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# The Beacon, April 3, 2015

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## PHI SIGMA SPELLING

### Phi Sigma Sigma holds a spelling bee to raise money



**TOP LEFT:** Evan Gregorius, a freshman studying music business and brother of the Lambda Iota chapter of Sigma Chi, spells "curmudgeon" correctly at the Who's It Gonna Bee spelling bee, winning the competition on Wednesday April 1. The spelling bee was hosted by Phi Sigma Sigma and the funds collected benefit Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow.

**TOP RIGHT:** Natalie Millan, a senior liberal studies major and sister of Phi Mu, spells out the word "nuisance" on her hand during the competition. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma surround Evan Gregorius of Sigma Chi and his trophy following the competition in the Graham Center Pit on Wednesday, April 1.

ALL PHOTOS BY MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

## SGA candidates debate before the results

**ADRIAN SUAREZ AVILA**  
News Director  
[adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com](mailto:adrian.suarezavila@fiusm.com)

Before the elections results were revealed yesterday, the presidential and vice presidential candidates for the Student Government Association at the Modesto A. Maidique Campus met for a debate.

When prompted to discuss how they improved the University during their time at the school, the vice presidential candidates, Kristen Nyman, a junior political science and international relations major, and Tiffany Roman-Biffa, the current SGA-MMC vice president, had different responses.

Roman-Biffa, in her role as the vice president, worked alongside SGA-MMC President Alexis Calatayud in various capacities to coordinate events and different initiatives, among them making SGA's presence felt in the Engineering Center.

She also spoke of her efforts conducting research with FIU in Washington, a program that allows students to get mentored by alumni living in the capital. Roman-Biffa and Calatayud plan on creating a program that directly matches University alumni living in Washington, D.C. with current University students in order to provide them with the chance to secure internship opportunities for themselves.

At the moment, Roman-Biffa and Calatayud are working with Carlos A. Becerra, director of federal relations in the University's Office of Governmental Relations, for a funding plan for the proposed program. They are also reaching out to other departments for help.

For Nyman, her experience helping the University has been different.

Nyman spoke of her experience with the Model United Nations team at the University, her role as a Rho Gamma for the Panhellenic Council and founding president of the International Affairs Society.

Through the listed involvements, Nyman said that she was able to serve the University community as a leader and a mentor.

“

I never see anyone from student government around school. Whoever wins next should fix this.

Yolanda Puchades  
Junior  
Psychology

”

The discussion then moved to a topic on the public good and the University's role in influencing it.

In terms of how she may help the University with strengthening its influence on the public good, Nyman focused her discussion on alumni relations.

She cited an instance in which a friend of her who graduated from the University received a letter in the mail within a week asking her to make a donation to her alma mater.

Nyman believes that there are better ways of reaching out to alumni, and part of her and Stefan Bahad's platform is connecting current students and alumni through the form of internships and other

leadership development opportunities that may influence the public good.

For Roman-Biffa, on the other hand, her focus is set on different sights.

She and Calatayud are working to designate the University as an Ashoka campus, a designation that distinguishes colleges and universities considered to be hubs of solution-making.

Although both women already consider the University as a solution maker that tackles a variety of issues, they want to

their issues and concerns are and how SGA may be of assistance.

When it was Roman-Biffa's turn, she responded by saying that she and Calatayud are already a team.

One of the projects she plans on continuing to assist Calatayud with is the creation of student space on campus. While the average percentage of student space on a university campus is 20 percent, the University is falling behind with just 4 percent of student space.

Both have already gone around campus with University administration to identify areas that may be used as student space in order for students to get to study on campus and build a sense of affinity with the University.

Some students are concerned about communication between themselves and the SGA representatives.

"I never see anyone from student government around school," said Yolanda Puchades, a junior psychology major. "Whoever wins next should fix this."

Roman-Biffa plans on reaching out to the student body by holding breakfasts, similar to the ones that were held earlier in the year in the Betty Chapman Plaza at the MMC. At these events, she plans on engaging students and asking them to communicate their concerns about the University.

Part of her plan also includes attending send-off sessions for Panther Camp and informing the freshman there of the opportunities to engage with SGA.

Nyman's sights are with her street team and the possibility of actively reaching out to students in areas they frequent.

SEE SGA, PAGE 2



# NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

## Human rights groups join Mexico-UN dispute over accusations of torture

A controversy over the use of torture in Mexico and whether the government has retreated on human rights and rule of law issues intensified Tuesday, with human rights groups denouncing the government of President Enrique Pena Nieto for his administration’s criticism of a United Nations official.

In a letter distributed Tuesday, more than two dozen human rights groups voiced “profound disgust” over his government’s pledge to stop working with the U.N. envoy

for torture, who earlier this month declared that the use of torture had become “generalized” in Mexico.

The groups cited what they called an “alarming increase in the number of registered complaints over torture and mistreatment.”

Those signing the letter include groups such as the Institute for Security and Democracy, Freedom House Mexico and Citizens in Support of Human Rights, all of which receive international funding or have strong connections abroad.

## Iran nuclear talks head into extra day as US, partners agree progress being made

After more than a decade of on-again, off-again debate about Iran’s nuclear future and six intense days of negotiations in this tony lakeside resort, officials from the world’s most powerful nations on Tuesday set aside a self-imposed midnight deadline and agreed to talk some more.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf made the announcement eight hours before the deadline would have passed, noting in an email to reporters, “We’ve made

enough progress in the last days to merit staying until Wednesday. There are several difficult issues still remaining.”

But the extension had been rumored throughout the day, with German news media saying diplomats had discussed stopping the clock, while White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the talks “constructive” and “productive.” “If we are making progress toward the finish line, then we should keep going,” he said.

# Candidates give their thoughts prior to the revelation of election results

## SGA, PAGE 1

For her, although the breakfast meetings that Roman-Biffa proposed sound like a good idea, she believes that there are more effective ways of communicating with students about offering solutions to their problems.

She also plans on turning to social media as a communication tool.

With the potential hashtag of #FIUPleaseFix, Nyman and her running mate intend to provide students the chance to quickly let the representatives know what they see wrong with the school or what can be improved.

When prompted to answer what they believed the main priority was for students at the University, Roman-Biffa and Nyman once more took different approaches to their responses.

For Roman-Biffa, the biggest concern for students is access to financial aid, which is one of the main platform items for her and Calatayud’s campaign.

Having started discussions with the state legislature to offer access to Bright Futures scholarships during the summer, Roman-Biffa noted that students at the University are nontraditional, many juggling work and classes.

As such, they believe that there needs to be a more effective system of need-based financial aid that better serves the University’s unique demographic.

Nyman’s answer raised some eyebrows in the audience.

“One thing I want to highlight about our

student body is that it’s so diverse and so unique, that to answer [the] question would almost be an injustice to the kind of student body that [the University has,]” she said.

Nyman went on to explain her response.

For her there isn’t just one thing that the student body needs, considering that it’s so diverse.

Through campaigning, she and Bahad found that students in the School of Music want a lounge, and that some Muslim students on campus want their own prayer room. These discoveries were all due to actively asking students what they want done.

“In order to truly cater to our FIU students, we need to be in constant communication with them and offer them whatever practical aid we can,” Nyman said.

Then the presidential candidates had a chance to speak.

The first topic for Calatayud and Bahad dealt with the Engineering Center, and the general sentiment that students there often feel overlooked by the SGA President.

To provide a solution for this, Bahad proposed making a satellite SGA office in the Engineering Center. He also spoke on the possibility of taking his and Nyman’s idea of the street team and engaging the engineering students over there to understand their concerns about the University.

According to Calatayud, she and her administration have already been actively working with the Engineering Center, particularly in the areas of event programming.

Her plan is to formulate

a plan that allows the EC to coordinate its own programming, along with a plan to provide more opportunities for Career Services professionals to be housed in the Center.

As far as a plan to motivate students to graduate in four years, Calatayud provided a clarification.

According to her, the University’s goal, along with that of the other universities in the state university system, is to graduate students within six years.

In order to accomplish this goal, Calatayud has started work on revamping the freshman experience course, which will last one year and feature a new format.

The new program aims to immerse students into the University community and actively engage them from the moment they enroll.

Calatayud’s goal is to have a 70 percent graduation rate of students by 2020, considering that the current figure is 54 percent.

For Bahad, his focus was on increasing student success at the University.

Noting that a lot of success stems from involvement, he wanted to start tackling the issue of student success with a new website: involvement.fiu.edu, which would serve as a one-stop shop for student involvement.

He cited that one of the biggest reasons that students don’t get jobs after graduation is the lack of access to networks, something that he wished to work on through University and community collaborations.

# FIU Student Media gains new leadership

## FIUSM STAFF news@fiusm.com

On Wednesday, April 1 the FIU Stuednt Media Board met, went through interviews and selected who will lead The Beacon, FIUSM.com and WRGP - the student radio station - going into the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Beacon was lead for the 2014-2105 academic year by Junette Reyes. For the summer and fall semesters the editor-in-cheif will be Maria Soledad Lorenzino. Lorenzino was the photo/

multimedia editor for the 2014-2015 year.

For both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years Luis Bolanos was in charge of fiusm.com.

Lauren Shade, who most recently served as recruitment director for all of FIU Student Media, will fill in that position.

WRGP, which was led for a majority of the 2014-2015 academic year by Sheyla Marimon will be run by Amanda Rabines for the 2015-2016 year.

Rabines served as the entertainment director for the spring semester of 2015 for FIU Student Media.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Beacon – MMC  
11200 SW 8th St, GC-210  
Miami, FL 33199  
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(305) 348-2709  
news@fiusm.com

The Beacon - BBC  
3000 NE 151st St, WUC-124  
North Miami Beach, FL 33181  
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
(305) 919-4722  
bbc@fiusm.com

Editor-in-Chief:  
(305) 348-1580  
junette.reyes@fiusm.com

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

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# Gaming can be beneficial in moderation

JESSICA HIERRO  
Contributing Writer  
opinion@fiusm.com

I remember when I was just a kid, my dad would play Mario Bros. with me on the Nintendo Entertainment System instead of reading a book before bedtime. It was the best.

The love of video games is so embedded in me to now that I realize how much they play a part in people’s growth and development; in ways both good and bad.

One of my favorite game series is The Legend of Zelda, and I find it amazing how some of the things I do in the digital world can translate into the real world.

Games can teach others of how to be aware of their

surroundings. You have to know if there are enemies nearby or be able to assume where they will be hiding for an ambush.

Video games teach players how to think critically in different situations in order to move on to a strategy quickly. Problem solving skills are also enhanced, which increases confidence that they are making the right moves.

In almost every single game genre, there is a need for strategy to be victorious.

“What I find amazing is how video games can be a stress reliever. There’s nothing better than button-mashing the stress away after a long day.”

the next step. It makes people think “what do I have to do next?” and be swift in their decision-making to formulate

It forces people to look to the details of how things work and how their actions will create a reaction in hopes it will be to

their benefit. Memory skills develop as the game storyline progresses and players need to recall what gear they have and how to use it in the best way.

What I find amazing is how video games can be a stress reliever. There’s nothing better than button-mashing the stress away after a long day.

There has even been scientific research on how video games can even help those who have mental health problems such as ADHD Alzheimers disease.

I’m not saying that video games perfect. Like everything, they should be taken in moderation.

Video games can easily turn into an addiction, given how much they stimulate the brain.

Further, in the digital world, you are not yourself. You can be whoever you want to be, in a way that is often seen as an escape from reality.

A game well known for this is World of Warcraft, where people often begin neglecting their responsibilities, relationships and hygiene while questing for pixellated armor and goods.

It’s not worth straining one’s real life for something that is made of pixels with no value aside from in-game currency.

Video games are like exercise for the brain - while it’s beneficial, users need to take a break from hours of playing to enjoy real life.

As much as they can stimulate the mind and develop sharp skills, playing in moderation is always important to keep in mind.

# Cinderella increases female empowerment

MICHELLE MARCHANTE  
Staff Writer  
opinion@fiusm.com

Looking at movies today, the most basic classification you can use to define films is probably the difference between a chick-flick and a guy movie.

A guy movie normally refers to an action film with a character, normally played by some macho-man like Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson going around kicking butt, using an assortment of theatrical weapons and jumping off buildings.

A chick-flick is usually some sweet, romantic drama where the audience is

waiting for the two main characters to finally get together.

Things aren’t so simple anymore. If I were to ask you whether “The Hunger Games” or “Divergent” were action movies or chick-flicks, what would you respond? They’re action movies with a nice touch of romance to spice things up.

Men may assume these movies are chick-flicks because the protagonists just so happen to be women. I wouldn’t call them sexist, but they are used to the idea society has constructed that an action movie requires a male protagonist and a chick-flick requires a female protagonist.

However, strong women have played leads in film for a long time. Just look at the 1979 movie “Alien” starring Sigourney Weaver, or Angelina Jolie’s portrayal of Lara Croft in the 2001 movie “Tomb Raider.”

Hollywood, though, simply has never seen so many female-led box-office hits go to the theaters in succession.

If this is the case, some may wonder why a movie like “Cinderella” would be released during this time of female empowerment.

Honestly, why not?

Cinderella is tough in her own way, by being able to survive living with her wicked step-family and never letting them break her spirit.

The new Cinderella mantra, “have courage and be kind,” is a great one to live by. I know many viewers would have all preferred it if Cinderella socked the daylights out of her evil step-mother at the end of the movie, but staying true to what she believed in - by forgiving her - was empowering in itself.

A strong, female lead doesn’t always have to get down and dirty to be respected. Things are changing.

If you check out the music scene, there

is a pretty strong group of female artists dominating the charts, including Beyoncé and Taylor Swift.

On the professional front, there are many powerhouses like Barbara Walters, Oprah and J. K. Rowling who are each successful in their own right.

“Female empowerment is when life throws a woman for a loop and she sees herself through to the end, holding onto her beliefs and never letting her spirit die.”

The most obvious sign that the seesaw is beginning to balance between genders, though, is in the movie industry, as there has been an incredible rise in the number of action movies with female heroes, like Katniss.

University professor, Sherry Gache, explained how this trend is a cultural reflection of today.

“It goes along with the idea of women coming up in every aspect of society, in every institution,” Gache said. “From academia, to politics, to business, with more women in the boardroom, more women in Congress, more women in any kind of power position.”

Female empowerment is when life throws a woman for a loop and she sees herself through to the end, holding onto her beliefs and never letting her spirit die.

That’s the story of Cinderella.



SAMUEL PRITCHARD/THE BEACON

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## Leyanis Diaz wins Miss Black and Gold for 2015

**KRYSTAL PUGH**  
*Contributing Writer*  
life@fiusm.com

Leyanis Diaz was crowned Miss Black and Gold 2015 on Sunday night, March 29 in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the MMC campus.

After two and half months of rehearsals, late nights and photo shoots, the time had arrived. There were six contestants selected to compete in the Miss Black and Gold 2015. Andrew Jones, vice president of the Tau Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity directed the pageant this year.

“I wanted to take this opportunity and try something new and see how I can use leadership skills in a new thing,” said Jones.

There were well over 30 applicants but only six women were selected to participate. These women were selected as a result of their GPA, school and community involvement and embodiment of true womanhood, not just physical attributes.

“Thats why we chose the girls we chose, we are very particular,” Jones said.



KRYSTAL PUGH/THE BEACON

First runner up, Tatyana Brown during the evening wear segment with her escort, a member of Tau Delta chapter Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

“My favorite part of the pageant was meeting new people, it was a bunch of girls getting together every night practicing walking, laughing and interacting with other personalities,” said Jazzmine Folston, contestant number one.

Since 2004, the Tau Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha has allowed this pageant to be a platform to highlight and foster the structure between success and etiquette within young women. This highlights women’s poise, confidence, communication skills, intelligence and beauty. Throughout the pageant, academic success is stressed as a result of the fraternity providing the winner with scholarship for financial obligations for post secondary education.

Andrew Jones and Camille Gayle, former Miss Black and Gold 2014, hosted the entire pageant. There was a judge panel of four Luther Pierre 2010, University graduate and the first jewel to the Tau Delta chapter, Keba Williams 2011 Miss Black and Gold and singer/songwriter entrepreneur, Allen Pierre-Louis registered nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital North, Brianna Meneses Sullivan current pre-med junior at University of Miami and former 2013 Miss Black and Gold.

There was much support in the crowd from many other fraternities and sororities. As well as the various queens on campus such as Miss FIU Torya Whittaker, Miss Caribbean Student Association Keenya Fleary and Miss Woman of Excellence Chanelle Porter.

They wore their crowns and showed great support. The pageant began with an opening prayer. To follow, the six contestants barefoot dressed in white and gold goddess gowns graced the stage and performed a choreographed dance. Followed by the swimsuit competition. The contestants presented a wide variety of talents—spoken word, piano playing, singing and many different genres of dance styles.

During intermissions, the audience received performances from singing duo “Karma” and



KRYSTAL PUGH/THE BEACON

Leyanis Diaz, Miss Black & Gold 2015 poses with brothers of the Tau Delta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity following being crowned the winner of the pageant.

solo performance by singer Giovanna Joseph. Later during the evening gown segment, each contestant was asked the same question from a judge, “What is your stand in race relations in the United States and do you think there is anything that can be done about it?”

“I believe there is a lot wrong when it comes to racial relations in the United States and many things can be done such as different social reforms to help make this country a better place,” said Whitney Joseph, contestant number two.

After the talent and formal wear segments, the Former Miss Black and Gold 2014, Camille Gayle, graced the stage one final time with her crown.

“I cannot thank the Tau Delta chapter enough for giving me this opportunity. So much has happened in my life and one thing that remained constant was their support and love for me,” Gayle said.

The hosts were ready to crown the new Miss Black and

Gold 2015. All of the contestants were presented with appreciation plaques. Second runner up was contestant number three, Briana Rojo and first runner up was contestant number five.

Tatyana Brown also won Miss congeniality and best talent. Miss popular was contestant number four, Leyanis Daiz, who was also crowned Miss Black and Gold 2015.

“I didn’t expect to win, I wanted to win of course, but after the show I felt like I was going to be third or second place,” Diaz said.

Diaz is a senior broadcast journalism major who plans to get a master’s in Spanish-language journalism from the University at receipt of her undergraduate degree this year.

Diaz is a proud member of Phi Mu sorority and has been since fall 2012.

“Aside from school, I don’t really do anything because I’m always doing something school related. However, I do enjoy movies and hanging out with

friends,” Diaz said.

Diaz wooed the crowd with a confident opening message introducing herself. Next for swimsuit competition, she wore an elegant all black two piece bikini with a black shawl for her entrance onto the stage.

Merely a split second after hitting the stage, Diaz drops the shawl and struts the stage with a candid smile the entire time. For a talent, Diaz put her best foot forward in a modern hip-hop/ Caribbean dance routine.

During the dance routine, Diaz had a wardrobe malfunction, and the DJ played the wrong song for her performance. However, she fixed it right away and continued her performance gracefully.

“I just laughed about it and was actually more upset about the song being wrong,” said Diaz.

Diaz shared her thoughts on the whole event.

“I enjoyed working with the other ladies and this overall was a great experience...very special I will hold on to it,” Diaz said.

## Jazz in the Gardens: A decade of jazz

**CAITLIN HOGAN**  
*Contributing Writer*  
life@fiusm.com

The total was 71,000 people. All of those people came out to the Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens for the “Jazz in the Gardens” 10th annual music festival on March 21 and 22. The Women’s Impact Conference and Luncheon kicked off the weekend on Friday, March 20, at the Miramar Cultural Center with the theme “THERE’S NO ‘S’ ON MY CHEST BUT

A HERO LIVES WITHIN.”

The conference featured keynote speaker reality show personality Omarosa Manigault and R&B vocalist Howard Hewett. This was followed by the 2nd Annual Friday Night Pre-Party, hosted by comedian and radio personality Rickey Smiley, featuring The D.M.C. Band, a comedy show, live entertainment and dancing.

Rickey Smiley and D.L. Hughley co-hosted the festival Saturday and Sunday as well. The impressive line-up

included local artists Karina Iglesias of “The Voice” and John Erinosh, followed by Sheila E., Men of Soul, Toni Braxton and R. Kelly. Sunday’s acts were local artist Valerie Tyson, the Jazz in the Gardens Allstar Band, Brian Culbertson, Run-D.M.C., Erykah Badu and Maxwell.

Mayor Oliver Gilbert of the City of Miami Gardens stated, “This signature event was birthed from humble beginnings with just 1,800 people in attendance our first year. I am proud to have watched this festival grow in number and esteem and

reach this landmark of 10 years.”

Along with the lineup, there were more than 40 exotic food vendors present, a Vendor Marketplace, an outdoor gallery exhibiting professional local artist’s paintings and merchandise being sold for fans to support their favorite jazz and R&B artists. Welcome to all ages and for anyone who can appreciate jazz, neo soul, R&B, and hip-hop, University students are encouraged to attend JITG next year.



# ‘Mr Wonderful’ channels 80’s rock on LP

## The ‘Last Man on Earth’ is proving difficult to enjoy

### RIVES REVIEWS



VINCENT RIVES

Action Bronson is one of the biggest acts in 2015. Standing at 5’8”, 295 lbs, one can argue that Bronson is hip-hop’s John Belushi. Whether it’s his ridiculous hyperboles or his raucous on-stage antics, Action Bronson is becoming a household name in pop culture.

Bronson’s story is like something out of a Marvel superhero movie. Before rap, Bronson was a gourmet chef, but after a kitchen slip broke his leg in 2011, Bronson used his downtime to focus more on his rap hobby. Four years later, Bronson is releasing his major label debut album “Mr. Wonderful” under Atlantic Records-Vice Media.

The Albanian MC out of Queens, New York has a distinct sound style about him. He might be the closest thing to modern day Wu Tang, besides vocally sounding like Ghostface Killah, Bronson is best known for his over-the-top metaphors, which include him performing ridiculous stunts like triple backflips, or dropkicks. Very similar to Wu Tang Clan’s hyperboles which led to their 90’s reign of rap.

Similar to his past mixtapes like “Rare Chandeliers” and the “Blue Chips” series, Bronson channels his inner 80’s rock star. Yet, on those albums, he only sampled classic rock to rap on, but now on songs like “City Boy Blues” and “Only In America,” it removes itself from the typical rap feel, and instead finds Bronson singing and crooning throughout the song. The gamble pays off, but not entirely, as the intro track “Brand New Car” isn’t as smooth as a transition as the aforementioned songs. Apparently Bronson and producer Mark Ronson had penned a handwritten letter to Billy Joel asking for the clearing of his song “Zanzibar” as a sample, but it leaves one wondering if it was really worth all the trouble.

Fans of Bronson’s classic New York raps will be satisfied as he doesn’t transition entirely to 80’s rock. His singles “Easy Rider,” “Actin’ Crazy,” as

well as “The Rising” and “Falconry” find Bronson on his gully-street raps, filled with what he’s known best for—ridiculous hyperbole and gourmet food references. Some examples can be found on “Easy Rider,” “tell the pilot land the plane on Roosevelt and Main, Put a jacuzzi on the seven train”, or on “Actin Crazy,” “all I do is eat oysters and speak six languages in three voices.”

The thing with “Mr Wonderful” is when it hits, it connects thoroughly, but when its off, it’s way off. On “THUG LOVE STORY 2017 THE MUSICAL (Interlude)”, listeners will be less than delighted to hear what sounds like a homeless dude from the Lower East Side of Manhattan sing throughout the 3 minute track.

“The Passage” is another example of Bronson reaching for that 80’s rockstar feel, the track is a recording from a performance in Prague, but instead of Bronson rapping, its a 4 minute psychedelic instrumentation, sans rapping, that leads into Easy Rider.

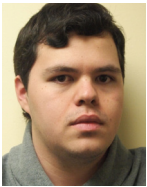
Overall “Mr Wonderful” feels like another Action Bronson mixtape, but with major label budgeting. The majority of production features frequent collaborators: The Alchemist, Party Supplies, Statik Selektah, with additional work from Mark Ronson and OVO Noah “40” Shebib from Drake’s camp.

The music videos for “Easy Rider”, “Acting Crazy”, and “Baby Blue” are the most creative and downright funniest videos since the days of Ludacris walking around with a midget on his necklace. Bronson gambled on his major label debut with the 80’s rock vibe, but it works out for the most part. With his “Munchies” internet show, and a cookbook underway, “Mr. Wonderful” seems to be Bronson’s transition from underground sensation to mainstream superstar.

[vincent.rives@fiusm.com](mailto:vincent.rives@fiusm.com)

**ALBUM:**  
**Mr. Wonderful**  
**RATING:**  
**4/5**

### ON THE TUBE



RAFAEL ABREU

Lately, I’ve noticed people either give concern or flak in regards to “The Last Man on Earth” not being good anymore.

According to some of these folk, the show has gone downhill ever since the beginning with the introduction of other characters and the run around of the same plot, like Phil not getting over Melissa.

Also, according to these people, the show is no longer funny.

That last one I don’t understand, since for me the show has remained just as hilarious as ever, if not more so.

Episode 7, “She Drives Me Crazy” continues with Phil not getting over Melissa and everyone learning that she and Todd are having sex – all the time.

This bothers Phil so much that in a hilarious scene involving a town meeting, he tries to vote to make the sex sessions less frequent. but he ends up being voted to clean up his toilet pool.

Soon, he devises a plan to strand Todd in the middle of nowhere during a long car trip, but after driving off, then reversing, then driving off, then reversing again and again, he decides against it.

It shows that Phil isn’t all that bad and even Todd thinks he’s a nice guy. Then again, Todd thinks everyone’s nice.

“I could be nicer,” said Phil, as he realizes that he could use some improvement, leading us to the next scene of him seriously readying himself to clean out his pool.

Then comes episode 8, “Mooovin’ In” and for the first time

in several episodes, the dynamic changes.

Phil stops being so concerned about Melissa and Todd and more concerned about his standing in the community.

“One thing these episodes further demonstrate is that Phil has become very unlikable. While I don’t mind this and enjoy seeing him fail as well as see him succeed, I fear many people’s complaints will be something along the lines of ‘how can we root for such an unlikable character?’”

He starts thinking that he isn’t being respected or appreciated, and after venting to his sports ball friends at the bar, he realizes he needs to do something amazing to make them all notice him.

Enter a random cow, which Phil thought would be great to butcher, but everyone else is naturally against that.

In fact, Todd used to spend time on his uncle’s ranch, so he knows how to take care of a cow! As one can imagine, Phil is less than pleased.

Will Forte is great at facial expressions, and these episodes really demonstrate that as we see

him fake a smile, hide pain, or pretend to be in pain or surprise. Every emotion Phil has feels genuine or genuinely phony, and the rest of the cast is just as excellent at either being funny, serious or sweet.

Of the many moments I loved in these episodes, a very nice one comes at the end of “Mooovin’ In”. After finding the cow Phil lets loose in another attempt to win sympathy after bringing it back, Todd decides to let Phil take all the credit for finding it.

Todd explains that Phil means so much to him and that letting him take credit for finding the cow seems righteous.

Phil comes off as truly touched, and right as he says he doesn’t want to take the credit, the scene transitions immediately to him announcing to everyone that he found the cow.

One thing these episodes further demonstrate is that Phil has become very unlikable.

While I don’t mind this and enjoy seeing him fail as well as see him succeed, I fear many people’s complaints will be something along the lines of “how can we root for such an unlikable character?”

Indeed, this is a problem if you’re rooting for Phil. I, for one, am merely observing Phil and his companions as they do their best to survive the post-apocalypse.

As for the future of this series, however, the direction it has been taking thus far may prove a problem for many viewers.

[rafael.abreu@fiusm.com](mailto:rafael.abreu@fiusm.com)

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BASEBALL

# Panthers look to take Conference USA series against UTSA after B-CU loss

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

After dropping their first meeting on March 24, FIU looked to bounce back and even up the season series against Bethune-Cookman. The first game between them, the Wildcats won a close one 3-2. In this past game, it was a back and forth match that went down to the end. B-CU was the team that came out victorious for the second time this season with a score of 7-4. This was a tough loss for the Panthers to take as B-CU is in a bit of a slump with an 11-21 record.

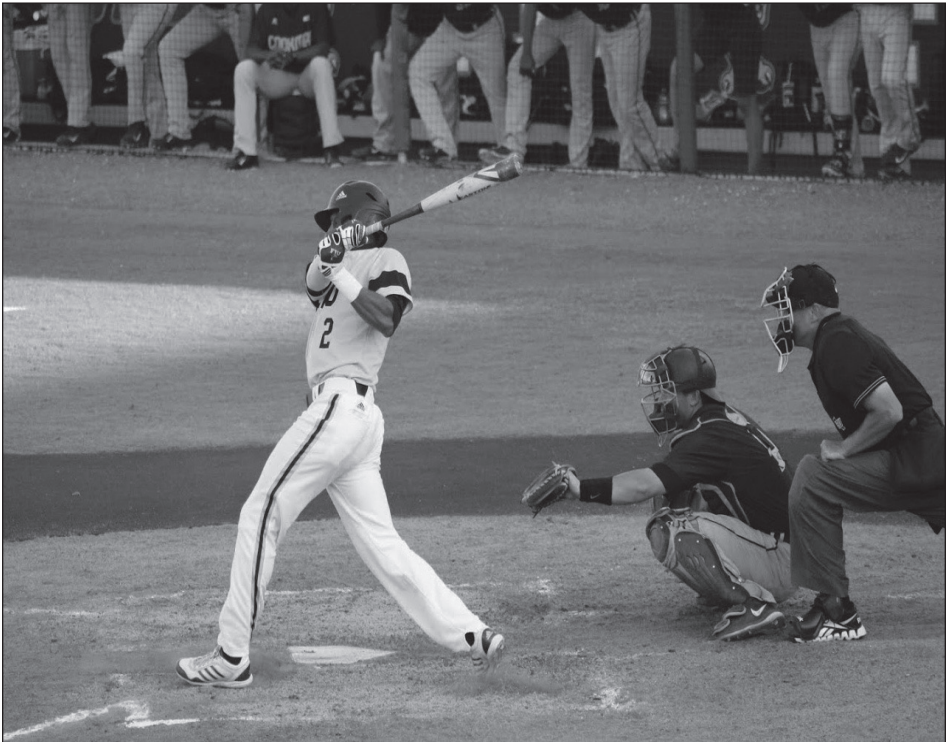
FIU was always able to bounce back after the Wildcats put runs on the board. The Panthers scored four runs on six hits and was led by sophomore JC Escarra, who went 2-for-4 with a solo home run. Freshman Jack Schaaf followed up Escarra's performance going 1-for-1 on the night with two RBI, while drawing to walks.

Pitching seemed to struggle in this game. Sophomore Williams Durruthy earned his first loss of the season after giving up two runs on three hits and striking out two in

only two and two-thirds innings of action. Starter David Lee earned the "no decision" and was able to hold the Wildcats to two runs. One in which was unearned. Lee kept B-CU's offense in check as they only tallied two hits in five innings pitched.

It seemed like every time the Wildcats scored, FIU was able to respond. They took a one-run lead three times in the game. When B-CU scored in the second, fourth and sixth, FIU responded with runs in the third, fifth and seventh innings to tie the game up. Late in the game, heading into the top of the eighth with the score knotted up at 3-3, B-CU scored two runs to take a 5-3 lead. Escarra's solo shot pulled the Panthers within one in the bottom of the eighth. However, the Wildcats countered with two more runs in the top of the ninth for a 7-4 advantage thanks to B-CU's from Austin Garcia, who drove in five runs in the whole game while going 2-for-4.

After this rough loss the Panthers need to regroup and focus winning those conference games which means a lot. They will return to Conference USA action as they will be hosting the UTSA Roadrunners in a three-game series this weekend.



MEGAN TAIT/THE BEACON

Senior infielder Julius Gaines strikes out against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats on Tuesday, March 31. Now at 5-4 in Conference USA competition, the Panthers play University of Texas at San Antonio on Friday, April 3 at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 4 at 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 5 at 1 p.m.

SOFTBALL

# Blazers of UAB next on the schedule for FIU



MARIA SOLEDAD LORENZINO/THE BEACON

Freshman infielder Ashley Belans runs to fourth base in the game against the University of Massachusetts Lowell on March 17. The Panthers play the University of Alabama at Birmingham on Friday, April 3 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

ALANNAH ALFONSO  
Staff Writer  
alannah.alfonso@fiusm.com

FIU softball will host a three game conference matchup against the UAB Blazers this Thursday, April 2 and Friday, April 3 at Felsburg Field at the FIU softball stadium.

Coming off a series victory against another C-USA rival, FAU, the Panthers look to come out victorious against the Blazers that come to Miami for the first time this season.

The Panthers have had dominant pitching and hitting especially by senior Krystal Garcia who cleared the bases with doubles in both of the victories played this past weekend against the Florida Atlantic Owls.

Sophomore Gabby Spallone is now leading C-USA in doubles (12) with sophomore Stephanie Texeira (10) and Ashley Belans (9) are tied for second.

FIU has a good conference matchup against UAB and have Caitlin Attfield to look out for offensively. The junior is leading in almost every category including batting average (.495), on base percentage (.533), and hits (54). Junior Sara Beth Williamson is also one to look out for as she is leading her team with 7 home runs this season tied with FIU sophomore Stephanie Texeira.

Texeira will definitely put the pressure on as she leads in a few of the same categories. With 38 RBIs

so far this season, UAB should definitely be careful when pitching to Texeira.

Both programs have a solid offense which will be a fun matchup to watch alongside both pitching staffs that have aces like UAB's freshman Megan Smith and sophomore Cara Goodwin against FIU's junior Corrine Jenkins and senior Shelby Graves. Jenkins registered her 11th career shutout victory over Florida Atlantic last weekend placing her as fourth leading in all-time Panther softball history.

It will be a great conference matchup to watch Thursday at 6 p.m. at Felsburg Field at the FIU softball stadium and a double header on Friday at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

## JOIN OUR STAFF!

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## SAND VOLLEYBALL

# Panthers behind only USC, Hawaii in rankings

**STEFANO RIVERA**  
Contributing Writer  
[sports@fiusm.com](mailto:sports@fiusm.com)

The sand volleyball team has showed how strong they are this year. At the beginning of the season, the Panthers were ranked No. 9 and looked for a strong start for the program's third year. The team has done exactly that the first month of the season.

On Monday, March 30, the team moved to No. 3 in the nation in the DiG Magazine Collegiate Poll. They have accomplished this with a record of 13-1, which includes twelve consecutive victories, a 3-0 record against AVCA Top 10 opponents, and a 4-1 record against DiG Magazine Top 20 teams. This is the best start the program has had in its short, three year existence.

The Panthers have swept

three consecutive tournaments they have participated in: the UNF Sand Invitational in Saint Augustine Beach, Florida, the Tiger Sand Tournament in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and the Palmetto Invitational in Columbia, South Carolina. At one point, the team went five straight matches winning 5-0, showing how dominant it can be.

The latest tournament the Panthers competed in was the Palmetto Invitational against Pepperdine University and University of South Carolina, the host. Pepperdine was ranked No. 2 in the DiG Magazine rankings before the Panthers won 3-2. The team posted the same outcome against South Carolina, which was ranking No. 17 going into the match. The Panthers used these two victories as momentum in order to

jump into the No. 3 spot.

In the DiG Magazine rankings, the Panthers trail University of Southern California and University of Hawaii. The Trojans are undefeated with a record of 12-0, and the Warriors jump into the No. 2 spot with a 10-1 record.

Despite trailing those teams, the Panthers lead the way for Florida teams in the Top 10 rankings as No. 5 Florida State University and No. 9 Stetson University continue to have impressive years.

The Panthers have played both FSU and Stetson this season in the Stetson Spring Break Tournament in DeLand, Florida. The team defeated the Seminoles 3-2, which were ranked No. 2 at the time, but Stetson handed the Panthers their only loss of the season with a tightly contested, 2-3 victory at home.

The play of senior Maryna Samoday and freshman Anja Licka has been the boost the Panthers needed coming into the season.

“At one point, the team went five straight matches winning 5-0, showing how dominant it can be.”

They run the No. 1 spot for the team and are 13-1 in dual matches, including eleven straight wins. These players have an opposing playing style that is working

for them. Samoday, standing at 6-foot-2, provides power needed for kills, while Licka, standing at 5-foot-9, provides speed and quickness for defense.

The team will host its first tournament of the season as it welcomes four teams to the Doctors Hospital FIU Surf and Turf Tournament on Friday, April 3 and Saturday April 4 in Miami Beach.

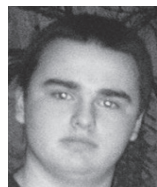
On Friday, the Panthers will face off against Webber International University and Stanford University, which is currently ranked No. 15 in Dig Magazine. On Saturday, the team will compete against Carson-Newman University and Florida Atlantic University.

The Panthers will look to use their No. 3 ranking as fuel going into another tough weekend in order to maintain one of the best records in the nation.

## MLB

## Surgery becoming epidemic in MLB

## JACOB'S JUICE



JACOB SPIWAK

Over the past several years, there has been an epidemic of sorts plaguing professional baseball. As each season goes on, it appears that the number of pitchers requiring season-ending Tommy John surgery continues to rapidly increase.

Tommy John surgery is the procedure in which the ulnar collateral ligament - UCL - in the elbow is reconstructed, allowing the player to throw a baseball again after months of rehab.

Before the surgery existed, pitchers with a tear in their UCL would never be able to pitch again. It's a great advancement in modern medicine that has allowed the preservation of many pitcher's careers, but it's still considered the surgery that no player ever wants to receive due to the severity of the injury.

For some, Tommy John is merely a bump in the road. Clearly it's crushing news for a pitcher to hear that his arm is being shut down indefinitely, but many pitchers are able to come back from the surgery better than they were before.

However, many players are never able to fully recover from Tommy John surgery. The surgery itself heals the UCL, but some pitchers fizzle out and never return to the level of efficiency they were at before the surgery.

There are many different theories as to why the number of players requiring Tommy John has continued to increase over recent years. Some point to the fact that pitchers nowadays are throwing almost all year long starting at a very young age, and the stress on the arm catches up

to them. Others claim certain pitches or deliveries that torque the arm are to blame for the increase in UCL tears.

The statistics on the issue vary completely, and make it very difficult to peg this down into one sound conclusion. All that you can conclude for certain is that Tommy John surgery is something affecting many young pitchers and just about every organization in the MLB.

The Marlins are one of the teams that have been hurt the most by UCL injuries, most notably the loss of ace Jose Fernandez last season that will spill over into the 2015 season. They also recently saw relief pitcher Aaron Crow injure his UCL in Spring Training, and pending a second medical opinion he will require Tommy John surgery.

You expect pitchers like Fernandez to come back strong after months of rehabilitation. He's one of the most talented young stars in the MLB, and the surgery should allow him to return at a high level. A similar case is Matt Harvey, the young ace of the Mets who is set to return from Tommy John this season.

For players like Crow, however, who are unproven and attempting to make a roster and solidify a job in the MLB, Tommy John hits them even harder. Crow will be unable to do any baseball activities for months, and as unfortunate as it is, this surgery could potentially end his MLB career.

While it's near impossible to fully understand why the "epidemic" has been spreading throughout the MLB, the growing need for Tommy John surgery is the unfortunate reality that has ended - or slowed down - the career of many young pitchers.

## NFL

## Dolphins have 'new-look' receivers

## DRUCKER'S DIGEST



DAVID DRUCKER

The Miami Dolphins made a big splash by signing defensive lineman Ndamakong Suh this offseason, but the receiving corps might've been the most changed group on the team this offseason. Out are Hartline, Gibson, Clay and Wallace, and in are a bunch of young guys that we don't know much about.

Yeah, Dolphins fans should be concerned.

Mike Wallace's departure just plain shocked me. I understand the frustration that Dolphins fans had for him; Tannehill never was able to hit him in stride consistently and there were times when Wallace wouldn't fight for the ball. That being said, I still think that ditching Wallace was a mistake.

First of all, a guy with the kind of speed that Mike Wallace possesses doesn't just appear on your team via a lucky draft pick. These kinds of players are highly sought out for in the NFL even if their hands aren't that great.

What's valuable is what the Wallace's of the world do for a team's entire offense. Having a speedster that constantly requires safety help opens up routes underneath, which allows all of the other receivers to eat.

Also, after Dolphins fans harassed Tannehill for so long, the quarterback was putting some of his deep throws to Wallace on the money near the end of the season.

The threat of Wallace up top was a key reason why Tannehill was able to complete 66.4 percent of his passes last year. The progress that we had all waited so long for was finally coming. And with the Wallace

trade, all of that went out the window.

Why was this trade made this late in the offseason when the Dolphins could've done something with the few million dollars that they are now stuck with? This was not a well-planned move and almost leads me to believe that something was indeed going on behind the scenes.

Now Jarvis Landry, Kenny Stills and the newly acquired Jordan Cameron will have to do the heavy lifting for the league's youngest receiving corps. Still produced adequately for the New Orleans Saints, but it has yet to be seen if he will live up to the billing of starting receiver.

Overall, the only thing that I'm certain about is that I have no idea how the stat lines of these pass-catchers will fill out by season's end.

-For the full story see [fiusm.com](http://fiusm.com).

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# Good Wine and Good Company

KRYSTAL C. PUGH  
Contributing Writer  
bbc@fiusm.com

Students no longer have to wait until Friday night happy hour to have a nice glass of wine.

Friends of Wine is a social club based on the Biscayne campus that has been around since 1989. However the club originally was apart of the school of hospitality, the club just recently branched off onto its own.

Friends of Wine meets every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. on Biscayne Bay campus in the hospitality building in the Carnival Center.

Students are able to try anywhere between three to five wines paired with appetizers.

The events for the rest of this semester are free. However, in the future if there is a fee, it'll be \$5.

There are variety of events each semester with guest speakers and regional wines from all over.

On Tuesday April 7, the Friends of Wine will have the honor of Javier Fonseca

speaking to them about El Carajo International Tapas -Restaurant- Wine-Shop-Bakery.

Fonseca will provide further details about the restaurant and of course the wine selection and other great information.

The event to follow will be April 14 with guest speaker Eric Lake where the club will learn about dry wine. The flyer suggests the question "Is this wine dry?"

Professor Patrick Chip Cassidy, a wine professor here at the University, created Friends of Wine. He started the club for a wine sales job he held and two of his students attended.

This encouraged him to make something similar available to students.

Allowing students to taste wine and become educated on the different kinds, tastes and learn to have a greater appreciation.

The club indulges in different tastes from around the world and learn the history of them. Learning where they came

## ROARIN' GOOD TIME



MARCIA AKSU/THE BEACON

Christian Ruiz, a freshman in finance and Juan Pinol, a junior studying chemistry, hang out with Roary at the second annual Wolfe Day Carnival on Tuesday, March 31.

from, how they came to be.

All questions about wine are answered within this club. Landie Koch, a graduate student of Hospitality and president of the Friends of Wine club encourages all students to come.

It's a very relaxed educational environment.

"I fell in love with wine before I came to FIU. I went to a restaurant and the sommelier had me try several kinds of wine," Koch said.

Koch said that a red wine called Bordeaux was her favorite. "After tasting wine I became so curious and kind of made wine tasting and educating myself about it, my hobby."

Wine has often been described as poetry in a bottle, and the best wine is wine served with friends. Take a friend and go check out the club you might enjoy yourself more than you expect!

"We are a small club

I have about six main members and If anyone wants to join just come check us out on a Tuesday of your choice," Koch said.

If students have a free

Tuesday evening, and want to learn about wine while tasting it, consider the Friends of Wine club. However students must be 21 or older to drink.

**WHAT:** Friends of Wine Club

**WHEN:** Every Tuesday 5:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Biscayne Bay Campus, Chaplin School of Hospitality

# Alumnus wins recognition for food blog

SUDYEN NAVARRETE  
Contributing Writer  
sudyen.navarrete@fiusm.com

With a zeal for food and pugs, Geoffrey Anderson, a FIU Student Media and FIU journalism alumnus, has been awarded the 2015 Johnson & Wales University Zest Award for best food blog by reader's choice.

Along with his girlfriend, Dianne Rubin, he features different restaurants across Miami interviewing chefs and owners to understand their pursuit for top-notch food service. According to the JWU website, the Zest Awards honor leaders in culinary arts to celebrate South Florida's culinary heritage.

Graduating from the University, Anderson began to visit different restaurants and it occurred to him that blogging about food was what he wanted.

After a trip to Chicago two years ago, Anderson and Rubin came up with the idea of incorporating their favorite dog with their food blog to deliver a unique idea to their followers.

"Everybody has a food blog, [but we asked], 'how are we going to be different?'" Anderson said.

"[You're] not allowed to take a pug

with you inside a restaurant. The next best thing was to photoshop pugs into our food photos," he said.

Both were shocked at receiving the award since their blog has only been active a few years. Other nominees were older, well-known blogs such as the Burger Beast and the Hungry Post.

Their blog started as a Tumblr page. It wasn't until last year that they decided

"The moment we won I was like 'yeah!'" Rubin said. She said the award opens opportunities and more chances to grow as bloggers.

She said her interest in food grew after meeting Anderson and working together on the blog.

"I watch a lot of food shows and he understands more of the work because he knows a lot of good restaurants to eat,"

“

Everybody has a food blog, [but we asked], 'How are we going to be different?'

Geoffrey Anderson  
Alumnus  
Journalism

”

to go bigger and create their website miamifoodpug.com. Both said they needed to "go big, or go home."

According to Rubin, they were declared winners after a month of waiting for votes to be counted. She said they couldn't keep calm when they were announced winners.

Rubin said.

They have visited restaurants in Brickell, Doral, Miami Beach, the City of Sweetwater and Wynwood, for example.

They started with restaurants and bars in Coral Gables and made their first interviews and reviews about their food

service and events.

Their favorite restaurant is Sweet Dogs on Calle Ocho. It offers unique foods, especially in hot dogs. According to the blog, customers have the choice of creating their own hot dog to fit their particular tastes.

Anderson said the restaurant's owner, Victor Ruiz, gives exceptional customer service.

"He is the nicest and most humble man ever," said Anderson. "[Sweet Dogs] was ranked number 12 in the top 100 restaurants in the country [according to yelp.com]," Anderson said.

They've been able to maintain friendships and connections thanks to the blog. "They know who we are," Rubin said.

They have also partnered with Compassionate Pug Rescue to support its campaign "Find Me a Home Friday." They were able to get photo shots of adoptable pugs and incorporate them into their food photos.

They helped spread the word to their blog readers and dogs were eventually adopted.

The couple is planning to move together this fall with the adoption of a pug leading their interest for food and pugs to success.