

2-13-2015

The Beacon, February 13, 2015

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation

Florida International University, "The Beacon, February 13, 2015" (2015). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 647.
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/647

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.



THE BEACON

Baseball
Opener

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents.

Vol. 26 Issue 62

fiusm.com

Friday, February 13, 2015



PLAY BALL



JORGE CORRALES/THE BEACON

Coach Turtle Thomas gathers the team after practice on Wednesday, Feb. 11. **FOR MORE, SEE BASEBALL ON PAGES 4 AND 5.**

Putting university students on the lead through FPL partnership

AMIN COLOMINAS
Contributing Writer
news@fiusm.com

The University and Florida Power and Light Company have teamed up in order to offer students a new internship opportunity.

The partnership led to the opening of an FPL customer care center at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Students will field calls and learn to resolve customer inquiries in a courteous and professional manner—all while starting a future with one of Florida's largest employers.

This initiative began in 2010 by FPL to recruit more of the University's students and alumni, which currently make up more than 670 of the company's employees.

FPL hopes not only to attract local "Worlds Ahead" thinkers, but to provide instant career opportunities for the FIU community.

Then-FPL President and CEO Armando J. Olivera was quoted at the ribbon-cutting ceremony as saying, "Our theme for today's event is 'Fostering talent, building careers' and that's exactly what this partnership is about."

We look forward to growing it and to recruiting exceptional people to provide our customers with the award-winning service they deserve."

President Mark B. Rosenberg also commented.

He believes that the initiative should not just serve the University's interests, but also those of the community at large.

"We also are committed to joining forces with key institutions for our mutual benefit and the benefit of our

University students with a required grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Applicants must also pass a pre-employment drug test.

Those eligible then undergo paid vocational training at FPL's Miami-based customer care center before

hour during training and receive competitive wages after joining the customer service team.

The program is a two-way street; with all of the benefits offered, students are expected to work 20-32 hours per week, including one weekend day at FPL's Miami-based customer care center, while meeting all attendance and performance standards demanded by FPL.

The program boasts an 88% retention rate, with 22 interns developing their positions into permanent careers with FPL in 2012.

FIU and FPL's partnership continues to benefit students today.

Andrew Bowyer, freshman mechanical engineering major, sees the program as a foot in the door for his future.

"The possibility of working for a company like Florida Power and Light is huge. While studying mechanical engineering, I can get to know FPL management which can help me in obtaining a more important position, like an engineer, in the future. And if I decide to work somewhere else, my resume still shows that I'm qualified to work with any other big company like FPL."

The possibility of working for a company like Florida Power and Light is huge. While studying mechanical engineering, I can get to know FPL management which can help me in obtaining a more important position, like an engineer, in the future.

Andrew Bowyer
Freshman
Mechanical Engineering

"At Florida International University, we are committed to providing each of our students with a Worlds Ahead education that will give them the tools they need to compete in the 21st century global marketplace."

community," said Rosenberg. "This innovative call center will give our students the real world, on-the-job skills they need for their future careers and the opportunity to get a jump start on those careers at FPL."

The program is open only to

joining the company's customer service team. Students will not only gain experience valuable in any business, but will also get to know FPL management and learn about possible future careers.

Students are paid \$12 per

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Fearful Libyans recall when life was sweet after Gadhafi fell

Four years after the start of the rebellion that ended the long rule of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, a culture of fear and intimidation has fallen over the country.

“If you have an opinion, you keep it to yourself,” said Elham, an economics student at the University of Tripoli. “Everyone is scared, so we can’t talk about politics. And since we are girls,

if we talk, maybe someone will kidnap us. We can’t talk at all.”

The hushed and downcast mood on the tightly guarded campus today--people interviewed there asked that their full names not be used--is in stark contrast to the jubilance three years earlier, when, just free of Gadhafi’s oppressive regime, students voiced their aspirations loudly.

Skeptical Panama takes heed of planned Nicaraguan canal

When it comes to interoceanic canals, Panamanians speak with a century of experience. So as nearby Nicaragua moves ahead with a plan to build what it claims would be a bigger, better canal, some Panamanians look on with interest and puzzlement.

“We take the possibility of construction of a canal in Nicaragua very seriously,” said

Francisco J. Miguez, executive vice president for finance and administration of the Panama Canal Authority.

The Nicaraguan plan is feasible, Miguez said. “We find that, technically, the project can be built ... with enough resources and time,” he said.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU...



VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Angelie Cortina, junior studying statistics, and Kyle Pla, senior studying finance, exchange rings as part of Alpha Omicron Pi’s Marry Me Valentines on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Students react to news of three Muslim students shot

ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA
News Director
adrian.suarezavila@fusm.com

Amidst news of a shooting that left three Muslim students dead in front of their apartment near the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, students offered their thoughts.

According to reports, the shooter was 46-year-old Craig Stephen Hicks, who turned himself in to the authorities at the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office after having committed the crime.

Early on Wednesday, Feb. 11, the bodies of the deceased were identified, according to the Washington Post.

The victims were Deah Barakat, a second-year dentistry student at the University of North Carolina, Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, who was planning to enroll in UNC for the fall semester, and Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, a student attending North Carolina State University in Raleigh, all 23, 21, and 19 years of age, respectively.

Students and University staff members shared their sentiments.

“I think it’s extremely sad and unfortunate, and it’s a reflection of a lot of fear that’s out there that’s really based, I think, on ignorance,” said Ana Rosado, a coordinator for the University’s Graduate School.

Police informed news outlets that although the incident may have been a hate crime, it was alleged that the shooting was triggered by arguments that the three victims had with Hicks regarding parking. Still, some students believe that the crime was committed in response to the victims’ religious beliefs.

Maite Hernandez, a senior

psychology major, thinks this was the case.

“With the things that are going on the world right now, and ever since 9/11, I feel like people kind of have this misconception that anybody that is [Muslim] is out to get any [American.]”

She said that despite the fact that some may not consider themselves extremists, they may nonetheless end up targeting Muslims.

Those outraged by the crime took to social media outlets to express their feelings regarding the event.

On Twitter, users dubbed the hashtag MuslimLivesMatter to highlight their indignation over the shooting.

User @oddylerin posted, “[So] devastated and outraged by the #ChapeHillShooting [sic] and the lack of mainstream media support.”

Hicks, the shooter, seems to have also resorted to social media a while before committing the crime.

According to CNN, it is alleged that he was responsible for writing at one point, “When it comes to insults, your religion started this, not me. If your religion kept its big mouth shut, so would I.”

At the moment, however, the news network has been unable to check for the accuracy of the alleged post.

Chris Blue, the Chapel Hill police chief, commented in light of the event, according to the Washington Post.

“Our investigators are exploring what could have motivated Mr. Hicks to commit such a senseless and tragic act,” Blue said. “We understand the concerns about the possibility that this was hate-motivated and we will exhaust every lead to determine if that is the

case. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of these young people who lost their lives so needlessly.”

Hicks is currently being held without bond, and his hearing for probable cause is scheduled to commence on March 4.

In addition to providing their thoughts on the incident, students also offered potential ways of dealing with incidents of this kind to ensure that similar ones are not repeated.

Christophe Bicaba, a freshman mechanical engineering major, admits that he considers the shooting to have been a hate crime and in order to deal with it, colleges and universities and other institutions should take steps to promoting diversity and educating the public on issues of this kind.

Others agree.

“Just because one person believes one thing that doesn’t mean that it’s wrong, that doesn’t mean that they should be persecuted because of it,” said Gemma Laudicina, a senior English major.

Laudicina believes that Hicks should be punished accordingly for the crime he committed, adding that awareness should be spread in regards to the reality of hate crimes and the idea that with different religions come different ways of thinking.

Farris Barakat, brother of Deah, has taken to Facebook to provide information on the status of his brother’s death.

The page, titled, Our Three Winners, includes in its description, “This page is intended to facilitate communication and will hopefully carry on their legacy of service, great character and joy for life.”

CORRECTIONS

In Volume 26, Issue 61 Raul Reis was mislabeled as Paul Reis on Page 8. *The Beacon* will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

THE BEACON æ

E-BOARD AND PRODUCTION STAFF

EDITOR IN CHIEF JUNETTE REYES	OPINION DIRECTOR STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA
BBC MANAGING EDITOR CAMILA FERNANDEZ	PHOTO EDITOR MARIA LORENZINO
PRODUCTION MANAGER/ COPY CHIEF RHYS WILLIAMS	COPY EDITORS CAYLA BUSH LAURA GONZALEZ SARAH MEDINA JASMINE ROMERO FRANCESCA ROSARIO DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS NICOLE ZUMMAR
NEWS DIRECTOR ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA	RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR MARTIN DI DIEGO
ASST. NEWS DIRECTORS SOFIA GALIANO NICOLE MONTERO	BUSINESS MANAGER CHARLIE GRAU
SPORTS DIRECTOR JORGE CORRALES	DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA ROBERT JAROSS
ASST. SPORTS DIRECTOR ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE	ASST. DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MEDIA ALFRED SOTO
ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR AMANDA RABINES	
ASST. ENTERTAINMENT DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER RODRIGUEZ	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Modesto Maidique Campus:
GC 210, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5 PM
(305) 348-2709
news@fusm.com

Biscayne Bay Campus:
WUC 124, Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-5 PM
(305) 919-4722
bbc@fusm.com

Fax:
(305) 348-2712

Editor-in-Chief:
(305) 348-1580
philippe.buteau@fusm.com

Advertising:
(305) 348-6994
advertising@fusm.com

The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. *The Beacon* is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. *The Beacon* is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.

Bathroom woes: don't pass go, go straight to jail Shock tactics backfire on anti-abortion protest

BOBBY JO BRACY
Contributing Writer
opinion@fiusm.com

Representative Frank Artiles doesn't spend much time thinking about stuff. What Artiles thinks about plenty, though, is what you're doing in the bathroom.

Last week, ignorance collided when the unstoppable Rep. Artiles introduced the immovable HB-538, a bill that would effectively give police the authority to arrest anyone they suspect is not using the bathroom .

Artiles wants them to use. It's impossible to imagine what legal standard police would use to detain or arrest people using public bathrooms, because it's not clear what

Artiles thinks about gender—or if he thinks about it all. When asked by a reporter from BuzzFeed LGBT about his thoughts on transgender women, Artiles said “I have not spent much time thinking about that.”

The proposed law makes it a misdemeanor crime, punishable by up to one year in prison or \$1,000 in fines, to use a single-sex public accommodation that Artiles doesn't want you to use—the gender of the facility you enter must match the gender on your birth certificate. Simple, right?

Not so fast—while the bill does not explicitly target transgender people, the reliance on birth certificates to “prove” one's gender strips us of our individual freedom, only to surrender it to the person that did your paperwork for you when you were born.

Furthermore, each state has a different policy for amending birth certificates. Dean Spade, associate professor at Seattle University School of Law,

notes that “the type of medical intervention [required for birth certificate amendments]... differs significantly from policy to policy.” Some states, like Tennessee, do not allow birth certificates to be amended at all. At any rate, it's difficult to believe that the doctor who delivered you knows you better than you know yourself. Now Rep. Artiles wants his gender police to keep things orderly.

But the harm of HB-538 is not just limited to transgender people or gender-nonconforming people—it goes much further than that. Do you have a younger sister who is screaming for help in the bathroom? You're a criminal if you try to intervene for her. Are you a mother who wants to accompany her son to the men's bathroom? Get a lawyer. Are you a woman who feels safer going to the bathroom with your male friends rather than going alone? Tough.

Rep. Artiles argues that his main concern is public safety and privacy, yet I question how much a person actually thinks about women's safety or privacy when they uncritically take such a narrow and discriminatory approach to violence prevention. Violence, like gender, is fluid and dynamic. Women assault women. Men rape men. This bill does not consider these possibilities—Frank Artiles doesn't seem to think about them. What Frank thinks about plenty, however, is your “plumbing”—and not the plumbing that would help us flush his bill down the drain where it belongs.

Safety is hardly the concern behind this bill. According to the National Center for Women and Policing, “two studies have found that at least 40 percent of police

officer families experience domestic violence in contrast to 10 percent of families in the general population.” Violent people are attracted to positions where they can assert authority over others, so it should be no surprise that there is a higher concentration of abusive people in law enforcement than in the general population. Are these the people we are entrusting to protect women?

To be fair, Artiles is likely not consciously trying to subject women to more violence—he is legally married and has two beautiful daughters. But being conscious about gender violence requires you to think about women—all women.

Rather, Artiles is most likely motivated by greed. Extreme right-wing religious groups were unable to prevent anti-discrimination ordinances from being passed locally, so these same groups have shifted their attention—and money—to Tallahassee. HB-538 would preempt all local ordinances that provide legal protections for gender-nonconforming people. The proposed law would also leave FIU vulnerable to private lawsuits—and attorney's fees—because our university has a significantly different approach to making our bathrooms safer and more accessible.

In order to keep our public accommodations safe and accessible for everyone, we must oppose Rep. Frank Artiles' bill. Maintaining public safety and individual privacy requires us to resist the formation of “gender police” invading our bathroom stalls.

Bobby Jo Bracy is a student of the College of Law and a FIUSM alumnus.

STEPHANIE PIEDRAHITA
Opinion Director
steph.piedrahita@fiusm.com

It's that wonderful time of the year when pro-life activists will try to convince students that anyone who considers abortion as an option for women is on the same level as Nazis. I really wish I was making this up but after an interaction I had with one of the volunteers, I feel that it is my right to express the disrespectful and illogical methods these people were using to advocate their beliefs and how it's backpedaling any progress we've made in changing harmful societal perceptions of activists.

When walking on campus I saw a sign that said “Warning! Pictures of genocide up ahead!” I felt relieved at first because of two reasons: first, I assumed that it was a project raising awareness of actual human rights violations happening because of ISIS, Boko Haram, or Ferguson. It made me feel proud that there were students still bringing social issues to our attention in an effort to make us more informed individuals about the world around us. Second, the warning also gave students an opportunity to avoid any graphic images which is something I could initially respect.

Once I began walking through, I noticed it was a gallery of bloody fetuses and a comparison of abortion to the Holocaust. As a reporter, philanthropist, and overall compassionate human being, it was downright disappointing to see how misleading this presentation was without having spoken to anyone yet.

I want to introduce the idea of logical fallacies (faulty reasoning) and how it was incorporated into how this gallery was set up. Appealing to emotion, rather than logic, was the foundation of their reasoning, and when it comes to raising awareness, shock value works, but to a certain point. It was no surprise to see how fast students would walk past in order to avoid what I am about to describe.

For example, using the words “unborn babies” and displaying graphic images (that may not be real) to describe what to others might define as a fetus is already guilt tripping someone for initially having a different of interpretation of language. The word “baby” also has no scientific value to it, and using this term of endearment as an emotional trigger is a cheap way to make the listener feel bad for just having another perception. How you say things is just as important as what you are saying, especially if

your goal is to persuade. If you had to post a disclaimer stating that you're not calling pregnant women nazis BUT you are saying medical technicians are the same as death camp doctors, you must've expected negative reactions to this before which is the opposite of the outcome you want. Do you know how insensitive it is to use the suffering of an entire group people in the past to make a point in your biased argument?

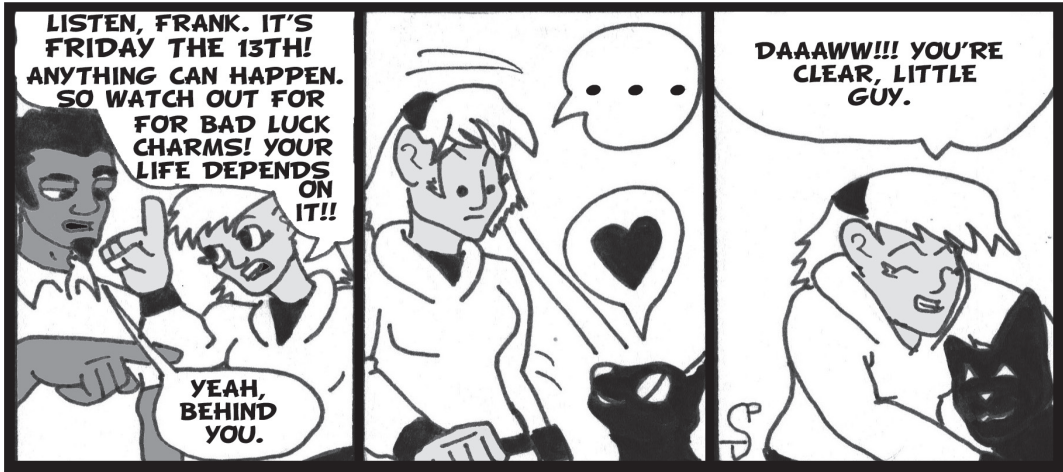
You're implying that abortion doctors have the same intention as death camp operators, a vile generalization to anyone who aspires to be in the medical field, since you're basically calling them murderers (something I'll cover in my next point). In addition, filming without the consent of others as a “security measure” further proves that whatever message you have is getting severely misinterpreted and is detrimental to the work you are doing to begin with. What's the point of making it harder for yourself to convince people after you've insulted them?

When you work under the assumption that everyone has the same definition for terminology being used in the conversation, you're portraying whoever is willing to listen to you as automatically “incorrect” or “immoral” if their definition doesn't align with yours. Because of this, you paint any opposing opinions in an exaggerated manner which falls underneath the strawman fallacy.

According to the Legal Information Institute, murder is defined as unlawfully taking another human beings life with malicious forethought (abortion is legal at the federal level by the way). When pro lifers claim abortion is murder, this automatically condemns those who had needed to abort in the past due to health reasons, rape, unstable financial/living situations or supporters of it to the same level as serial killers. There is obvious disagreement on what falls under murder and genocide anyways, so why would you express such an outrageous assumption of someone else's character and still expect them to want to listen to you?

The point is they won't. You may have captured attention and started a discussion about the topic but ultimately, it will not work in your favor. You will not change anyone's mind if you disgust them, make false accusations and downright insult your audience. Taking a moderate but factual approach is the best way to persuade someone; save your propaganda for those who are foolish enough to believe it.

FRANK AND IRENE



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

FRIDAY THE 13TH

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

DISCLAIMER

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

TAKE ME OUT TO

FIU Baseball opens tonight, Feb. 13

Panthers will ‘turn it on’



LOUIS AGUDELO

This weekend, FIU will be facing The University of Tennessee in what will be a series of three baseball games to start this most glorious time of the year; baseball season.

FIU is coming into the season projected to finish second behind only Rice University in Conference USA. Their opponent for this weekend’s matchup is ranked by most reputable polls as No. 25 in the nation, giving the Panther’s a ranked opponent to debut their season against.

I’ve got FIU taking two out of the three games this series, to hit the ground running in the 2015 regular season. Friday night will be a matchup of sophomore pitcher Cody Crouse with 2.23 career ERA, and Tennessee senior pitcher Bret Marks, who has a 6.43 ERA to his credit, and won’t have the easiest time against the bat of senior Josh Anderson, and the bat of career .313 hitter junior Edwin Rios, and senior Brian Portelli, whose plate discipline earned him a .350 average last year at the dish.

Saturday features the FIU freshman Garrett Cave on the mound against UT junior Drake Owenby. The second game of the three-game slot looks to be a close one, with experience favoring the Volunteers in the end with a close finish, perhaps 2-1 Tennessee.

The rubber match of the series has the Panther sophomore right hander Chris Mourelle starting against Volunteer sophomore, also a right hander, Kyle Serrano. Mourelle’s poise and previous dominance will be a recurring theme going into this season, as I suspect he and the rest of his Panther teammates will take the series and look to start a 2015 campaign that is as good, if not better as their 2014 season.

-louis.agudelo@fiusm.com



BACKGROUND PHOTO COURTESY OF RHYS WILLIAMS/THE BEACON

2015 Baseball Schedule					
Univ. of Tennessee Feb. 13 - 7 p.m. Feb. 14 - 6 p.m. Feb. 15 - 1 p.m. Home	Univ. of Albany - Feb. 21 - 3 p.m. North Carolina State Univ. - Feb. 22 - 1 p.m. Away	Univ. of Connecticut March 6 - 7 p.m. March 7 - 6 p.m. March 8 - 1 p.m. Home	Univ. of Southern Mississippi March 13 - 7 p.m. March 14 - 3 p.m. March 15 - 1 p.m. C-USA Matchup Away	Univ. of North Carolina - Charlotte March 20 - 7 p.m. March 21 - 6 p.m. March 22 - 12:30 p.m. C-USA Matchup Home	Marshall Univ. March 27 - 6 p.m. March 28 - 4 p.m. March 29 - 1 p.m. C-USA Matchup Away
Stetson Univ. Feb. 18 - 6 p.m. Away	Manhattan College Feb. 27 - 7 p.m. Feb. 28 - 2 p.m. March 1 - 1 p.m. Home	Seton Hall March 10 - 12 p.m. Port Charlotte, Fla. Away	Univ. of South Florida March 18 - 6:30 p.m. Away	Bethune-Cookman Univ. March 24 - 6 p.m. Away	Bethune-Cookman Univ. March 31 - 6 p.m. Home
Coastal Carolina Tournament Georgia Tech - Feb. 20 - 12 p.m. Coastal Carolina Univ. - Feb. 20 - 4 p.m.	Miami Marlins March 2 - 1:05 p.m. Jupiter, Fla. Away	St. Joseph’s March 10 - 4 p.m. Port Charlotte, Fla. Away			



THE BALL GAME

against the University of Tennessee



PHOTOS BY JORGE CORRALES/THE BEACON

TOP: Catcher Spencer Levine shows what he will bring to the offensive side of the ball this coming season. **LEFT:** Infielder Julius Gaines looks to get to third base during the intersquad scrimmage on Wednesday, Feb. 11. **RIGHT:** Right-handed pitcher Garret Cave looks to be a name in the pitching rotation in 2015.

Season opening for a hyped up program

ALEJANDRO AGUIRRE
Asst. Sports Director
alejandro.aguirre@fiusm.com

It’s finally here baseball fans! Take the tarp off, make the lines and buy cracker jacks because the Panthers take the field Friday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. against the University of Tennessee at FIU baseball stadium for a three game series.

Things are looking very bright for the team, even without playing a single game yet. They say it is risky to make assumptions too early but when the FIU baseball team was predicted to finish second in Conference USA standings by two different publications, people are expected to have high hopes. DIBaseball.com and Perfect Game USA were the ones who predicted FIU to finish in second place in C-USA only behind perennial favorite Rice.

The University of Tennessee Volunteers are ranked 25th in the nation and are headlined by 2015 Preseason All-American Junior outfielder Christin Stewart. Last year, Stewart hit .330 with 39 RBI as a sophomore and led the SEC with six triples.

He started each of Tennessee’s 54 games and became just the 11th player in Tennessee history to win the team “Triple Crown”, leading the squad in batting average, home runs and RBI. Stewart went on to lead the Collegiate National Team in multiple offensive categories last summer, including batting (.383), hits (31) and doubles (12).

Leading the charge for last year’s team was catcher Aramis Garcia and pitcher Mike Franco. Unfortunately for the Panthers they are long gone in the MLB draft. This new and revamped roster for the Panthers has new faces rising up to lead this team.

To replace the offensive punch provided by Aramis last year, is senior third baseman Josh Anderson. Anderson is one of the better defensive third basemen FIU has had in a while. The three-year starter is a career .290 hitter and has been consistent

with 7 HR and 42 RBI in 2013 and 5 HR and 43 RBI last season. Anderson hit .300, had 66 hits and 18 of those hits were for extra bases last season.

As Anderson anchors the infield for the Panthers, the outfield has a new face that will be chasing fly balls this season.

Last year’s second baseman, Edwin Rios, will be playing outfield now due to how much depth there is in the second base spot and the team needing his bat for the season. Rios hit .296 with 2 home runs and 38 RBI last season for the Panthers. Rios tied for the team lead with 14 doubles last season with Aramis Garcia. Every great baseball team succeeds with great pitching.

With last year’s ace Mike Franco gone, there is a big gap to fill.

The pitching staff as a collective unit has the depth to gain or even surpass the amount of wins Franco won last season. Last year’s C-USA Freshman of the Year Chris Mourelle is one of the pitchers that could get the nod to be the opening day starter. From his performance last year he deserves it. Mourelle led all C-USA freshmen and tied for third among all league pitchers in victories with nine and had the eighth best earned run average that was 1.95. Mourelle allowed just 11 walks in 78.1 innings pitched, while striking out 37 batters.

The baseball season is a long and tiring one for many players that demand a lot from them. With the expectations of being a top team in C-USA, there is some pressure on this Panthers squad but this roster has the depth and talent to spin a lot of heads.

Without a single pitch even being thrown, the Panthers have the chance to prove many people wrong by outplaying Rice and taking control of C-USA. This can come true and it all starts on Friday, Feb. 13, versus Tennessee.

Although this series is a non-conference one, it is crucial because Tennessee is a ranked team.

Winning this series can set the right tone for an exciting season and to show the rest of the conference that the Panthers mean business.

Full Schedule

	Florida Atlantic Univ.	Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.	Old Dominion Univ.	Univ. of Alabama - Birmingham	C-USA Baseball Championships
	April 10 - 6:30 p.m.	April 22 - 7 p.m. Home	May 1 - 6 p.m.	May 8 - 7 p.m.	May 20 - 24
	April 11 - 4 p.m.		May 2 - 3 p.m.	May 9 - 6 p.m.	Hattiesburg, Miss.
	April 12 - 12 p.m.	Louisiana Tech	May 3 - 1 p.m.	May 10 - 1 p.m.	Away
	C-USA Matchup	April 24 - 7 p.m.	C-USA Matchup	C-USA Matchup	
	Away	April 25 - 6 p.m.	Away	Home	
Univ. of Texas - San Antonio		April 26 - 1 p.m.	Jacksonville Univ.		
April 3 - 7 p.m.		C-USA Matchup	May 5 - 6:30 p.m.	Rice Univ.	Names in Bold and Italic signify either a tournament, exhibition or neutral site games.
April 4 - 4:30 p.m.	Western Kentucky Univ.		May 6 - 1 p.m. Home	May 14 - 7:30 p.m.	Conference USA games noted.
April 5 - 1 p.m.	April 17 - 4 p.m.			May 15 - 7:30 p.m.	
C-USA Matchup	April 18 - 6 p.m.			May 16 - 1 p.m.	
Away	April 19 - 1 p.m.			C-USA Matchup	
	C-USA Matchup			Away	
Univ. of South Florida	Home				
April 7 - 6 p.m.					
Home					



MUSICAL MINDS

VINCENT RIVES/THE BEACON

Vice President of Musical Minds Richie Belair performs at the Musical Hearts Showcase in the GC Pit on Wednesday Feb. 11.

Valentine's date spots on campus

TOP TRES



RHYS WILLIAMS

Coming up tomorrow is one of the most lovely holidays in the year: Valentine's Day. It is when couples express their feelings in a very outward way with cheap chocolates, roses, and teddy bears. A quick note: I will personally be celebrating "Singles Awareness Day" during the same time. However, for most college students on a budget, going to a fancy place for dinner and then somewhere else is not possible. I have figured out my top three possible date spots - and date ideas - on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

No. 3

In the Ernest R. Graham Center by a couple of the restaurants is an atrium. Yes, the big windowed area with Subway and Sushi Maki. Now yes, since we as FIU are basically a commuter school, neither of these options

would be open for dinner on the weekend. There is no reason that on any regular Saturday night, or this coming holiday, that someone couldn't make a nice picnic dinner and set up a table with a table cloth, place mats, and maybe a candle or two and have a nice time. Even set up Marvin Gaye radio on a small speaker to help the mood. Then you could dance in the rest of the atrium.

No. 2

I'm not too sure about giving up my secret spot, but I might as well seeing as I am nearing the end of my student career. If your significant other has a movie that he or she cares for like nothing else on this earth, then bring your laptop and that DVD and watch it on the large screen in the SIPA building. SIPA is always unlocked, and as long as you don't trash the place, or leave any trace - who would ever know? I'm not going to completely admit that I have done it, but any of the Harry Potter movies in there might be awesome. Just bring a snack and chill out, if you

decide to be daring.

No. 1

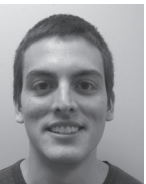
The best option I believe brings us back to a picnic, but this time outside. There are many lakes on this campus and around a good deal of them are gazebos, picnic tables, or a combination. Especially by the heart lake and the Kissing Bridge, which is a great entryway to getting a kiss, by the way - or so I have heard - is nice. Call me old fashioned if you wish, but I think anything personally made is better than store bought.

"Top Tres" is done for every Friday issue of The Beacon and on fiusm.com. The view of the Top Tres do not represent the views of FIU Student Media. If you wish to suggest an FIU "top three" topic for Rhys Williams, send him an email at rhys.williams@fiusm.com.

rhys.williams@fiusm.com

Just keep the valentine, ditch the day

COLUMNIST



ANGELO LOPEZ

Out of all the holidays in this country, Valentine's Day is one that rates high when it comes to generating cynicism. Christmas, which many see as a cover for unbridled consumerism, and Thanksgiving, which is viewed by many as a celebration of the destruction of the native peoples of North America, generate a great deal of cynicism too.

However, neither end of year holiday makes the yearly inquest of your personal life that Valentine's Day does, specifically, your love life. It is no wonder then that it is greeted with significant loathing. Especially from those who are unable or unwilling (no shame in that) to find a significant other.

Throw in the inevitable cornball who

utters the phrase "Valentine's Day is a celebration of friendship too!" (said in a well-intentioned way to make people feel better but which ultimately comes off as an insult to one's intelligence) and one has built a strong case for its repeal.

All the while the case is made against the day that celebrates romantic love, the very thing it celebrates is also under increasing societal scrutiny, and has been for many years -- maybe even decades. We are all familiar with the statistics; at least half of all marriages eventually end in divorce. People are marrying at older ages, and in fewer numbers than in the past.

We are also familiar with the anecdotes from friends or acquaintances, stories we've seen in the press, and the attitudes held by our generation demonstrating an increasing disillusionment with traditional relationships.

Convenience, valuing our independence,

fear of commitment, fear of rejection, considering traditional relationships an antiquated relic from the past with no place in today's "modern" world; all these rationales and more play a major role as to why increasing numbers of us prefer no strings attached hook-ups to the effort of relationships.

This logic is not without its merits. What good person wants to enter a relationship when they suspect that they will not remain loyal to the other person? Who wants to settle for someone they're not attracted to or deal with someone they abhor for the sake of saying they have a significant other? Who wants to commit so much time and energy to someone who in the end may not be worth it?

In spite of these rationales, we all ultimately fall for someone at some point in our lives. And then we fall for another, and another, and maybe even another. Even

when we set out not to.

There is a good reason we try not to. In my opinion, the most painful thing in love is finding a person who is beautiful and whose company you really enjoy (oh so hard to do), develop affection for them, and then be told "No, thank you." We all want to be cared about by someone for whom you have both lust and affection and vice-versa.

As fun as they are, no hook-up is a substitute for that need. It is merely a cold, albeit fun, transaction. Humans need other humans to love them. We're weak like that...and special. While many of us could do without the annoying day that puts love in the spotlight (and no, not the friendship love),

I highly doubt we can do without the love of a good person.

angelo.lopez@fiusm.com

The film that fueled independent cinema

MOVIE, PAGE 4

with weird things in his home, the hippie chick who graces the film's cover and marketing material, the guy who goes to his local market in nothing but a robe, the guy who has multiple televisions and others. Combine these images with their conversations, goals and possible aspirations, and you're bound to come across a character or two that'll really stick with you, no matter how fleeting their appearance may be.

For all the praise and appreciation one can give to "Slacker," it's possible that this film may not be appealing to everyone. The film's lack of plot could be seen as problematic, and the way the film navigates from one character to another with no resolution can also be either boring or frustrating for some.

If you understand that the film is simply a day in the life of Austin folk, then you'll be well prepared for the random way the film goes about portraying everything. Engagement in the film

might be difficult as well, but at least for me, the very nature of the film kept me hooked. The very fact that it's an experimental film should clue the viewer that it isn't conventional. And that alone would make "Slacker" worth recommending, but the fact that it puts us in a place and time so well and is enjoyable throughout makes it that much more of an excellent motion picture.

rafael.abreu@fiusm.com

President Rosenberg to hold town hall forum at Biscayne

CAMILA FERNANDEZ
BBC Managing Editor
camila.fernandez@fiusm.com

These last years, students at the Biscayne Bay Campus have witnessed several newly added facilities and programs, as well as ongoing renovations on campus.

To address student concerns, the BBC Student Government Council will host its 9th Annual Town Hall Meeting Monday, Feb. 16, an open forum with University President Mark B. Rosenberg.

According to Larissa Adames, SGC-BBC Campus Life Coordinator, the town hall is a way for students, faculty and staff to discuss with the president about campus issues.

“The president usually gives an update on whatever is going with the University, specific to BBC, and after that,

there’s an open forum for [Questions and Answers],” Adames said.

According to Elina Sibony, SGC-BBC Chief of Staff, the meeting will provide updates on major accomplishments. This includes last year’s opening of Panther Square and Panther Plaza, as well as a new Starbucks and Subway dining facility and the Academic Skills and Knowledge Center at the Glenn Hubert Library.

“This is the most important opportunity that anyone has to make their voice heard,” Sibony said, a junior marketing and finance double major.

“So if you have something that is on your mind, something that’s troubling you, this is the best way for you to get it heard,” Sibony said.

Sibony also said a new road to enter campus will be discussed at the meeting. The proposed road would help drivers avoid heavy

traffic on Northeast 151 Street caused by the David Lawrence Junior K-8 Center and Alonzo and Tracy Mourning Senior High.

This is a major project that the BBC Student Government Council has been working on for a while now and is not expected to be completed any time soon. However, it is something that the council is determined to work on.

“That project will take at least several years, so it’s not going to be anything that we’re going to see too soon, but we do want to get our foot in the door for that,” Sibony said.

Sibony said a project such as this one, requires a better and a louder voice from the BBC students; thus, attending the meeting is something to take into account for the betterment of the campus community. However, what is currently being heavily focused on

SEX SELLS



NATALIE REYES/THE BEACON

Joshua Carrasco, a graduate student studying higher education, plays a game that educates students on different sexually transmitted illnesses during the sex carnival at the Biscayne Bay campus on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

is the outside construction and remodeling of the Glenn Hubert Library.

Sibony said she hopes that there will be a large student turnout so that their concerns are addressed.

“We want as many students, as many members

of the community, as many members of faculty and staff with any concerns or with any wishes, opinions, grievances -- anything at all,” Sibony said.

“The bigger, the better, honestly.”

The meeting will be held

from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms. Registration is open at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sgabbc-town-hall-meeting-tickets-15034343125>.

Alum chases his dreams, does what he loves

COLUMNIST



NICOLE ZUMMAR

law.”

Strangely, Diaz was the son of actors that had been in television for over 20 years. He had grown up in movie sets and theaters, and knew his way around cameras and filming equipment.

Nonetheless, Diaz took his parents’ advice and looked for alternative careers during his last high school years. At first he set his mind to engineering. “I wanted to be an Imagineer for Disney until I realized how horrible it was,” Diaz said. “I loved math, but math didn’t love me back.”

He then decided to go for computer animation. Diaz visited Pixar Studios, but again realized that it was not what he wanted to do.

“It’s a lot of work that you have to sit through for six months straight and I’m too hyperactive for that.”

It was not until his senior year that his career track began to unfold.

A student in the year under him had a theatre play for a project and needed one last character. When she approached Diaz, he gladly accepted to help her out

“My parents always told me they didn’t want me to major in anything that was artistic,” Carlos Diaz said. “They wanted medicine or

given that he wasn’t bothered to play a character whose job was to make fun of himself.

“My dad was a comedian,” Diaz said. “I didn’t mind doing it.”

As he stood on the set, Diaz began to tell her how to set up the lighting and the equipment; he was naturally good at it. It was at that point that he realized he wanted to study communications.

He approached his parents to inform them of the decision he’d made. “My mom said ‘That’s great,’ but that I’d have to get the best grades in the whole class or ‘I will disown you.’”

Attending the University from 2005 through 2009 for a TV Production degree, he made good on his mother’s request to earn good grades by maintaining a 3.8 GPA throughout his time at FIU. After graduating, he picked up a job at a Miami-based casting company where he worked as an assistant director.

Diaz has also played soccer since he was eight. He played as semi-professional when he was 12 and reached the under-15 national team in his native Mexico. He would later use his soccer experience to teach the junior varsity soccer team at Gulliver Preparatory School in Miami.

Even though Diaz was skilled at both his job and his studies, he didn’t think of earning a career through them.

“I always thought of soccer as soccer and communication as



PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS DIAZ

Alum Carlos Diaz takes pride in his accomplishments. Here he holds an Emmy Award won by him and his team at Telemundo, a Spanish broadcasting television network, for covering the 2014 soccer World Cup.

scripted series until somebody came over and told me I could do both. That was my dream job,” Diaz said.

Diaz decided to apply to Univision and follow that dream job. After a look at his passion for soccer and experience in it, he was given a position as an associate producer and was initially tasked with the statistics and research of the game, players and teams.

“My dad is a huge soccer fan, so there were a lot of soccer players that would go to our

house and I started becoming friends with them. I would know all the players by their names,” said Diaz.

His obsession with soccer and knowledge of both the game and the players proved helpful in his position. As he spent more time at Univision, his responsibilities and ability to voice his ideas increased. He began to pitch stories that would be run during the game coverage.

Diaz was even placed on the list to cover the South Africa World Cup in 2010. However,

due to a change of employees in upper management, he was crossed off the list and, soon afterwards, took up a job in Telemundo.

That is where the bulk of his career has taken place: covering the 2012 London Olympics, finals for Mexican soccer, the World Cup qualifiers, Nascar and the first coverage in Spanish for the Super Bowl XLIX among other assignments.

In 2014, Diaz and his team won an Emmy for the production of the Mexico versus Costa Rica qualifier for the World Cup. They were nominated in four categories, one of them being the best broadcast of a live event in sports.

Diaz was able to bring in the actual Emmy, which he emphasized, weighed at least a couple pounds, to an Introduction to Television class on Tuesday, Feb. 3 for Panther Alumni Week.

While Diaz looks forward to covering the 2016 Olympics, he also looks forward to try being on camera instead of just behind it. Nonetheless, he has enjoyed his experience at Telemundo.

“I’ve gotten to do a little bit of everything and I’ve been able to move up in terms of responsibilities as time has progressed. But I can’t stress enough that the best part is that I’ve been able to be with a great group of people and I can say that a lot of them are my friends,” Diaz said.