It is not too much of a stretch to say that Garry Shandling invented modern television.

“The Larry Sanders Show” was his masterpiece — indeed, one of TV’s masterpieces — a blistering comic takedown of Hollywood culture through the vehicle of Shandling’s title character, a preening, insecure late-night TV host. It wouldn’t look out of place in today’s landscape of dark comedy, searing self-examination and serial storytelling that takes viewers on a bumpy ride with complex characters.

But Shandling, who died March 24 of a reported heart attack at age 66, began “Sanders” back in the dark ages of TV, a preening, insecure late-night TV host. It didn’t have a laugh track. It didn’t have the moments that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity. “Perfectly seasoned, unassailably funny, it is as good as everybody says it is, perhaps even better,” I wrote of “Sanders” in 1998, as its final season began. “It doesn’t elicit laughs, it wrenches them from you in the harsh recognition of characters — primarily (Shandling’s) cunningly neurotic talk-show host, his astonishingly uncomplicated on-air sidekick, and his consiglieri of a producer — behaving true to themselves and to human nature.”

As important to its place in television history as its content was its locale. “Larry Sanders” aired on HBO, before a lot of people really knew what HBO was, and it helped make the pay-cable channel a destination for demanding audiences and for would-be TV auteurs, people who wanted to do more with the medium than just churn out 26 not-half-bad network episodes a year.

“It shows that allowing an artist the creative freedom to do what they want can create good work,” Shandling said, when I asked him for the 1998 piece what the legacy of his series would be.

He was being matter of fact, even a little modest, but what an impact that demonstration has had. Pay-cable executives learned the lesson and went on to green-light shows like “The Sopranos” and “The Wire” and to stick with them even when they didn’t immediately find an audience. Basic cable channels got wise, too (“Breaking Bad,” to cite just one instance), and now an online store, Amazon, and a former DVD mailer, Netflix, are placing their bets on creator-driven television.

But don’t take my word for “Sanders’” influence. Listen to what David Chase, creator of “The Sopranos,” told New York Times writer Julie Salomon in 2002: Noting that “Larry Sanders” was the last series he watched regularly, Chase said, “That show inspired me to want to do something really good for television.”

Without Shandling’s Larry Sanders, it’s reasonable to ask whether we would have the comedian Bob Odenkirk being so brilliant today in “Better Call Saul,” and whether we would have “Better Call Saul” at all. Odenkirk, not incidentally, was part of the great “Sanders” cast that also included Jeffrey Tambor, Rip Torn and Janeane Garofalo.

It’s telling, and a testament to Shandling’s achievement, that the great majority of series people count as examples of TV’s new golden age dramas, demonstrating again the theatrical maxim about dying being easy. “Larry Sanders” showed what television could be before there was even a path, and, more impressively, it blazed that trail through the hard thickets of comedy.