

3-10-2010

The Beacon, March 10, 2010

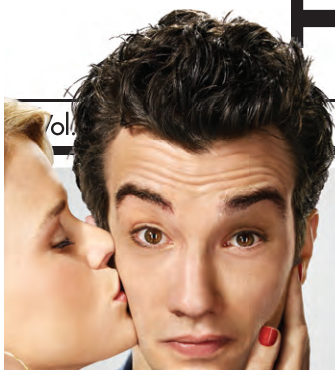
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She's Out of My League stars Krysten Ritter and Alice Eve

INTERVIEW: PAGE 5



Relive the hopeful night through photos!

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

SGC-BBC: Council hopes to increase participation while motivating more experienced members of SGA to apply for senate seats.

OPINION PAGE 4

As the rubble is slowly being picked and cleaned in Haiti, questions abound as to what the future of the country will be.

OPINION PAGE 4

Soapbox: One graduate student gives his take on recent developments for future of Graduate Students Association.

LIFE! PAGE 5



Panel Panel: McFarlane's attempt at a new series ends up in a dry, uninspired rehash of his past successes.

SPORTS PAGE 8



FIU baseball loses 4-1 to No. 2 Arizona State in tournament finale.

SPORTS PAGE 8



FIU softball falls 3-1 to Bradley in the final game of the USF Under Armour Invitational.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Who's Managing the Atmosphere Anyway? March 10, 6 - 9 p.m. A lecture by Dr. Gary King. Entrance is free and will be held on the Modesto Maidique Campus in WC 130.

FIU Baseball, March 10, 6 - 9 p.m. The Golden Panthers take on Boston College.

Miami International Film Festival. Event is all day and \$7 for students. For the complete schedule, locations and to buy tickets, visit miami.bside.com/2010/schedule.week

— More events can be found in our Monday and Friday issues of Life!.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 68 HIGH: 81



THURSDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 67 HIGH: 81



FRIDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 63 HIGH: 81

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Expert panel speaks on Haiti

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Asst. News Director

Approaches to Haiti relief and reconstruction were discussed by a number of experts during FIU's second ever teach-in on March 6.

Teach-ins were popularized in the 1960s to provoke action on behalf of civil rights, as well as to protest the U.S. government's involvement in Vietnam.

The first panel at the teach-in covered all sides of the spectrum, putting forth the numerous issues Haitians are facing today and setting realistic goals to solve them.

"I left Haiti two days before the earthquake. I left Haiti on a very optimistic and positive note. Everyone thought 2010 was going to be a good year," said Robert Maguire, associate professor of international affairs in the College of Arts and

Sciences at Trinity University in Washington D.C., who was the first panel member to speak.

"Perhaps, in the aftermath of this tragedy it would give us an opportunity to help Haiti to address some dilemmas that in my view have cast the country into perpetual poverty and inequality, unending instability, dependence and underdevelop-

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HOME OF THE 'SKEETERS'



CHRIS ADAMS/THE BEACON

Sophomores Myrlyn Verdelus (right) and Alana van Dervort (left) capture and measure mosquito fish in the lakes around campus for ecology lab; the results could reveal how well the ecology of the lakes are balancing.

Recycling encourages 'friendly competition'

LAEBONY LIVINGSTON
Contributing Writer

RecycleMania has hit FIU. In 2009, FIU participated as a benchmark school by sending in their recycle reports but they were not in the competition. As FIU's first year competing they are making a name across Florida. At last count, FIU was No. 3 in the state, out of 10 other Florida schools, with a cumulative recycling rate of 26.15 percent.

"RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities," according to the RecycleMania Web site.

Although there are no individual state awards, FIU ranks at 115 out of 243 nationally in cumulative recycling rate.

Participation in RecycleMania is just one of the activities the University is involved in to meet the commitment of the American College and University President Climate Commitment signed by past University President Modesto Maidique.

"The ACUPCC provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to implement comprehensive plans in pursuit of climate neutrality," according to the ACUPCC mission statement on their Web site.

Alexandra Dutton, sustainability program assistant for Parking and Transportation, has been spreading the word about the organization through posters and Students for Environmental Action have been very helpful.

Dutton sends in the amount of pounds in recycling collected to RecycleMania every week. She

works with Joost A. Nuninga, assistant director of University Custodial Services, who sends her the amount of recycled material collected as well as the amount of trash in comparison.

However, many University students were not aware of the competition going on and some do not think it is enough.

"Recycling is a noble effort, but it can't stop there. There is a culture of gross waste and indulgence that must first be addressed, as it is the root cause," said Daniel Teeter, senior majoring in religious studies.

Dutton hopes to use the results of the competition as an educational tool.

"Competing will definitely spring people into action," Dutton said.

Some students share Dutton's enthusiasm.

"I'm really interested in the Going Green projects and it is a

good way to get students involved. I would like to see how far FIU takes this," said Amanda Ghetia, senior majoring in public relations and communications.

Although the competition is near its end, new buildings such as the College of Nursing, are being built with certain standards in an effort to make FIU a greener campus. FIU abides by Leadership in Environment and Energy Design, a set of standards that have to meet energy conservation.

Dutton is also planning for next year's RecycleMania competition. Her anticipated plans include a kick-off and more detailed information on FIU's standing in the competition.

"Next year I want to hype the competition and get the faculty more involved," Dutton said.

The RecycleMania competition ends March 27.

SGC-MMC ELECTIONS

Molina cleared to resubmit paperwork

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
JORGE VALENS
Beacon Staff

In a surprise move, the elections board of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus ruled in favor of allowing disqualified presidential candidate Yuniel Molina to resubmit his application paperwork.

The unanimous decision, rendered Monday night, is a successful conclusion for Molina, who has been disputing his disqualification since it happened.

Molina was disqualified on Feb. 25 after his former vice presidential candidate, Ed Proenza, withdrew from the race.

In the board's decision letter, elections commissioner Christy Flores stated that SGA's elections code does not include provisions to replace a vice presidential candidate, nor does it state directly that a presidential candidate can be disqualified for the withdrawal of his or her running mate.

After Proenza withdrew his candidacy, Molina was initially informed by Flores that he was ineligible to run pursuant to the elections code.

Section 7.05, subsection I, states that

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Views clash at teach-in

HAITI, page 1

ment,” he said.

Maguire has worked with Haiti since the mid 1970s through affiliations with the Inter-American Foundation, The Department of State and John Hopkins, Brown and Georgetown Universities. It has given him the opportunity to witness the demographic imbalance and rural neglect that has plagued Haiti first hand.

In his speech, Maguire outlined several ways to better the situation in Haiti including encouraging real and meaningful decentralization, establishing a Haitian Civil Service Core, as well as investing in “grassroots capitalism.”

Another speaker, Anthony Maingot, professor of sociology at FIU, has known Maguire for decades but does not share the same optimism for Haiti.

“Decentralization under the control of the central elites would end up in corruption. I need not tell you that Haiti is ranked among the 10 most corrupt countries in the world,” Maingot said.

Maingot opened his

remarks by acknowledging the amounts of foreign aid that Haiti is receiving.

“The calculation in terms of international assistance amounts to \$10 billion. If indeed they get \$10 billion that would make it the largest per capita foreign aid ever. It is a Marshall plan plus,” he said.

However, Maingot challenged the audience to look back through history at prior attempts of external assistance.

“Tell me one case where external assistance, whether from the U.S. or Canada, has lifted a country out of underdevelopment. That has to occur from within the country,” Maingot said.

Assistant Professor of history and international relations at FIU Chantalle Verna, echoed some of those sentiments during her turn to speak at the panel.

“Internal domestic ingenuity, creativity and commitment to the island are really what can assist us in moving forward,” she said.

The Haiti Teach-In was hosted by FIU’s School of International and Public Affairs, as well as the Latin

American and Caribbean Center.

Sandra Gonzalez-Levy, FIU’s senior vice president of External Relations, opened the teach-in by acknowledging the University’s continued efforts to support Haiti.

“FIU leadership has reached out to about 600 plus students and 100 plus faculty and staff who were born in Haiti or are of Haitian descent to let them know that we understand the impact this event had on them and their families,” Gonzalez-Levy said.

Gonzalez-Levy highlighted several of the task forces created to help Haiti, including the Protecting Haitian Patrimony Initiative, which brings together international contributors to support Haitian libraries and archives as they begin the difficult and costly process of rebuilding and working toward the future.

“FIU was asked for assistance with setting up virtual learning remote instruction opportunities for the University of Haiti students. They also asked for access to FIU online library of resources,” Gonzalez-Levy said.

The crowd at the teach-in was comprised of several faculty members of the FIU community, students and a number of workers from organizations working in Haiti. Craig Marcklinger, an FIU graduate student who was actually in Haiti during the earthquake was in attendance.

“I just think it’s great that FIU is making such a continued effort to come together to try and educate everybody about what’s going on,” he said.

Board clears Molina to file with new VP

SGA, page 1

“individuals running for president and vice-president will pair up and be on one ballot.” It further states that both candidates must register together in order to run.

“Packets are certified with two people, if one drops, it nulls the entire thing,” said SGC-MMC Advisor Jose Toscano Monday afternoon, prior to the decision.

Flores based her decision on a new provision in the elections code which states that the elections commissioner is able to make ad-hoc edits and decisions on the race, and only apply to that particular race.

According to Molina, he has always been a fully qualified candidate, meeting all of the criteria that the elections code said he needed to have. His grades were in order, his packet was submitted on time and complete, and his running mate was secured.

It was only a week after the candidate applications were due that Molina’s running mate withdrew from the race.

“He withdrew his application on Feb. 25 which was exactly a week after,” Molina said. “That same day, I met with Toscano . . . and that’s when I was told ‘you can’t run anymore.’”

Molina then approached University administration officials with his case including Director of Campus Life Eric Arneson, Vice-President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones and Interim Provost Douglas Wartzok.

In section 7.13, the elections code lists violations that would result in a candidate’s disqualification. Destroying personal, private or University property and attempting or succeeding in voter fraud are two of the sixteen reasons a candidate can be disqualified. This particular case is not listed as one of them.

Had Molina been unsuccessful in his attempts to be reinstated, the election would have been the second-consecutive uncontested

SGC-MMC presidential election, and the fourth in five years.

Initially the idea of an exception was dismissed.

When asked why the race was uncontested, Flores stated in an interview with Student Media Friday evening that Molina and Proenza “withdrew” from the race to “pursue other endeavors.”

“It is not true that I resigned, having her say that is unbelievable,” Molina said.

The elections code includes a measure which allows the board the flexibility to create ad-hoc rules for such cases. According to section 7.03, subsection J, the elections board has the power to “establish temporary, supplemental guidelines for the duration of the current election only.”

Flores initially said that the elections board could decide in Molina’s favor, fixing the situation, but doing so would be unfair other candidates.

“I think that she doesn’t want to seem biased and opening up the floor for anyone else,” Toscano said. “Standing her ground and saying these are the applicants that applied on Feb. 18.”

Pursuant to section 7.06, subsection A, the elections commissioner can declare any candidate ineligible to run if errors found in the candidate’s qualifications are “found to be directly the responsibility of the candidate.”

Molina added that he, after counsel from administration members, filed a grievance with SGC-MMC Judiciary, the first step in the appeals process. That option, Molina claims, was not clarified to him in his conversations with Toscano.

Molina’s full reinstatement is still pending both the resubmitting of his candidacy application by the established deadline of March 10 at 8 p.m., and the approval of his running mate.

CORRECTIONS

In the March 8th issue of *The Beacon*, the paper’s editorial board opined in its weekly editorial that the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan required six more credits of students, on top of the usual 120, resulting in an additional \$852.24 for students over the course of their undergraduate education, and was therefore an additional burden. The QEP is currently in the planning stages and seeks to adapt current classes in the curriculum to fit the global learning requirements, not add additional ones.

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

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SGC-BBC

Council discusses senior senator title

MAUREEN NINO
Asst. News Director

Hoping to increase participation among senators in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus, members deliberated on adding a new position during the March 8 senate meeting.

Nickolay Chikishev, SGC-BBC speaker of the senate and lower division senator, informed the council about possible provisional changes in SGA's constitution to create the new title of senior senator.

"We want to add a provision that says that if you are in the senate for more than one year (two semesters) your title will become senior senator," he said. "People sometimes want that recognition to show that you have been loyal to the organization."

The senior senator will be responsible for his/her personal SGA duties and must also provide leadership and knowledge to new senators on the council.

According to Andrea Cruz, SGC-BBC Honors College senator, this model would emulate the United States government.

"Those who stay for a year will have more experience," she said. "Instead of an increase in salary there may be a bonus at the end of the semester. This will encourage more people to run."

Some senators, however, had reservations against the monetary increase.

"Some of our current senators, I regret to say, do it just for the money and this might give them more of an incentive," said Zahra Arbabi aski, SGC-BBC lower division senator. "I understand we're trying to fix our current problems but I think the best way to solve that is to make sure that the people who enter the senate are dedicated."

This lack of dedication from certain senators according to Greg Baptiste, SGC-BBC lower division senator, is a direct result of poor interviewing during appointments.

"The only real road block [for candidates] was to be able to meet Monday and Wednesday meetings and most of the times there is no one running against you," Baptiste said. "The interview process is easier than a job for a babysitter."

To monitor the senior senators' progress and work, Chikishev recommends that all reports should be monitored and signed off by the speaker of the senate and vice president.

According to Chikishev, senior senators will be worthwhile investments which may amount to \$115 a year per senator with a total of four to five senior senators per term.

However, this amount has yet to be proposed to the University-wide

FUTURE PLANS



RODRIGO ZAMITH/THE BEACON

FIU alumnus Samuel Oyon (left) and transfer student Nina Vorobeva (right) inquire about opportunities at Health Coalition, Inc. Oyon and Vorobeva were among the dozens of students who attended the March 3 Career Fair.

Council and has not been approved.

"We want people coming back, not fresh people," Chikishev said.

"This will be a fairly cheap incentive and effective. Having people come back from the previous year will save us a lot of money."

Two appropriations were also unanimously approved by the senate, including a charitable event created by Mawou Francois, SGC-BBC clerk of council and an Honors College conference.

The Haiti Relief Program is a

charitable event requesting \$375.15 toward purchase of 1,000 Haiti Relief pins that will be provided to donors.

The council also approved funding for the Honors College news literacy conference which was originally tabled on March 1 and once again on March 3 during SGA's meeting.

According to Arbabi aski the original request of \$3,500 was reduced to \$2,782 since several students who were scheduled to attend the conference withdrew from the event, concerned that SGA would not reim-

burse them for the trip.

"This is a little different from when they first proposed because several students backed out since there was no guarantee SGA would pay them," she said.

The group of four students and the monitoring Professor Fred Blevens were appropriated a total of \$1,950 to pay for their travel expenses instead of the original proposed allocation of \$1,112.

Ex-convict acts as mentor to troubled Florida youth

BRIDGET MURPHY
AP Writer

Sylvester Black was a hustler who bounced in and out of jail, with Jacksonville police catching drift of his game and booking him into the Duval County jail — 27 times since he turned 18.

"It was like a game of basketball," he says. "Out of bounds, in bounds, out of bounds, in bounds."

But life has tipped in his direction these days. People call him Mr. Black. He totes a briefcase and wears an employee I.D. tag from the Public Defender's Office.

Weekend visits are part of Black's part-time job — with full-time hours — that also includes standing up for teen clients in court and fielding their phone calls at any hour of the day or night.

On a recent Saturday morning, Black arrived at the West 25th Street apartment of Brian Hughes' family. The 52-year-old was

ready with a pep talk he prayed would help change the 16-year-old's path.

He knocked at their door as a man grasping at legitimacy after spending 27 years, nine months and 8 days of his life behind bars.

It is this life he wants to spare Brian Hughes and young men like him.

"I see me in a lot of these kids," Black says.

In November, police busted Hughes on cocaine charges. A judge put him on home detention as the case worked its way through the justice system. Maria Hughes Harris, his 41-year-old mother tried to understand why a son would mimic a father's mistakes.

"I guess because it wasn't like we had what we used to have. I guess he saw the struggles of his mother," she says.

"What it is, we're all going to make mistakes in life," Black tells Brian. "... But we stand up and knock that dust off. ... It's not about this neighborhood. It's about the individuals in this neighborhood. If we do good, then the good

will come," Black says. "You feel me?"

The mentor soon leaves the apartment feeling a step closer to a mission he often explains like this: "I'm gonna save me a kid. I'm gonna save me a kid if not more."

By 21, Black landed his first prison stint on a burglary charge. In the next two decades he'd do multiple stints, usually for the same offense or probation violations. He got out in 2003, but a weapon arrest sent him back to jail in 2007.

For about a year, he says he slept on a bed of cardboard near City Rescue Mission. One day, he finally went inside.

"It was like the spirit was telling me 'You weren't born to live like you're living. It's your choice.'"

Black was finishing a 16-week janitorial class at Clara White Mission when C.C. Newby asked if any of her students would give testimony at the charity's fundraiser.

When Black spoke to the fundraiser's pearls-and-cufflinks crowd, many teared up when he told of his pride about finally

finishing something in his life besides a prison sentence.

"He said, 'Even if I could help one person,'" Clara White CEO Ju'Coby Pittman said. "His story, all the things he'd been through. He said the right thing at the right time."

It wasn't long before Black had his own employee I.D.

Courtroom 2 at the Duval County Courthouse is packed on a Wednesday morning. Judge James Daniel is on the bench, overseeing arraignments and hearings for juveniles.

The judge calls Brian Hughes' case next. The lawyers talk before the judge seals a guilty plea deal with a probation sentence.

"Where others don't learn from their mistakes, he has," Brian's mother tells the judge. "... I thank Mr. Black for being a mentor ... It took that help to get him to the point where he is now."

Then there is a warning, with the judge telling Brian he doesn't want to see him again.

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MARCH 12

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CEC

Haiti needs an interim reconstruction authority

ROMNEY MANNASSA
Staff Writer

The devastation wrought on Haiti since the Jan. 12 earthquake is unprecedented in the Western Hemisphere. The country's largest city, Port-Au-Prince, was obliterated, along with Haiti's main governmental, religious and cultural institutions.

The human loss, estimated at around 250,000 deaths, would have been horrific enough without the collapse of the nation's government and economic center. Political and economic leadership are, after all, what is most crucial for recovery.

Unfortunately, good government and a healthy economy were already lacking in Haiti long before the earthquake. The poverty rate was among the highest in the hemisphere; infrastructure was destitute, social services were lacking, and government corruption was rampant.

Most buildings in the country were deemed unsafe even before the earthquake reduced them to rubble. What made the tragedy most horrible was that a powerful earthquake stroke a country least able to sustain itself.

It is only through the raw courage and perseverance of the Haitian population that anarchy and mass panic did not ensue, as it had been predicted. However potent it may be, human audacity alone will not restore Haiti. Simply put, Haitians need money, coordination and good leadership to rebuild a country practically from scratch.

But at what cost can this be achieved in Haiti? Clearly, the country is just as poor now as it was before. What remains of its ineffec-

tive and widely distrusted government cannot adequately manage a country on its own.

And, while Haitians have shown a remarkable knack for ingenuity and enterprise, the economic apparatus suitable to cultivate it is absent. In other words, Haiti doesn't have the means or resources to recover on its own. It's going to need outside help from governments, aid organizations and Haitian diaspora.

It's never easy for any country to depend on outsiders for assistance. Most countries accept help only under desperate circumstances, often doing so with much reluctance.

Haiti has long been dependent on numerous aid organizations and foreign governments; the U.N., backed by the U.S., France and Canada, had essentially been managing the country since 2004 (and is currently leading the current recovery effort).

The country also has a history of military intervention and foreign meddling, including years of de facto occupation by the U.S. Needless to say, a combination of outside interference and aid dependence has made Haitians understandably wary of further entrenching themselves to the international community.

At the same time, distrust in a government with a history of corruption and mismanagement remains high, although reports have claimed that President Rene Preval remains relatively popular.

Either way, a middle way will need to be formed in which Haiti can receive the international aid it so badly needs without being left too dependent. Time is running short, as both global attention and the aid that comes with it starts to turn away.

Last year, Haiti's government presented a plan to several aid donors that outlined investments to be made on infrastructure, basic services and the environment. This could be the blueprint for recovery efforts, which should not only rebuild Haiti but aim to fix the numerous problems that affected it in the first place.

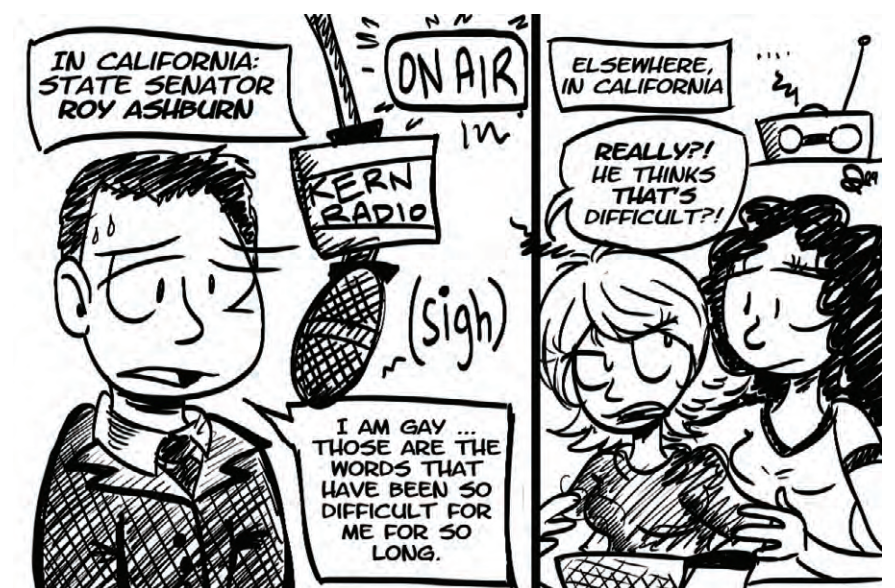
A temporary reconstruction authority should be formed under the auspices of the United Nations and a body of countries, namely the U.S., France, Canada and perhaps Brazil (Haiti's largest contributors). It could include Haitian leaders, such as president and prime ministers,

as well as local and international aid groups.

Ultimately, such a group needs to work with Haitians to better understand the needs of the country. Also, it needs to empower them with the necessary skills to continue driving the country forward once the authority was to leave.

While some may argue that such a plan seems neocolonial, it is the only way of assisting Haiti in restoring itself. If done right, and with proper cooperation, it could someday create a state solid and responsive enough to address the inevitable disasters that may strike in the future.

COMING OUT



GSA is deserving of an adequate governing council

CHARLES HECK
Special to *The Beacon*

Will getting rid of the Graduate Student Association benefit graduate students and FIU?

This is the question I find myself asking after I learned on Monday that proposals to increase the number of graduate representatives in the Student Government Association were linked to the dissolution of the Graduate Student Association.

The most disturbing aspect of the proposal was that they were largely initiated without the knowledge or consent of the graduate students whose futures they so directly impact.

As is often the case when constituents are not properly advised of broad sweeping changes to their representation, this development alarmed many graduate student leaders, including GSA President Svetlana Tyutina. After numerous e-

mails from concerned graduate students, SGA President Anthony Rionda outlined proposals in the March 1 meeting that included an increase in funding to GSA and more seats on SGA. How a defunct GSA will retain funding remains a mystery.

Rionda suddenly announced a town hall meeting after complaints about the absence of a public relations campaign or town hall meeting for informing the public.

Scheduling a town hall on the Friday before spring break will ensure maximum attendance, I am sure.

This kind of top down governing style is not very democratic. Without GSA I have a hard time imagining the way future proposals will be delivered to graduate students, other than after the fact notifications of SGA governing council decrees.

The existence of GSA is important to FIU as a research institu-

tion. FIU is evaluated against other major research institutions according to its placement of graduate students in the positions of employment.

GSA provides graduate students an opportunity to network with other FIU students as well as fund for professional conferences where graduate students will eventually present their original research.

Conferences are a great place to network with future employers and enable graduates to stay current in their respective fields.

Such presentations are an integral part of gaining employment for academics. Since graduate students are often under significant financial constraints, the conference funding that GSA provides is pivotal for promoting FIU as a research institution.

Without some sort of permanent governing council that oversees conference funding, grad-

uate students will have to remake their case every year to groups of newly elected representatives in SGA. This is the crux of the matter. We need a concrete proposal of what the replacement for GSA might look like before anyone votes to dissolve it.

To head off any dismissal that this is a lot of armchair criticism without any positive vision for graduate student governance, here are some suggestions.

First, we need a permanent institution that is composed of graduate students; that also organizes graduate events and provides for research grants and conference funding.

It is my understanding that graduate senators in SGA are currently required to attend GSA meetings and that they are having difficulties doing so. This shouldn't be an insurmountable problem. If incorporating GSA into a graduate council within SGA can be done while meeting

the first criteria, then so be it.

Second, the process for obtaining funding needs to be streamlined and record keeping more organized. GSA used a written card system to keep track of event attendance last year that was broadly unpopular.

It would be fairly simple to create an Excel spreadsheet of graduate students attending events through Orgsync and then check them off after showing an ID (this would also provide a list-serve for communiques). All of the documentation that we provide should be done online and on Orgsync. In addition, a completion evaluation should be issued by GSA.

As the town hall meeting is this March 12, I hope that it isn't an empty gesture of democratic inclusion.

Charles Heck, former President of DISA, the International Studies Graduate Student Association.

DISCLAIMER

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

WINNER/LOSER



"The Hurt Locker," winner of the 82nd Academy Awards for Best Picture. The Iraq-war saga follows a bomb defusing team during the conflict. Earning only \$12 million in the box office during its theatrical run, it's the lowest-grossing Best Picture winner in history.



Lil Wayne, Grammy Award winning rapper was sentenced to a year in prison on Monday. Arrested in 2007 for possessing an illegal firearm on his touring bus, he pleaded guilty to the charges last October. The moral of the story? Don't be an idiot.

QUOTATIONATION

"Let's seize reform, the need is great. How much higher do premiums have to rise before we do something about it?"

President Barack Obama on health care reform

THE BEACON INTERVIEWS: ALICE EVE AND KRYSTEN RITTER

IN OUR LEAGUE

Co-stars discuss transition to comedy

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

The latest R-rated comedy to come out of Hollywood, *She's Out of My League*, starring Jay Baruchel (*Tropic Thunder*) and Alice Eve (*Starter for 10*), will be in theaters March 12. The film is about Kirk (Baruchel), an average Joe who questions himself and bickers with his friends and family after he meets the perfect woman in the form of a pretty party planner named Molly (Eve), who eventually becomes his girlfriend. *The Beacon* had the opportunity to interview Eve and her co-star Krysten Ritter, who plays Molly's best friend Patty.

THE BEACON: Is this your first time in Miami?

ALICE EVE: It is.

KRYSTEN RITTER: It is actually my second time. I had a best friend who moved here and I came to visit her once. I had no idea the water was clear, beautiful and warm until I came to Miami.

TB: Are there any traits that you share with your characters in the film?

AE: I would love to be a party planner like Molly.

KR: Really?

AE: Yeah.

KR: I think every character is like, some extension of yourself, but not really. I think (my character) Patty is pretty bitchy, and I am not. I am more sarcastic, bubbly, silly and goofy in real life.

TB: Alice, as an actress you have had roles that require you to do accents. Is it hard as an actress to try to maintain an accent?

AE: That is interesting because a lot of the characters I play, the first thing I approach is the voice. It is not so much about the accent, even though the accent is nice, but it is about the pitch of the voice. Molly is a little higher and sweeter. You have to remember where the character lives. (In post-production), when you do ADR (automatic dialog replacement), you



COURTESY OF ACESHOWBIZ.COM

have to find the center of the character again.

TB: Krysten, I read that you are in a band called Ex-Vivian...

KR: Yeah, it is fun because I recorded a whole new song in the bathroom at Omni Hotel for a movie I was in. I have a new show coming out called "Gravity" and I have two songs in the pilot episode. It is really exciting for me because it is nice to have it in and packed on there.

TB: When you play with your band, is it between acting gigs?

KR: Yes. I have been working consistently so I had to figure out a nice balance in order to still feel like a human being. Even if I can still play my guitar for 10 minutes in the morning, I try to at least pick it up every single day.

TB: Both of you have played darker roles in the past. How do feel about transitioning from dramatic movies to a comedic film like *She's Out of My League*?

KR: It is the same job, but it is a different dynamic on set and a different head space you live in.

TB: Which scenes were difficult to shoot for the movie?

AE: We had a lot of night shoots during the movie because you are tired and do not have a lot of energy. It is also always difficult when you

are not wearing very much clothes, cold and you have to pretend you are warm. That is always tough to shoot scenes like that.

TB: Was there any time during the shoot where you had to stop filming because you were constantly laughing?

KR: A billion times daily. The boys are really funny and they're improvising a lot. Sometimes, a line is thrown in during the scene and you are cracking up all the time.

AE: I had that a lot, especially in the scene where I first meet Kirk's family. I often found myself having a hard time not laughing.

TB: What are you planning to do next after all of this is over?

AE: Krysten has got a laundry list she is going to read out and I got *Sex and the City 2* coming out in May.

KR: I am going to do a movie called *Vamps* shortly after we are done touring the country promoting this movie.

TB: What is your role in *Vamps*?

KR: It is a two-hander, which means it will be me and Alicia Silverstone. We play vampires in New York City, where we are having a blast. Something happens in the story where we question our immortality.

PANEL PANEL

McFarlane's new series lacks identity, inspiration

The creator of *Spawn* has finally returned to a creative role in the comic book industry.

After Todd McFarlane helped create Image Comics with *Spawn* in the early 1990s, he left the series in the hands of other writers and accepted his role as a publisher.

After spending several years doing very little creative work, he has returned to writing with a brand new series from Image comics – well, sort of.

Haunt was created by Todd McFarlane and Robert Kirkman. Kirkman handles most of the writing while McFarlane takes care of the inking and draws the cover art. The comic focuses on two brothers, Daniel and Kurt Kilgore. Daniel is an unconventional priest who enjoys spending his free time with prostitutes and indulging in other vices while Kurt is a secret agent who works for the government.

After completing a mission, Kurt is captured and killed by the people whose facility he infiltrated. He returns as a ghost that only Daniel can see and asks him to look over his wife, fearing that the same people who killed him may be after her.

Sure enough, while Daniel is spending the night at his sister-in-law's apartment, she is attacked by a pair of hit men. Kurt jumps into Daniel's body and "with their powers combined" they form *Haunt*, a character who can only be described as a mixture of Spider-Man and *Spawn*.

With his new role as a host for a superhero, Daniel agrees to begin working as an agent for the same agency his brother worked for.

There are no explanations given as to why or how *Haunt* exists, which doesn't help to

diminish the biggest, glaring problem with the series: It's based off a character that is just a combination of the two characters that McFarlane has done his most notable work on.

To its credit, this series isn't really a superhero comic book, which is its only saving grace. Instead, it's centered more on the job that Kurt left behind and Daniel's struggle to take his place, both in the workplace and in taking care of his widowed wife.

Despite not being a complete disaster, *Haunt* is still dry, mundane and boring. There are no dynamics in this series; it is just a constant, flat tone. The dialogue is straight and to the point without any complexion. Characters who have known each other for years address each other in formal terms, which I can only assume serves as a reminder as to who the forgettable characters are and what role they serve in the story.

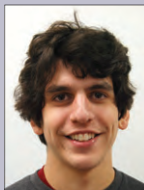
Daniel's personality seems to be heavily reminiscent of Jesse Custer from Garth Ennis' *Preacher* series, which only welcomes more accusations that this comic book can't develop its own identity and, instead, just creates one from different sources.

Haunt certainly does have a story different from his previous work, but when its main character clings onto ceilings and shoots goo-like web, it's just too easy to make comparisons to McFarlane's earlier work.

If Todd McFarlane went into hiding again after *Haunt*, I wouldn't miss him.

Panel Panel is a weekly comics column written in tandem by Sean Gonzalez and Pablo Penton. Look for it every Wednesday.

COLUMNIST



PABLO PENTON

Diversions

↑ ELEVATOR ETIQUETTE



7		2	3		1		
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				9			
		8			1	4	3

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Peace Corps is now expanding its overseas assignments around the globe. The application process is competitive. Full health insurance, travel and training. Learn how you may qualify for the toughest job you will ever love. Visit with our FIU Campus Representative: (305) 348 1006.

FIU seniors encouraged to apply before March 15th deadline.

APPLY ONLINE
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Check website for local FIU events.





Brothers from Phi Mu Alpha performed singing grams during Relay for Life as their team's fundraiser.

relayforLIFE



- 1. Brothers from Lambda Theta Phi perform on stage during the Strolling Showcase.
- 2. Students gather to light votive candles in memoriam of cancer victims past. The candles were placed in bags with the victims' names and used to light up the walkway around the Ryder Business Building for participants throughout the night.
- 3. Ed Proenza dives into the crowd after winning Mr. Relay.
- 4. (Left) Ana Maria Arocha and (Right) Brittany Lola Lipton get 'hitched,' Delta Lambda Phi's fundraiser.



SOFTBALL

Team maintains success in five weekend contests

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU softball team continued to ride a successful start to the season by winning eight of its last 10 contests.

AT HOME

On the home field, where the team has a record of 9-2, the Golden Panthers most recently picked up a win against Eastern Michigan on March 4.

Freshman Brie Rojas led the team with a 2-for-3 effort and a team-high four RBI after knocking out her fourth home run of the season.

Sophomore Jennifer Gniadek recorded the win with seven strikeouts and no earned runs in seven innings of work.

ON THE ROAD

FIU traveled to play in the University of South Florida Under Armor Invitational from March 5-7.

The Golden Panthers split on the first day with a 7-6 victory against Robert



RODRIGO ZAMITH/THE BEACON

FIU pitcher Kasey Barrett continued to dazzle opponents over the weekend with solid pitching.

Morris and a 1-0 loss to Fordham.

On day two, the Golden Panthers swept the day with wins against Penn State and Boston University.

In the 5-0 win over the Nittany Lions, FIU pitcher Kasey Barrett threw a seven-inning shutout that included two hits and 11 strikeouts.

The game against the Terriers was much closer.

Sophomore Ashley McClain led the FIU offense with three RBI while Barrett earned her third save of the year in relief of Gniadek in the 8-7 victory.

Unfortunately for FIU, they wrapped up the road trip with their fourth loss of the year on March 7.

McClain recorded the loss on the mound in the 3-1 deficit to Bradley.

TENNIS

Golden Panthers look for fourth straight win

JONATHAN RAMOS
Sports Director

The FIU (8-5) tennis team defeated Louisiana 4-3 on March 7, a day after dropping Middle Tennessee 5-2 on March 6. The Golden Panthers have now won three straight contests to start their season long eight-game home stand after previously losing four of six games.

The streak will get tested today against No. 16 Miami (FL) at 2 p.m.

FIU will look to keep their season long streak alive against Miami (6-3) while getting some revenge as well.

The Hurricanes beat the Golden Panthers twice last season, once in which they handed them a loss during the regular season and another to end FIU's 2009 campaign at the NCAA Coral Gables Regional on May 9.

This season, Miami comes to FIU with a three-game winning streak of their own, looking to halt FIU's current stretch of

success.

Miami is led by the No. 3 doubles team in the country in the duo of Anna Bartenstein and Claudia Wasilewski.

Junior All-American Bianca Eichkorn, ranked 40th nationally, will lead the singles grouping for Miami and likely match up against Brito (No. 87).

No. 49 FIU began last weekend by handling MTSU in doubles competition to earn the point behind Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo, as Brito, Castillo, Maria Spenceley and Christine Seredni won singles points to seal the win.

Against UL, the Golden Panthers lost the doubles point when Liset Brito and Priscilla Castillo fell 8-2 to UL's Julie Mazinova and Mia Gordon, but captured four of the six singles points to edge the Rajin Cajuns (2-6).

Brito, Castillo, Maria Spenceley and Maria Vallasciani won their respective singles matches.

Wittels leads team in hits

BASEBALL, page 1

STAYING HOT

Garrett Wittels continues to prove himself as the Golden Panthers' most consistent hitter, hitting safely in

all 10 games FIU has played so far this season.

As of March 8, Wittels has a team-high .512 batting average with 22 hits, another team best.

Coupled with his stellar

play at defense, the former Michael Krop High standout has quickly emerged as a staple to the Golden Panthers' success so far this season.

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THE NEXT LEVEL



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Former FIU offensive lineman Andy Leavine runs a drill during the team's pro day event in front of NFL scouts last week. The current Golden Panthers began spring practice on March 3 in preparation for a late March spring game, which is currently slated for March 31.

BASEBALL NOTEBOOK

Golden Panthers lose to No. 2 ASU; Wittels stays hot

JOEL DELGADO
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (8-2) ended their first road trip of the season on a sour note, losing to No. 2 Arizona State (11-0) in a game that was cut short after seven innings of play due to rainy weather conditions on March 8.

The Sun Devils were the first ranked opponent FIU has faced so far this season, and remained undefeated after the conclusion of the Coca-Cola Classic held in Surprise, Ariz.

The Golden Panthers came out of the tournament with two wins and two losses.

After a rain delay postponed the opening pitch, FIU opened up the scoring in the top of the first when Mike Martinez singled to left to bring in Pablo Bermudez to give

the Panthers an early lead.

Martinez finished 2-for-3 in the loss with an RBI and two singles, leading the Golden Panther offense which mustered a total of seven hits for the game.

FIU starter Aaron Arboleya got through the first two innings unscathed, but the Sun Devils evened up the score in the third inning with an RBI single to even up the score 1-1.

Arizona State picked up two more runs off of Arboleya in the fifth and added another off of reliever Eric Berkowitz to finish the scoring.

Arboleya was the pitcher of record, earning the loss and dropping to 1-1 for the season. In five innings of work, the sophomore right-hander allowed three runs, one of which was unearned, and allowed seven hits in the loss. He

also struck out six Sun Devil batters in the loss.

For Arizona State, starter Jake Borup was able to settle down after giving up a run in the first inning and was able to keep the FIU offense in check. Borup pitched five innings and allowed just one earned run in that span, earning the victory and improving his record to 3-0.

The game was called after the lightning and rain returned and the tarp had to be placed back on to the field.

Just before the tarps were brought out in the top of the eighth, Wittels opened up the inning with a single to right-center field to keep his hitting streak alive, extending the streak to a team-high 10 games.

The Golden Panthers return home and hope to keep their perfect 6-0 record at home intact with a



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Aaron Arboleya [above] picked up his first loss of the season against the No. 2 Arizona State Sun Devils on Sunday.

two-game series against Boston College on March 9 and 10 before taking on Rutgers for a three-game weekend series beginning March 12.

Boston College will be the

second ACC opponent FIU has faced so far this season, as they faced Maryland to open the season on Feb. 19-21.

BASEBALL, page 2

ON THE INCLINE

Team shows progress despite early exit in SBC tournament

The FIU women's basketball team could have ended their season with at least a first round win in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Especially as they played a team in the first round that they had already beat twice during the regular season: North Texas.

Of course, it's always hard to beat a team three consecutive times, but when it's a team that you beat by at least 11 points on two occasions, it should be easier.

The No. 7 seeded Golden Panthers (14-16, 9-9), however, seemed to lack the right mindset heading into the tournament.

Some FIU players commented before the trip to Hot Springs that their team might come in "sluggish" and that NT is "fired-up." There was even talk that some players on the team were perhaps playing "individually" toward the end of the season.

FIU went to the tournament with those unsolved issues and came out upset by the No. 10 Mean Green, who they had just beaten on Feb. 6 by 18 points – their second largest point margin



PHOTOS BY CHRIS ADAMS/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Freshman guard Carmen Miloglav [left] and junior guard Michelle Gonzalez [right] were instrumental in the Golden Panthers' improvement this season and will need to rely on young talent again next season with key seniors graduating this year.

of the season.

It wasn't that North Texas was a better team. Rather, the Mean Green came out ready to play and rode on momentum throughout the game to upset the Golden Panthers, who indeed came out sluggish with a 27.8 percent (15-of-54) shooting effort.

It also didn't help that the Golden Panthers would have had to play Middle

Tennessee, whom they lost to twice this season by a combined 75 points, if they were to advance to the second round.

However, some confidence clearly could have helped as anything can happen when tournament time comes.

For example, No. 12 seeded New Orleans has stunned the SBC tournament by upsetting No. 5 Florida

Atlantic and No. 4 Denver before bowing out to No. 1 Arkansas-Little Rock.

FIU could have been the team that came to play and stun the crowd.

Instead, people wondered why the team that looked so complete toward the end of the season had lost by double digits to a conference foe.

The season as a whole, however, proved to be

impressive compared to last year's, including an eight-win improvement.

Offensively, FIU improved their scoring output along with increased field goal, free throw and three-point percentages. The team averaged just 53.5 points per game last season compared to 60.8 for this year's campaign.

With lowering scoring outputs from seniors Monika

Bosilj and Ashley Traugott, other players were there to step it up.

In the backcourt, point-guard Michelle Gonzalez improved from 9.3 points per game last season to 11.7 this year while Elisa Carey dominated the frontcourt with a team leading 13.6 ppg.

Defensively, the Golden Panthers also proved to be stronger. Opponents' numbers decreased in every statistical category against FIU except for three-point field goal percentage and free-throw percentage while Carey led a very intimidating frontcourt for FIU with 48 blocks in 27 games.

A downside to the season has to be the loss of four seniors in Bosilj, Traugott, Marquita Adley and Cherisse Buddy.

Traugott and Buddy contributed as reserves for the Golden Panthers in a limited capacity, but Bosilj goes out as the school's all-time leader in three-point field goals and Adley leaves as No. 7 on the list for career blocked shots.

With Cindy Russo likely to return for her 34th season next fall, the Golden Panthers showed enough promise this season to believe they can be a conference contender, but only if the teams continues to make strides in 2010-11.