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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Bill to make student BOG representative governor-appointed

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News Director

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A Florida Senate bill to make the student member of the Florida Board of Governors a position appointed by the governor was approved by a higher education committee on Feb. 9.

Several members of the Florida Student Association showed opposition to SJR 1508 because it would eliminate the ability for the organization to elect their student leader through democratic voting.

The approved bill would give the appointment power to Gov. Rick Scott.

“**This proposed gubernatorial appointment would favor the largest schools with the most legislative influence.**”

Michael Long,
Chairperson
Florida Student Association

“The student seat on the board is the most important member,” said Sen. Bill Montford, one of the sponsors of the bill. “What is the concern is how that member is selected.”

Patrick O’Keefe, Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus president, serves as FSA’s external vice chair and believed that having student body presidents elect their own leader gives more universities the opportunity for representation.

O’Keefe, along with eight other student body presidents, traveled to Tallahassee for the Thursday hearing to state their opposition.

“If it’s a gubernatorial [appointment,] you’re going to have political pressure to be making votes,” said O’Keefe, when he testified before the committee.

The Chairperson of the FSA, Michael Long, told the committee that FSA’s system “is a functional representative democracy.

Students select their own leaders with their own voice.”

Long wrote in a letter to members of the Florida Senate that the bill favors students from Florida State University and University of Florida since they have the strongest power within the legislature.

“This proposed gubernatorial appointment would favor the largest schools with the most legislative influence, thus creating a politicized system that detriments and excludes students at universities such as Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, University of North Florida, etc,” said Long.

Sen. Don Gaetz, a co-sponsor of the bill, said he hoped to avoid what he called a “pay-to-play” situation, since only members of the FSA could be elected to sit on the board. Every state university had to pay \$8,000 in membership fees to be a part of the FSA.

Last year, FSU student body president Avi Assidon decided that his school would not pay the membership fee.

Now the FSU and UF student government associations are supporting the bill so that Scott may select the BOG student member directly.

Recently, the FSA changed its bylaws so that dues are not mandatory for membership.

“[Long] was unanimously selected by the nine other SGA Presidents from the SUS and I,” said O’Keefe to Student Media. “If this becomes law, it is highly unlikely that someone like Mike will ever be chosen for the BOG seat ever again.”

Sen. Steve Olerich, the committee’s chair, was the only “no” vote.

“I squarely side with the students electing their representatives themselves,” said Sen. Thad Altman, who reluctantly voted “yes” on the bill so that students could keep working out the conflicts and come to a compromise.

The bill will now move to the Florida Senate floor.

“I feel confident that this issue will resolve itself either one way or another,” said O’Keefe.

OCCUPY FIU

Rosenberg joins University community for open forum



ALEXIA ESCALANTE/THE BEACON

William Sanchez, a senior political science major and Occupy FIU member, introduced University President Mark Rosenberg at the Feb. 10 Occupy FIU meeting in the Graham Center Lawn. The event was structured as a back-and-forth dialogue regarding free speech and tuition at the University.

MARIELLA ROQUE

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Occupy FIU held a Q-and-A session with University President Mark Rosenberg on the Graham Center lawn last Friday.

The event took place exactly two weeks after the group met the president in his office to discuss the on-campus arrest of seven of its members on Jan. 12.

“We’re here to propose solutions and address problems [such as] administration bloating,” said Alex Rosales, an alum with a degree in political science and sociology.

William Sanchez, a senior majoring in political science, explained that the movement wished to “raise awareness in the student body” and asked “for President Rosenberg to concede and accept a free speech campus.”

Students who wished to ask Rosenberg questions were allowed three minutes each via microphone.

“We want some change and we want it now,” Sanchez said.

Among the questions, students asked about rising tuition, the administrative salaries and the free speech zones designated around campus.

“There is free speech and academic freedom,” Rosenberg said. “We believe in [academic freedom] as long as it’s exercised responsibly.”

Regarding freedom of assembly on campus, Rosenberg said he would “soon have a response to that.”

As the rain began to pour down on the event, Rosenberg and students stood under a tent, to continue the session.

David Cordero, an environmental studies major and member of Students for Environmental Action, asked Rosenberg to adopt the Student Green Energy Fund, a \$1 per credit

fee that would go towards the goal of carbon neutrality at the University.

Rosenberg said he would be “happy to work with [the students] to get that dollar fee.”

Brian Peterson, a history professor and the only faculty member of the Occupy FIU movement, also attended the event.

“The goal [of Occupy FIU] is to create a democratic university that really cares for students,” Peterson said.

As the final question, Sanchez also petitioned Rosenberg to drop the charges against the persons arrested on Jan. 12.

“The answer is no... because I don’t have a role in that. . .” said Rosenberg. “Whatever the state attorney decides, we will live with that.”

“**We believe in [academic freedom] as long as it’s exercised responsibly.**”

Mark Rosenberg
President
FIU

“[Rosenberg] is saying it’s out of his hands, but he still has the power to condemn the arrests,” said Victoria Aguila, an alum. “He has to stop getting information from people that weren’t there.”

Before leaving, Rosenberg told Student Media, “[the session] met my expectations. [The students] are doing what they should be doing.”

COMING UP | News

Check out Wednesday’s issue for a men’s basketball feature on sophomore forward Dominique Ferguson.

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NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Teen, 17, critically injured in Miami shooting

Police say a gunman opened fire on a group of teens walking home from school in Miami’s Liberty City neighborhood.

Miami-Dade police say the gunman opened fire from a moving car Thursday afternoon, critically injuring 17-year-old Brandon Allen. Police say no other teens were injured in the attack.

The teen was taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital, where he underwent surgery Thursday night. Police say he remained in serious condition on Friday morning.

Detectives arrested 18-year-old Terry Joseph Darling. He is charged with one count of attempted first degree murder and three counts of aggravated assault.

It was the second shooting in less than a day in the area.

On Wednesday night, an officer in a multi-agency robbery detail, shot and killed a suspect following a confrontation.

NATIONAL

Sandusky takes stand over request for local jury

Former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky briefly testified at a pretrial hearing Friday, telling the judge overseeing his child sex-abuse case that he believes a local jury would be as fair and unbiased as those from anywhere else in Pennsylvania.

Judge John Cleland wanted to hear directly from Sandusky on the jury question. Prosecutors want to seat an out-of-county jury in the high-profile case, given the widespread media attention and close ties many people in Centre County have to Penn State.

Cleland also set a tentative trial date of May 14.

WORLD

Syria says suicide bombers kill 28 in Aleppo

Two suicide car bombers struck Syrian security compounds in Aleppo on Friday, killing 28 people, Syrian officials said, bringing significant violence for the first time to a major city that has largely stood by President Bashar Assad in the 11-month-old uprising against his rule.

State media touted the blasts as proof that the regime faces a campaign by terrorists, not a popular uprising against Assad’s rule. The opposition, in turn, accused the regime of trying to smear its movement as government forces try to crush rebels in one of their main strongholds, Homs.

The military, meanwhile, stepped up its siege of Homs that has reportedly killed hundreds over the past week.

– Compiled by Lauren Rovira

HEAR YE, HEAR YE



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

On Feb. 10, members of the Student Government Association and the University-Wide Budget Committee participated in the second day of University-wide budget hearings for the allocation of over \$13 million in A & S fees.

FACULTY

Professors boycott major publisher

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Researchers at the University are taking a stand against one of the world’s largest scientific journal publishers.

The nation-wide boycott, which has been gaining momentum over the last couple weeks, is encouraging researchers from all fields to refrain from publishing, refereeing, and doing editorial work for journal publisher, Elsevier, until the company “radically changes how they operate.”

As of Feb. 8, 4,690 pledges by researchers were posted on the pages of thecostofknowledge.com as part of the boycott.

Stephen Charman, professor at the University and member of the editorial board of The Journal of Applied Research in Memory and Cognition, published by Elsevier, said he fully supports the boycott, in part because of the high prices, which limit availability.

“Many of these publishers make it difficult to gain access to this work, and charge a substantial fee in order to do so,” Charman said. “In fact, unless you are at a university that pays a very large amount of money for access to these journals, the cost can be virtually prohibitively expensive, making it almost impossible for tax payers to access the very studies they paid to fund in the first place.”

The homepage of the boycott lists three objections against the publisher’s practices: High prices for individual journals, journal bundles that do not benefit university libraries, and Elsevier’s support of legislation such as SOPA, PIPA and the Research Works Act which aim to restrict the free exchange of information.

Philip Bolton, electronic theses and dissertations coordinator for the University Graduate School, is among the FIU faculty that pledged to “Won’t Publish” and shares this view.

“As a public university, public money is used to fund research and that research isn’t always available to the people who

fund the research, the taxpayers,” Bolton said.

Another objection Charman and other researchers have against Elsevier is that it limits the free flow of information through their pay wall.

“It is my, and most scientists’ beliefs, that science should be as open and transparent as possible; science works best when there is a free flow of information,” Charman said. “Elsevier is directly opposed to this goal: they want to make money, and they do that by making it difficult to gain access to journals unless you pay [for] them.”

“Elsevier needs researchers. Researchers do not need Elsevier. And we are now considering other options.”

Stephen Charman,
Professor
Psychology

Despite the thousands of pledges, both Charman and Bolton agree that for the boycott to bring changes, there needs to be much more support from researchers, librarians and students.

“Unless there is substantial support from the research community, I’m not sure if they would respond at all,” Charman said.

Bolton also noted that although the boycott is research-lead, students play a key role that begins with understanding where their information comes from and the costs incurred by the University to acquire it.

“Elsevier is aware of the issue and until they experience true loss from faculty boycotts, I doubt they’ll make concessions,” Bolton said. “Students should be aware of where their information comes from. Students should understand the issue and support their faculty and librarians.”

Associate professor for the department of mathematics, Thomas Leness showed his support to the boycott by pledging “Won’t Publish, Won’t Referee, Won’t do Editorial Work” and while he supports the cause he is also aware of the changes this will bring to his research.

“Not publishing in Elsevier journals means I have to find other journals in which to publish. I have published in Elsevier journals in the past so this does present an inconvenience,” Leness said. “I think that will be difficult to do [since] helping other mathematicians edit and improve their work is an important professional responsibility.”

Researchers believe this boycott will also shine a light on the publishing industry as whole and bring about awaited changes.

“I think it is encouraging researchers to take a hard look at academic publishing models. Elsevier is considered to be particularly egregious, compared to other publishers, in terms of cost, but I think there is a more general trend for researchers to question the necessity of the current publishing models,” Charman said.

Growing continuously, the Elsevier boycott is a demonstration that argues for a reformation of a publishing model that many say is outdated.

“The boycott represents a realization that we do not need outdated publishing models and as the people who ultimately control the commodity that Elsevier is selling, we have some control over this situation, and we are in a position to decide what we do with it,” Charman said. “Elsevier needs researchers; researchers do not need Elsevier. And we are now considering other options.”

Furthermore, Bolton added that a move towards the Open Access type of publishing would benefit both researchers and students.

“Faculty members and researchers are working hard to beat cancer, to overcome racism, to understand the universe, and if that information is locked behind high subscription prices, said Bolton. “It’s severely obvious that this impedes ‘the progress of science.’”

THE BEACON

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

TEAM EFFORT

Three Panthers reach double figures in 58-42 win

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If there is a lesson to be learned after the Panthers 58-42 defeat of Denver on Feb. 11 it's this— they are much deeper than just Jerica Coley. The Panthers have been dependent on the skills of Coley to carry them through most games this season, win or loss. Against Denver, however, Coley scored just 18 points, four in the second half.

But, the Panthers picked up contributions from nearly every other player that saw action on Saturday in their victory. Head coach Cindy Russo was pleased to see it.

"It was an awesome game," Russo said. "Our defense was just incredible. We rebounded well. We stuck most of the time with our strategy. They were just not able to handle our post game."

That post game combined for 22 points between Finda Mansare and Diamond Ashmore. The Panthers also out-rebounded the Pioneers 43-34 in the paint, the third time in their last four that they have done so.

"It's something we've emphasized lately," Russo said.

This was the first game that Ashmore, a junior, saw significant playing time as a Panther since transferring from Tallahassee Community College last season. She scored eight points and

pulled down three rebounds. Ashmore could not have been more ecstatic for her opportunity.

"It felt good," Ashmore said with a laugh. "Just hopefully I can continue to help my teammates and our progress to make it further."

Coach Russo is expecting her to keep contributing like this rest of the way.

"Diamond [Ashmore] did a great job defensively tonight," Russo said. "She helped everybody. I think that was a real turning point in our game. She's going to continue to play well."

Not only were the Panthers able to shoot well (38 percent), but they locked down Denver shooters, holding them as a team to shoot just 28 percent from the field and 18 percent from three-point range.

The Pioneers were held to just 42 points, their second lowest scoring output of the season.

Other than Coley and Ashmore, Mansare bounced back after fouling out early in the second half in the Panthers last game against North Texas. She got a double-double, scoring 14 points and pulling down ten boards.

Fanni Hutlassa, who was injured in the first half and had to be helped off the floor with an ankle injury and did not return until the second half began, finished the game with ten points after only scoring two in the first half.

This marks the first time in the past seven games that three Panthers reached double figures in scoring.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Fanni Hutlassa (right) scored ten points, despite going out in the first half with an ankle injury.

SOFTBALL

Slow start leads to lopsided loss for Panthers



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

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Rain hampered the FIU Softball Complex throughout the day and it caused FIU to have its game pushed back from a 7 p.m. first pitch to an 11:17 p.m. start time on Feb. 10.

MICHIGAN STATE 8, FIU 2

With much anticipation leading into the new season the Panthers hit a slight bump on the 2012 road, as FIU fell to Michigan State 8-2 in the final game of the first day of the COMBAT Classic.

While the score may be misleading the Panthers actually had the early advantage in the opening stages of the game. Pitcher Jenn Gniadek helped put the Panthers on the fast track commanding the zone and keeping Michigan State off balance.

FIU then got on the board in the fourth inning as Kayla Burri drove in a run on a bunt single and Rachel Slowik drove another with a single to take an early 2-0 lead.

The inning started with AJ Woodward drawing a walk and Alex Casals advancing to third on an error. That then lead to Kayla's perfect bunt and Rachels beautifully placed single.

But for FIU, after Gniadek pitched four brilliant innings, the Spartans' bats woke up and the FIU lead was no more.

The fifth inning was what put the Panthers out of the ball-game when Michigan State posted up a five spot.

"That fifth inning was a Greek tragedy a couple of walks, a couple of bad bounces our way and that's what happened" Coach Jake Schumann said.

The Spartans five runs came from four hits, an error and a questionable obstruction call that cost FIU a run. And for extra measure, Michigan State added two more runs in the following inning leaving little hope for the Panthers in the next two frames.

Jenn Gniadek (above) gave up six runs in five innings of work as fell 8-2 to Michigan Stae on Feb. 10.

SEE COMBAT CLASSIC, PAGE 4



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

After beating Florida Atlantic by 20 points, the men’s team falls to North Texas 68-61 at home on Feb. 9.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Poor shooting leads to Panthers home loss against Mean Green

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With NBA scouts in the building, the Panthers could not show off their true talents.

Phil Taylor led the Panthers with 16 points as they fell to the North Texas Mean Green 68-61 on Feb. 9. DeJuan Wright chipped in with 13 points, seven rebounds and a career-high five assists. It just wasn’t enough.

“It really came down to the little things,” head coach Isiah Thomas said. “In the second half, we had a couple of break downs that they took advantage of.”

Neither the Panthers nor the Mean Green could connect on a consistent level shooting-wise, until the second half, where FIU shot .361 percent from the field compared to North Texas’ .591 percent.

The two teams were even in just about every statistical category except assists, where the Mean Green led 18-7, and rebounds, a 44-30 advantage for North Texas. FIU came flying out of the

starting gate, with Taylor scoring nine of the Panthers’ first 11 points of the game.

The Panthers maintained the lead for the first 15 minutes of the game, until freshman forward Tony Mitchell threw down an emphatic dunk to give North Texas a 18-17 lead.

Even as they trailed, the deficit was never greater than three, as they went into halftime down 26-23.

Taylor and Wright came out of the break attacking the basket, giving the Panthers a 33-32 lead with 16:22 left in the game. North Texas tightened up the defense, forcing the Panthers to miss six of their next nine shots, giving way for the Mean Green to connect on two three-pointers, to build a comfortable 58-46 lead.

“Those three’s changed the game,” Wright said.

A late surge by the Panthers cut the lead down to six with one minute to go, but it was too little, too late, as North Texas held on for the win, 68-61.

“At the end of the game, we didn’t make plays and they did,” Thomas said.

FIU unable to salvage win in COMBAT Classic

COMBAT CLASSIC, PAGE 3

“I thought we swung the bats really well we just left three runners at third base... and that will kill you,” Schumann said.

LOUISVILLE 4, FIU 2

Despite having an ace toeing the rubber, it was just not in the cards for the Panthers as they fell to the Cardinals 4-2 on Feb. 11.

It was very clear from the get go that Ashley McClain could not fool the Louisville hitters. The Cardinals got on the board early in the first when Jennifer Esteban singled and an out later Jordan Trimble drove her home with another single.

The second inning made sure that McClain’s day would be cut short when the Cardinals got four consecutive hits leading to Jenn Gniadek coming in relief for FIU.

Whitney Arion and Hannah Kiyohara hit back-to-back doubles for the Cardinals which then brought Kristin Austin and Jennifer Esteban to each single, loading the bases for Trimble to have an RBI single putting the score at 3-0 for Louisville.

Besides the rough innings

early on for FIU, what hurt them the most was the inability to drive in runners in scoring position.

“We didn’t do a good job moving runners and executing offensively... just a failure to execute the little things that people don’t see on a boxscore,” Coach Schumann said.

This was evident in the second inning when FIU had the bases loaded with two outs and Jessy Alfonso popped up to end the inning with McClain on deck. FIU was able to get a run across that inning via a wild pitch.

FIU would again score in the third but it was to no avail as Louisville added an insurance run in the sixth sealing another loss on the Panthers record.

UMASS 3, FIU 1

While their second game was much more competitive, both carried the same result as FIU fell 3-1 to UMass in a heart-breaker.

It was a pitcher’s duel as Mariah Dawson and Sara Plourde from UMass were matching up pitch by pitch.

Mariah was electric

throughout the course of the game continually keeping the Minutewomen off-balance. This lead to Mariah posting nine strikeouts despite allowing three earned runs.

Offensively the Panthers got on the board first in the second inning when Beth Peller advanced Kayla Burri who got on board with walk to. Jessy Alfonso popped up towards the third base line only to see it drop, allowing Burri enough time to score on the error.

The Minutewomen tied things up in the third on a Kyllie Magill double.

In the seventh Magill struck again for UMass with an RBI double with the bases loaded lifting Massachusetts to a 3-1 win.

With three consecutive losses during the Combat Classic the Panthers have hit a rough patch to start off the year.

“We were a little lackadaisical and didn’t put in the focus that we needed to have... it’s the same thing as the last two nights. There are some glaring things that are going to have to work on for the next week,” Schumann said.



JONATHAN SEGAL/THE BEACON

Kayla Burri (left) scores on a wild pitch against Louisville on Feb. 11.

COMBAT CLASSIC TOURNAMENT GAME RECAPS



FEB. 10
FIU 2,
MSU 8
FINAL



FEB. 11
FIU 2,
LOUISVILLE 4
FINAL



FEB. 11
FIU 1,
UMASS 3
FINAL

LOVE AND DATING

Students weigh in on holiday

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Valentine's Day has caught a lot of flak in recent years for celebrating materialism rather than love.

Students are definitely using money this year to impress their loved ones, from making reservations at a favorite restaurant or buying roses.

On average, Americans spend more than \$700 million on Valentine's Day, according to Consumer Reports.

But, the exchange of money doesn't necessarily mean students have forgotten the true meaning of Valentine's Day.

Whether you are going to dinner with your loved one or simply going out with a bunch of your friends, it seems that Valentine's Day is a lot more than a silly holiday.

Some students believe they owe it to themselves to spice up this day whether they are single or taken. "You

deserve that much," like Drake said.

Speaking of Drake, Katherina Julien, a junior biology major, will be attending Drake's concert with a couple of her best friends.

"I am looking forward to spending Valentine's Day at this amazing concert with all my close friends. It is definitely something different for a day like this, being that most people wait in long lines for their dinner reservations," said Julien.

Julien and her friends were the lucky few who were able to get tickets for the sold-out event.

Love is certainly in the air for some couples around campus.

Bianca Perez, a journalism student, and Matthew Hanlon, a finance major, have been very much in love now for two years. While Hanlon plans to keep his date night schedule secret, Perez expressed what she believed Valentine's Day is about.

"I look forward to

this day every year because it is not only a day to remind him how much I love him, but to also remind those around me, like my family and friends, how much I love them, too," said Perez.

Cynthia Roig has different plans in mind. She and her girlfriend, who have been together for eight months now, will be laying low on Feb. 14.

"Our money will be put to better use the weekend after when we fly out to New York City for our first vacation together. We look forward to five days of adventure and romance with no other distractions," said Roig.

Saving up for a vacation is certainly a unique way to relish the holiday.

"The small thought is what matters the most," said Kristy Mena, an alumna of the University.

"Guys think they have to go above and beyond and spend their savings on this day, but really, it's the little

details and thoughts that truly stick with you for a lifetime," she said.

"Sometimes, home-made things are unique and more special than dinner and a movie." She even recalls a time when her date cooked her dinner, made dessert and topped the night off with her favorite glass of wine.

"The night couldn't have been better, especially since he cooked for me and had never done so before. He was a great cook, too," said Mena.

There are so many other ways to enjoy the holiday while keeping a decent budget in mind.

For anyone dating someone special, sending flowers or making your very own card can get you those brownie points you were hoping for.

Whether you are lying low, heading out to a concert with friends, or simply going to dinner with your significant other, enjoy the holiday for its meaning—not only this day but every day.



KRISTI CAMARA/THE BEACON

Unusual Date Ideas



Start off the day with romance

Wake up at 5 a.m. and watch the sunrise together at the beach. There is nothing more romantic than a sunrise on a deserted beach. Bring a blanket, breakfast, coffee and a camera to document your adventure. If you are more of an evening person, try to watch the sunset.



Go 50/50

Sometimes, it is overwhelming to plan the entire Valentine's Day date night experience, so split the homework by planning half of the evening. One of you can pick the restaurant or bar, and the other can check out art galleries, concerts, plays, films or other activities.



Watch a double feature

Catch the Film Initiative: Underground's screening of "Before Sunrise" and "Before Sunset" on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. in GC 150. "Before Sunrise" tells the love story of two strangers. The best part of the event is that it's absolutely free, saving you cash to splurge on gifts.



Jazz in the gardens

Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens is hosting a jazz concert on Valentine's Day. Walk around the gardens from dusk until the concert starts at 7 p.m. General admission is \$60, but students with an ID get in for \$25. You can purchase tickets by phone at 305-667-1651, ext. 3377.



Stay in

Pick up ingredients for dinner and dessert and rent a movie you have been meaning to watch. Agree that each of you picks one recipe and one movie in order to surprise each other with your choices. Then, plop down on the sofa, or in bed, and spend the night at home.



Mini Road Trip

Take the (sort of short) drive to West Palm Beach or Key West and do touristy things shamelessly. Eat at Hamburger Heaven and tour Clematis Street in West Palm Beach, or walk around Key West admiring all the historic districts and grab drinks by the water.

HAUTE TOPIC

What to wear: V-day Edition

Do not look at Valentine's Day as a day to binge on chocolate from your significant other or contemplate running over happy couples. Instead, look at it as an opportunity to get dressed up and go out. Here are a few suggestions of what to wear on the day which is reserved for proclaiming your feelings to your loved ones—or yourself.

ROMANTIC DINNER

I am sure you have been on a million dinner dates with your lover before, so spice it up with an outfit atypical from a short dress or blouse and jeans. Ladies, try something sophisticated and sexy, like a solid black-colored jumpsuit with a low neckline. Wear bright-colored heels to complement the black.

Wide-leg pants made of silk with a funky print and a favorite tank top in a basic color is also an unexpected pick, but comfortable and chic. A neutral-colored sandal would go well with prints, no matter the color

"I am sure you have been on a million dinner dates before, so spice it up with an atypical outfit."

combinations.

If you must wear a dress, try one with a peplum detail like those seen on Jason Wu's Spring Summer 2012 runway. A peachy or bright red color would definitely suit the holiday.

Guys, try a pair of beige

or gray chinos with a plaid shirt and a navy sports coat in twill. Slap on a skinny tie to dress up the look.

Another option is to try a vest with a button-down underneath. Skip the tie for this setup to avoid looking outdated.

THEATER OR OPERA

If you are going to some sort of fancy performance where you will be the youngest couple in the audience, take cues from the spring pastel trends. Pastel-colored trousers paired with a breezy pastel blouse or button-down is both dressy and young, but also appropriate for the venue.

Do not forget about lace. White or pastel-colored lace tops go well with a pencil skirt.

Guys, this is your opportunity to break out that nice fitting suit. I know I would be

SEE WEAR, PAGE 6

COLUMNIST



ESRA ERDOGAN

SEX

Casual sex more common, has its consequences

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With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, it is easy to guess what is on most students’ minds: sex. Casual sex has become more common among University students, raising the concerns and statistics of STDs and unplanned pregnancies, as well as the need to educate students.

For Nicole Billitz, a junior English major, casual sex is an equally casual subject as she openly admits her previous engagements. “This also depends on what exactly you consider ‘casual sex,’” she said. “In my case, when it happens, it’s with the same person—we just don’t want a relationship.”

The essential meaning of casual sex takes on many definitions dependent on who is, or is not, practicing it.

For two University of Montana researchers, the

attempt to disambiguate the term resulted in a clear definition: a sexual encounter between two people who are not in a dating or serious relationship and do not expect anything further.

“[Students] may think it’s monogamous to practice casual sex with the same partner, but most students change partners within months,” said Katherine Chadwell, a clinical assistant professor at the University.

“If you have sex with three people in one year, and they have sex with the same amount of people, you could be exposing up to seven people with diseases. When you have sex with one person, it’s like having sex with every partner that person has previously been with,” she said.

An online statistic released in 2010 showed that one in four college students have an STD, and 80 percent of those who are infected do not show symptoms.

Among STDs, the three most common are chlamydia, genital herpes, and human papillomavirus (HPV), which cannot be cured once infected; this is partly due to the lack of condom use.

Only 54 percent of

Campaign to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy, the majority of unplanned pregnancies actually happen to women in their 20s—not teenagers.

And although casual sex meets a need that comes

psychology graduate student. “Sometimes, people will go into it expecting more from the other person, and become devastated once those expectations are not met.”

For some students, the act of casually hooking

increase in college students’ openness to casual sex. “Reality shows, like ‘Jersey Shore’ and ‘The Real World,’ make hooking up seem normal,” he said.

Chadwell also pointed out that, despite the information regarding unsafe sex and its consequences being readily available to students, “their feelings of invincibility may prevent them from taking any precautions.”

“Young women also have a problem negotiating condom use, and a considerable amount of students reported the withdrawal method as their way to prevent pregnancy and contracting any STDs. I believe sexual education is still something that is still necessary for college students,” said Chadwell.

As a part of Valentine’s Day week, University Health Services is having a sex carnival between Feb. 13 to 15 for students to ask questions and learn interesting facts about sex and more.

“When you have sex with one person, it’s like having sex with every partner that person has previously been with.”

Katherine Chadwell,
Clinical Asst. Professor
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

students use condoms during vaginal intercourse on a daily basis, 29 percent during anal sex and only 4 percent during oral sex.

If STDs were not frightening enough, the rate of pregnancy among college women is much higher. According to the National

without the consequences of a relationship, like in the case of Billitz, and may even be an outlet for the relief of stress, there are even greater consequences to consider.

“There could also definitely be some emotional damage to certain people,” said Samantha Dubarry, a

up is not worth the heavy consequences.

Enrique Ponte, a business major, stresses that because of casual sex, “students and people our age have lost respect for relationships.”

Others, like Christopher Dohmen, see the media as somewhat responsible for the

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**E MAIL RÉSUMÉ TO:
NAGO7@HOTMAIL.COM**

WEAR, PAGE 5

impressed by someone who wears a suit to a performing arts center. Just saying.

THE DRAKE CONCERT

First, kiss your significant other hard for getting you tickets to see Drake. My concert philosophy is always to wear something casual but cool. Girls, a blazer, T-shirt and shorts with flats or oxfords is comfortable and stylish. Switch out

the shorts for a miniskirt and you will still look great.

Boys, an oxford in blue or white with tapered chinos is also comfortable and stylish. Neither of you should be caught in a Drake T-shirt.

BRUNCH WITH THE GIRLS

Celebrate “Galentine’s Day” (Feb. 13) with a glamorous and indulgent brunch. We all know brunch is about wearing your chicest outfit with your newest clutch and

heels. Wide-leg trousers in a bright color are still in, so pair them with a silk or lace crop top.

Alternately, try a pair of skinny jeans and an oversized striped sweater; belt it for some definition. Grab a clutch in leopard print and your trusty platform heels in a fun color or print. Also, sunglasses are a must.

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

Dress up for your holiday plans

VALENTINE'S EVENTS

13 MONDAY

REDISCOVERING AMERICA? A GEOPOLITICAL SUMMIT
WHEN: 1:30-4:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

STUDY ABROAD GENERAL INFORMATION SESSION
WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public.
WHERE: BBC WUC 363

BSU PRESENTS SPEAK YOUR HEART OUT
WHEN: 7:30-10 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Faculty Lounge

MAKING THE CASE FOR ISRAEL ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
WHEN: 7-8:30 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC 155

14 TUESDAY

CHORAL ARTS SERIES: THE JOYS OF LOVE, A VALENTINE'S DAY CONCERT
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15.00 General Admission, \$10.00 Seniors and FIU Faculty/Staff, \$5.00 FIU Students and Alumni Association Members
WHERE: Herbert & Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall

TRI SIGMA'S PURPLE HEARTS
WHEN: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Tables

SPC BUILD-A-BEAR
WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Pit

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT FEATURED
EMAIL: **CALENDAR@FIUSM.COM**

Sudoku

6	7					8	4	
		4		1			7	
						2		1
	1							
8			6		5			
9				3				
1							2	9
						5		3
	3	7		9				

Go online at <http://www.sudoku9x9.com>
Enter puzzle L4: #270958271
to get your answer key.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Police presence reassures safety on campus

FILIP PANOVSKI
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

The number of police officers present on both the Biscayne Bay Campus and the Modesto Maidique Campus has been steadily increasing: we are now up to 49 officers.

While this may seem like a tiny number when compared to a student body of over 40,000, it seems to me that it has managed to keep us safe without the need for an officer at every corner.

In fact, most offenses at BBC have been steadily falling in number: two vehicle thefts in 2010, down from five in 2008. Robberies on the other hand have increased to a somewhat significant six in 2010, up from only three in 2008.

Oddly, some students believe police presence has not increased in the past year to match this trend.

Veronique Buteau, a Pre-Med student, said, “There’s not a lot of activity. I rarely see any police.”

Lindsie Cohen, an English major, said, “I feel like they’re gone in the evening. There’s a lot more of them in the morning and around Academic One.”

The latter should not come as a surprise as our campus is near a



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

school zone, but the former, to me, is a tad conflicting with the decrease in crime.

Others shared slightly different views, such as Troy Bishop, who has seen a decent number of police patrols in the parking lot. He said,

“I welcome the police presence on campus. The surrounding area has a lot of crime, and I’m glad it hasn’t spread.”

Toputthisintoperspective,Miami-Dade registers at least 746 violent and 4760 non-violent offenses, and given

the proximity, BBC has seen extensively little in comparison, which I find quite astounding. Hopefully, this already low number of crimes will continue to sink with new additions to the police team.

Captain Alphonse Ianniello of

the FIU Police force noted that as planned, up to 10 new officers would be hired every year for the next three years – of which BBC should see some.

His reasoning on the matter was that these new hires will enable the police force “to deter crime and better serve the community.”

Prepare and prevent, in a manner of speaking – a policy which has so far proven quite effective for our relatively large BBC environment of 7,000 students.

While some may have their mishaps with the police force, it is apparent to me they do not want to draw much attention to themselves.

And yet, much of the feedback on the campus police was rather positive or at the very least mild, with just a few instances of open dislike for their conduct.

This would definitely not be the case if they were mingling inside every building on campus.

Despite the fact that they are mostly lurking in the shadows of the parking lot lights and only vaguely seen anywhere else, whatever they may be up to seems to be doing the job.

As a student, I welcome this level of security. After all, safety doesn’t happen by accident.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Grateful, thankful

My name is Susanne Pinedo and I am writing on behalf of The Roxy Theatre Group, a non-profit performing arts program for children and youth.

The Beacon’s Life! Editor, Miss Esra Erdogan interviewed several of my colleagues and students for a story in reference to our upcoming production *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

I just wanted to express my gratitude for *The Beacon’s* wonderful support of our program.

This is the third story *The Beacon* has covered in reference to our productions and we are extremely grateful.

-Susanne Pinedo, Freelance Publicist

TOMMY MELIS
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

In no way do I profess to be any smarter than I really am. Most of what I know today comes from a wealth of knowledge I have acquired through the mere act of getting involved.

In 2009, I volunteered as a photographer for SAVE DADE, a Miami-Dade County-based equal rights organization. Thanks to working with an accomplished photographer and his team, I learned about all the challenges LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) citizens face. Later in 2010, they asked me to volunteer again helping with a fundraiser event, where I got to meet and talk with Ileana Ross Lehtinen.

The event proved satisfying as I got to express my concerns, and learn about changes taking place through conversations with other prominent Miami political figures. Students can benefit by building their social network now, through becoming engaged in civic life.

If you are like me, you probably get at least three different invitations to go out on the weekends with friends. Fantastic! Make lasting rela-

tionships now; you might not have as much free time when your in the work field. What you are doing with friends can make the difference between getting a mediocre job and a lasting difference in your community.

When I volunteered for Alternative Breaks-Environmental Causes in 2009-2010, I got to help out surveying fishermen in the Dominican Republic, and make a significant contribution to the monitoring of marine life in that specific region. A University of Miami researcher led the study in conjunction with Jennifer Grimm, an environmental science professor here at FIU.

On transferring, I became so obsessed with joining every club, and being sure everyone had to like me. In turn, I lost sight of pursuing the training I would really need for the career I wanted. The Center for Academic Leadership helped me work on maintaining professional conversations with peers that helped me keep focused.

Attending some of the Career Centers workshop provided me with direct Internet links I have used to apply for jobs. The transgender panel discussion at Biscayne Bay Campus gave me a different perspective about transgender life, and taught me the real tolerance I feel they deserve.

Involvement develops life-long relationships

When students attend open SGA meetings, they have an opportunity to voice their opinions, and concerns.

Speaking up to an organization in charge of allocating funds to students organizations might help students get what they want out of FIU.

When you care about an issue enough to get involved with organizations and other groups that share a common interest, you begin to expand your lasting social network for life that you may later need in life to make a mark on your resume and in your career.

In no way does this mean that you are missing out on the fun. In fact, most places you volunteer for will give you incentives to take advantage of the service they provide.

Adrienne Arsht Center gives four theatre and opera tickets to their volunteers for every 70 hours they put in as ushers. Save Dade lets you be part of their \$100 a ticket infamous Halloween party after only four hours of helping out. Who knows, meeting your future spouse might only be one volunteer job away.

The probability of meeting quality people will most likely improve from anyone you might meet in a bar.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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A DAY IN THE LIFE

Students play the piano for release and entertainment

KATHERINE MAS
Contributing Writer
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Thanks to student pianists, others are able to break away from school stress and get lost in the musical notes while they relax and take advantage of their free time between classes.

They are the students who play piano during their leisure time at the University.

Playing piano helps students relax and pass time. Current senior and hospitality and tourism management major, Conrad Gongor, a self taught piano player plays as a hobby and finds that it calms him down during his long breaks between classes.

Other students such as Sophomore Gene Yllanes, wanted to learn how to play piano last semester and now practices on campus because he doesn't have one at home.

Some students have been playing since their childhood but have stopped along the way and want to rekindle their relationship with the piano. This is the case for freshman and English major, Brittany Owens, who is currently getting reacquainted with the instrument.

Sometimes playing music is all about moving other people and grabbing their attention and praises. Current junior and English major Gabriel Vazquez,



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Brittany Owens, freshman English major, plays the piano near the Wolfe University Center lounge in between class time. Owens used to play as a child and uses the lounge piano to rekindle her relationship with the instrument.

said, "You need an audience."

Vazquez also said that what inspires him to play is the pleasure he gets from serenading himself and others.

These students are influenced by many great musicians of both the past and modern time, from Bach and Mozart, to Elton John, Billy Joel and The Fray.

Besides the famous artists, everyday people in these students' lives also stimulate their curi-

osity for piano.

Vazquez, who aspires to become a teacher some day, learned to play from his uncle who used to play for his church.

Yllanes, on the other hand, gets excited about playing music when he sees others play and enjoys jamming with different people who play other instruments like guitar, and drums. Besides getting inspired and learning from others like him,

he also stated "the best way to learn music is to learn classical music."

Some of the students who play piano also enjoy playing other instruments. Yllanes, who is a guitarist and is also interested in learning how to play drums, finds that the guitar and piano are "two completely separate things." He also feels that the piano combines the two music fields that he is interested in so

he wants to learn more.

Vazquez also knows how to play some guitar but says he prefers to play piano because it's nicer on his fingers, unlike the guitar strings.

While playing piano for all to hear, these students have experienced some pretty memorable moments that they will never forget.

Gongor said that one day while he was playing a woman burst through the doors near him, stopped to listen and told him that he had made her day.

"It made me feel like that's the reason why I play piano," Gongor said. "It calms me down so I'm glad it did something for her."

Owens stated that one of her highlight moments was being asked if she gave piano lessons.

One thing is for certain, whether they were self taught, or trained as a child, they all have one thing in common. They all play for themselves and for the joy and satisfaction that playing piano brings.

Vazquez had a more emotional encounter at Modesto Maidique Campus when a woman approached him while playing and with tears in her eyes told him that he had a gift. He said that made him feel good.

"It's nice that something I do can touch someone, it moves me, so it was nice to hear that," Vazquez said.

HEALTH

It's time for the sex talk in Panther Square

ALTAGRACE L. GUSTAVE
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Sex at a carnival? FIU's Biscayne Bay campus will be having a sex carnival in Panther Square on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m.

BBC's Wellness Center will be teaming up with other organizations such as Planned Parenthood, co-sponsoring the event with the Student Government Association and the Black Student Union.

After the event, best-selling authors and sexologists Dr. Joni Frater and Esther Lastique will be having a Sex Ed Boot Camp at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater, located in BBC's Wolfe University Center, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Carnival is not designed to promote promiscuity, its purpose is more skin deep. According to the Wellness Center's Senior Health Educator, Andres Bermeo, considering the fact that sex is not always on the top of the list at any given dinner table, this particular title makes it that much easier for people, especially college students and staff, to address a topic that has received far too little attention.

In this manner, an overall sense of

comfort, fun, and enthusiasm is felt when discussing a rather controversial subject.

The goal of the Sex Carnival, as well as of the Sex Ed Boot Camp, is to inform the FIU community about the dangers that still lurk out there, in terms of unsafe sex practices. These events are intended to teach participants about safe sex practices, as well as to educate them about having and perpetuating great sexual health.

Bermeo discussed that there is a concern about the rate of Chlamydia compared to other STDs at BBC. The date of this event, which took about three months to plan, was chosen purposefully to follow Valentine's Day.

Each participating organization will have a table for "sex games," and there will be an information desk with helpful brochures.

There will be also be a nurse at the information table, who will be answering any questions that students and staff members may have. There will also be food and beverages, music, T-shirts, and prizes.

Modesto Maidique Campus is having the same event on Feb. 13, minus the boot camp.

EMPLOYMENT

Career Fair to provide students with possible connections to employers

BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE
Staff Writer
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Employers from all parts of the United States will gather at Biscayne Bay Campus to make themselves available for FIU students interested in finding a job or internship.

The Career Services Office hosts two career fairs per year, one during the spring and the other during the fall. This semester, the Career Fair will be on Feb. 15, at the Wolfe University Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"There will be approximately 40 employers from multiple industries attending the BBC Career Fair," said Harold Clayton, associate director of Career Services.

According to Clayton, among the employers attending the fair there will be NBC Universal, Trump International, Pepsico, and the U.S. Department of State and Thyssen Kypp elevator.

"We are experiencing a significant increase in the number of students attending specifically within the past two years," said Clayton.

"At our last event, over 300 students attended."

The fair is open for undergraduate, graduate students, and alumni, who will have the chance to look for part-time, full-time, summer jobs and

Office also offers several workshops to help students prepare to the fair, such as resume writing and interviewing skills.

According to Clayton, students who attend career fairs on their

There will be approximately 40 employers from multiple industries attending the BBC career fair.

Harold Clayton,
Associate Director
Career Services

internships available locally, nationally and internationally.

"Some will be providing information only, and others will be looking for actual candidates to interview immediately or later for varied openings," Clayton said.

Clayton encourages students to research about employers that are attending on the Career Services website and find out which one interest them the most. Business attire is required. Attendees should bring their Panther One Card and an updated résumé. The Career Services

freshman and sophomore years report increased confidence in their ability to interact with employers and communicate their accomplishments. Juniors and seniors settle interviews for internships and full-time jobs through contacts made at the fairs.

Isabel Capella, program assistant at the Career Services Office, motivates all students to attend.

"If you don't find a job, at least you have a chance to network and get contacts for the future," Capella said.