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# The Beacon, April 7, 2016

Florida International University

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## BSU initiative extends Green Library hours

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

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

This campaign came about due to a hacking incident of the FIU website, which was blasted through the social media portal of Yeti, where it claimed that African American students and other minorities were being hunted by special trained police dogs on campus.

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

other COBALT organization leaders, to make a change at the university, including the academic committee which was pushing for extended hours.

These students set up meetings with administration in order to progress with their plan.

"We had several meetings with the administration," Perry-Patterson said to Student Media, "the FIU police, External Relations, the University Vice President and President Rosenberg."

The reason the Library was the main focus of this project was because, according to Perry-Patterson, they wanted a space for students to be able to study 24 hours for at least 5 days a week.

"You can see it at other universities such as UF, USF, FSU and UCF," he said, "they have some kind of 24/5 plan or even 24 hour access to their libraries."

An administrative figure that

**SEE BSU, PAGE 2**

## CAT NAP



CHARLOTTE ALBA/THE BEACON

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

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

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

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

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

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

student affairs.

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

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

"What happened to Jose and I was extremely unfortunate—especially considering that we both have a personal relationship with the individual who filed the writ against us (Juan Gilces) and the leadership in the party he represents (FIYOU)," she said. "I am thrilled that the administration reviewed our appeal and decided to uphold

the original ruling of the SGA Elections Board, giving us a chance to demonstrate our passion and our commitment

not duly confirmed by the MMC Senate at the Feb. 8, 2016 meeting because the MMC Senate lacked a

actions taken are null and void. Thus, none of the justices were confirmed, leaving only the Chief Justice

the email. "Given the timing of this opinion, I am delaying the SGA election to provide both parties adequate time to campaign on the issues."

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

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

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



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

Eric Arneson PhD  
Asst. Vice President  
Student Affairs



to students."

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

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

quorum," Arneson wrote in the email.

According to Student Affairs, the quorum held when senators appointed the three justices did not follow due process. A minimum number of voting members are required to conduct substantive business during meetings, according to SGC-MMC constitutional statutes.

"In the absence of a quorum, any substantive

who cannot act alone," said Arneson.

Sergio Molina, chief justice of SGC-MMC, did not issue a statement to Student Media in time for print.

"Finding that there is a basis for the [new evidence] and having reviewed the decision by the Election Board as to Sirven's qualifications, I have determined that the Election Board's analysis is sound and uphold that decision," Arneson wrote in

# NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

## Princeton retains Woodrow Wilson namesakes

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

at Princeton decided to maintain Wilson's name, while committing to work on diversity and inclusion issues, and more fully educate people about Wilson's legacy. The 10-member trustee committee said the Ivy League university in New Jersey must be "honest and forthcoming about its history" and open "in recognizing Wilson's failings and shortcomings as well as the visions and achievements that led to the naming of the school and the college in the first place."

## Family of slain activist asks US to cut off aid to Honduras

The 25-year-old daughter of slain Honduran environmental leader Berta Caceres traveled 1,800 miles to Washington this week to press the Obama administration for help investigating her mother's murder. Bertha Zuniga said she has little faith in her government's ability to find and hold responsible the people who killed her mother. "The government had an interest in stopping her fight," Zuniga said. "But they've also demonstrated a series of inconsistencies and

irregularities in how they've gone about their investigation." Caceres, co-founder of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras had faced death threats from Honduran authorities and private security forces, her family said, because of her fight against the construction of a hydroelectric dam planned along a river that's sacred to the indigenous Lenca people, a fight for which she won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize last year.

## Iceland prime minister resigns following protests over Panama Papers

The first political casualty of the offshore investments scandal known as the Panama Papers occurred Tuesday: The embattled prime minister of Iceland resigned. Prime Minister Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson tendered his resignation following the largest anti-government protests in modern times in Iceland, a sign of the public anger over his family's offshore holdings. Iceland's fisheries minister announced that Gunnlaugsson had stepped down, according to state broadcaster RUV.

Gunnlaugsson became the first global leader to see his grip on power fail because of revelations in the Panama Papers, a massive leak of records from a Panama law firm that is a global leader in setting up and maintaining offshore companies and trusts. McClatchy reporters and journalists from 76 other countries sifted through the records in recent months as part of the largest global collaborative investigation ever undertaken.

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

# Library extends hours for finals

## BSU, PAGE 1

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

Prestamo worked in collaboration with BSU to move forward on this idea of extended hours. Prestamo as well as Perry-Patterson, said there was not much time to promote the hours.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Libraries couldn't do this by themselves" Prestamo says. "There are a lot of costs to consider."

Prestamo and Perry-Patterson both list different factors that need to be taken into consideration for this initiative to move forward. Among these things there is the costs

of staff, custodial, security, utilities, as well as infrastructure changes that would have to be made in order to accommodate the longer hours.

Perry-Patterson and Prestamo believe it is not an unreachable compromise. "It's a possible outlook," said Perry-Patterson.

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

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

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

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

Prestamo says there were staff members appointed to count the number of students on every floor each hour during the last extended period in December. During the 24 hour period in November and December that there was about 9,000 students on the second floor alone, according to Prestamo. There are also records about laptop and book uses in the Library during this time, all in effort of providing as much numerical and physical data of the benefits of the 24/5 extended hour project.

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

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

"Between now and this [the extended hours pilot] time period." Perry Patterson says. "You will be seeing BSU start a marketing campaign in the Library and GC to get students motivated to take advantage of this opportunity"

# THE BEACON

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## SGA supreme court a 'kangaroo court,' 'self-serving'

### ROOM 101



JUAN SALAMANCA

There's a funny tendency that governments run by a tiny, nepotistic minority share: corruption.

Our student government is far from immune. It's easy to ignore what SGA is up

to because, frankly, campus politics don't seem to hold all that much weight.

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

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

It's an unspoken relation that compels even the most philosophically principled mind as they bear the pressures of an unrelentingly cut-throat social structure that constitutes the political economy of

the United States today. It's all about the hustle. It's about knowing the right people and doing the right favors. It's about a career.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

has no interest in seriously harming the party that is running in opposition to three of her Alpha Xi Delta sisters running as FIYou senatorial candidates.

I believe the term for this kind of thing is "kangaroo court." As I have argued through the Beacon, the self-serving patronage of the Greek establishment is un-democratic, and when applied to the context of an institution which bears such a solemn duty like the Supreme Court, is a mockery of the rule of law—a cornerstone to democratic ideals by which we hope to govern.

That Collazo failed in his clear duty to maintain a lawful, legitimate supreme court as Speaker of the Senate probably suggests that he is unfit to govern as SGA President. At best, if he is unwilling to stamp out moral and legal ambiguity in the court, it demonstrates corruption; at worst, if he was unable to see the problem, it demonstrates incompetence.

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

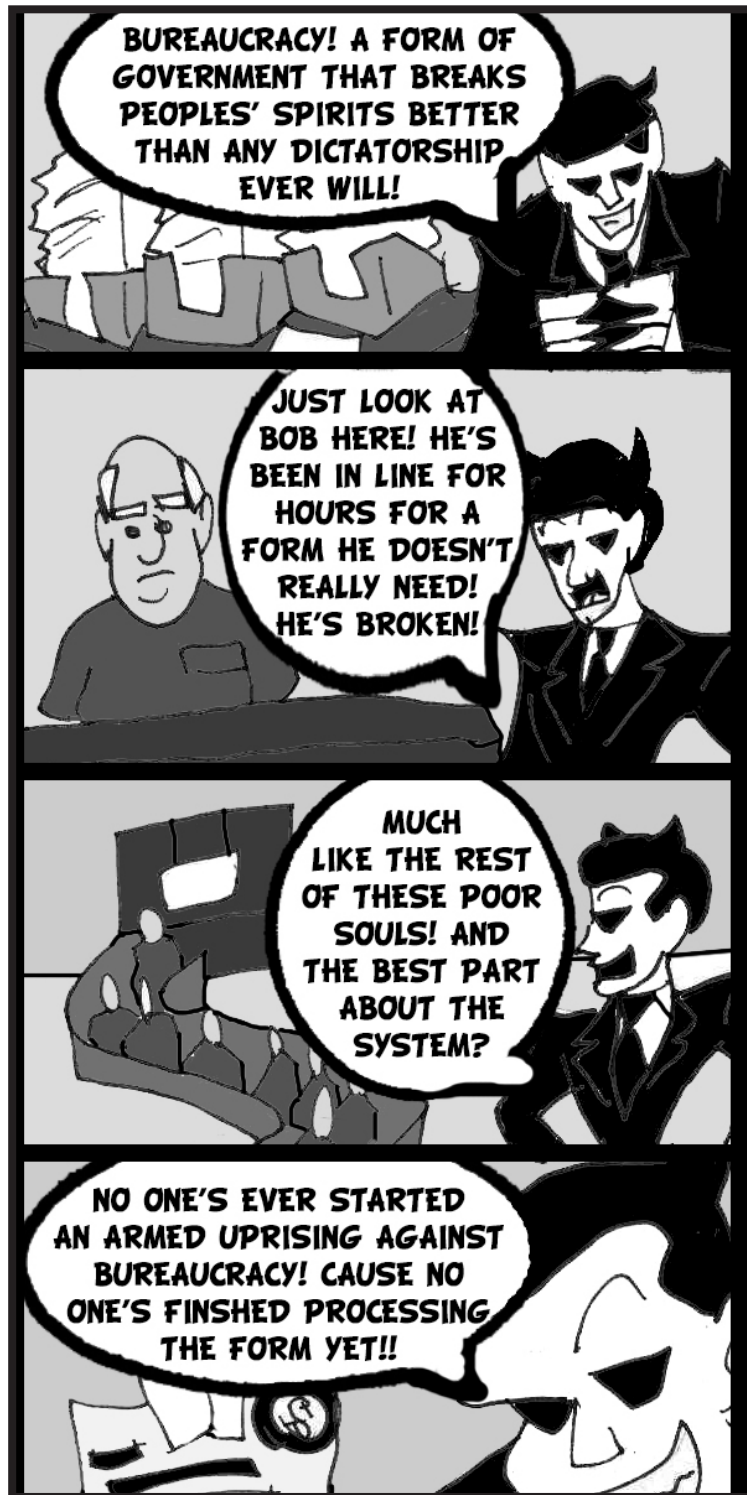
Sirven and Shaw are only the latest examples; look to the attempted disqualification of Stefan Bahad and Kristen Nymen last year or the successful disqualification of Philip Koenig and Adriana McLamb the year before that.

In the world of FIYou, a supreme court is for the creation of favorable election climates.

FIYou claims that they want to empower students. Seems to me they're more interested in perpetuating their own power.

*Room 101 is a column about politics and economics. For suggestions, contact Juan at opinion@fiusm.com.*

## BUREAUCRACY



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

## Playwright's production ban 'bold'

### ON THE SCENE



GABRIELLE GARCIA

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

Despite the veto, corporations and organizations nationwide continue to keep a close eye on such legislation.

Wednesday, March 30, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, signed a controversial bill that blocks cities from allowing transgender individuals to use public restrooms for the sex they identify as, among other legislative components which limit anti-discriminatory laws.

In response to the outrageous legislation that was passed in North Carolina, Tony Award-winning composer and lyricist Stephen Schwartz, the iconic writer and producer of hit Broadway musicals such as "Wicked," "Pippin" and

"Godspell," announced that he has consulted with his licensing organizations and his team of producers to deny the right to any theatre or similar organization in North Carolina to produce any of his shows.

Friday, April 1, the online theatre publication BroadwayWorld.com publicized an e-mail written by Schwartz, expressing his intolerance for discriminatory legislation:

"To my fellow theatre writers and producers: ...I feel that it is very important that any state that passes such a law suffer economic and cultural consequences, partly because it is deserved and partly to discourage other states from following suit."

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

Schwartz's bold response to discriminatory legislation is not solely

marshaling the Broadway world to fight back— his actions serve as an example to all individuals and organizations nationwide to incite constructive dialogue.

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

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

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

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

### SEND US YOUR LETTERS

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

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## Pride month expected to educate students

**DARIUS DUPINS**  
Entertainment Director  
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Call it a coincidence but the last day of March was a day of transgender visibility, while the following day is the start of Pride month, where we celebrate the accomplishments of the LGBTQA community while fighting against homophobia and transphobia.

The office of Multicultural Programs and Services, a division of student affairs will host Pride themed events throughout the month of April.

FIU recently kicked off Pride month with an annual Drag Ball: Glitz & Glam of our Kings & Queens, last Thursday, March 31.

Upcoming events range from forums, the Miami Beach Gay

Pride festivities, Day of Silence and rounding off Pride month with recognizing all high school Gay Straight Alliances and college graduating seniors.

"For each individual [event] we plan to highlight the different ways Pride can be demonstrated," said MPAS graduate assistant Jazmine Clifton.

The office of MPAS house a number of organizations that meet the needs of FIU's LGBTQA population. The GSA provides a safe community that encourages diversity and offers opportunity for social growth and leadership experiences.

For more information on Pride month events or general information regarding MPAS or GSA you can visit their offices in GC 216.

### AESTHETICS & SETUP



NICOLE HERNANDEZ/THE BEACON

On March 29 FIU Honor students and artist begin display setup for the upcoming Aesthetics and Values Exhibition at the Frost Art Museum.

## New Com Truise EP does nothing new - it's okay

**CINDY HERNANDEZ**  
SELECTED ANALYZED WORKS

Com Truise, synth wave auteur and propeller of the only legitimate nostalgia we have left in the 2000's era's new release, "Silicone Tare" is an EP worth talking about - only because of the convenience that Com Truise's legacy in his field has held him.

As a whole, "Silicon Tare" makes me desire a new album four years after the lush but fairly empty "In Decay," but listeners are treated to a sample of Com Truise's new direction, which may be more optimistic, situational and

maybe even more "synth wave" than necessary from an artist who spills onto chill wave and generally well crafted electronic music.

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

On the other hand, the other songs on this album seem to miss this mark completely,

opting for an experimentation in how far you can push a genre based on nostalgia for a genre which already exists.

'Forgive' should be a

“...the genre is consumed by the types of music aficionados who dwell in basements and lurk elusive Japanese funk samples...”

dancey track, influenced with some kind of ironic tinge from freestyle of the 90s, but doesn't seem to deliver that inspiration for dance that is so well crafted on his first album "Galactic Melt" back in 2011. I don't think synthwave's main goal is

dance, particularly considering the genre is consumed by the types of music aficionados who dwell in basements and lurk elusive Japanese funk samples,

but it's a disappointment for someone who seemed to have cornered the kind of sexiness of neon soaked beats so well beforehand.

"Diffraction," as is so rightfully named as the midway point of the album goes towards

an IDM vibe interestingly enough, but ultimately sounds like an out take off of Venetian Snares 2016 album, "Traditional Synthesizer Music," without the breakcore harshness, but with a not so elegant mixing of percussion and synths. Often, extreme juxtaposition works well in electronic music, but it does nothing for the album here.

The album's titular track really make the case for the kind of "sci-fi epic" other reviewers have considered Com Truise's output to be - but the lack of meaningful transition on it is just shocking.

The final track 'du Zirconia' acts as a kind of remix to "Silicon Tare," without bringing anything new to the table except that Com Truise truly has moved into a world without

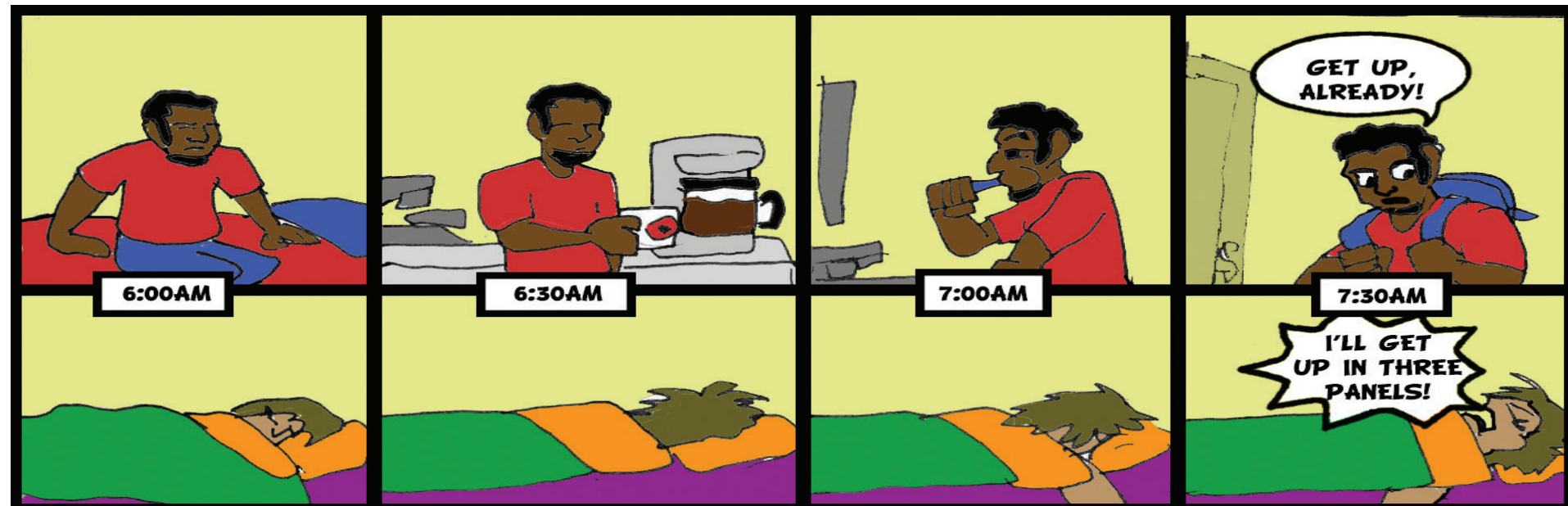
interesting percussion samples and generic time signatures that take away from his not so generic synthwave sound.

While other synthwave musicians seem to rely on the kind of field work required of vaporwave musicians, Com Truise was elegant in his focus on putting himself in before the nostalgia.

However, this EP is supported by the genre coming up and creeping up behind you, whispering in your ear to make it more like what they expect of you. And that, Com Truise delivered.

*Selected Analyzed Works* is a column that discusses selected works from the RPM genre. For suggestions or comments email [life@fiusm.com](mailto:life@fiusm.com)

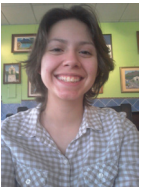
## WAKE UP



SAMUEL PRITCHARD-TORRES/THE BEACON

# Duo delivers short, sweet pop sound

## PIPELINE



NATALIE  
BOJORQUEZ

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

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

‘Strawberries’ is a perfect example of what a poppy sound these girls have. It’s your typical love song with a hint of adolescent insecurity. The narrator never tells their crush how they feel, but instead goes through this inner monologue of everything perfect with the individual.

‘Pretty Happy’ is a dark juxtaposition of the pop confection heard on ‘Songs.’ This dark song is just about a break-up;

you’ve convinced yourself you’ve moved on and better off without them, but deep down you know if you get that 3am text you’re going to respond. Everyone can relate to relapsing in a relationship and that’s what makes it one of the most relatable songs on the album.

‘Wasted Eyes’ is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired,” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been pretty quiet for a while so one can only hope they’re planning something big.

*Pipeline is a column that covers local music bands. For suggestions and comments please contact natalie.bojorquez@fiusm.com*

## HUMANS OF FIU



BLANCA MARTINEZ/THE BEACON

Allan Carlos Medina, anthropology/philosophy senior.

“We are all a big family. We should treat each other as brothers and sisters. We should never make it hard for anyone to be alive. My aim is to make this world a better place than the one I found when I came in.”

# Boy band heartthrobs beats once more in Syfy horror

LORRINE ALI  
Los Angeles Times  
TNS Staff

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

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

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

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

It’s up to the hard-drinking Whiskey Joe (‘NSync’s Joey Fatone), sharp-shooter the Vaquero (BSB’s Howie Dorough) and several

more former MTV heartthrobs (Chris Kirkpatrick, Jacob Underwood) to protect the living by destroying Apocolypta. And if there’s anything these guys know how to do (aside from syncopated dance numbers), it’s how to fight off mindless, crazed mobs who want to devour them.

But why, you ask, do we need a zombie western starring men in their 30s and 40s whose names once graced your sixth-grade notebook? Well, you’re reading this, aren’t you? Morbid curiosity — and that tender connection to your tween years — are powerful motivators.

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

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

Together they parody the zombie genre with over-the-top blood and gore. Limb-ripping fight scenes, blood-slurping feasts and heads busting like melons (it’s OK, they’re

already dead) are staple scene movers here, while human organs and facial parts are snack food throughout.

Daisy Jane (Carrie Keagan) and Sirene (Lauren Kitt Carter) are also part of the zombie-slaying crew and provide the requisite blood-splattered cleavage needed to complete a production of this caliber. As for other non-boy band actors, Jon Secada plays the mutton-chopped sheriff and Everclear’s Art Alexakis the nasty guy in the saloon.

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

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

But these guys saved you once before, even if it was only from the painful onslaught of puberty. It only seems right for them to return in the hero role again, if only to make you laugh.

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## BOXING

# Graduate competes in USIBA boxing tournament

**PETER HOLLAND JR.**  
Staff Writer  
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The city of Miami is well known to produce young talented athletes from major sports. Yet, boxing is not one of them. However, a young up-and-coming boxer from Chicago, Illinois name Julian “Juu” Martinez is looking to change all of that as he competes in the USIBA National Tournament in Los Angeles, California starting on April 7.

USIBA stands for the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association.

It was created in 2012 by current intercollegiate boxing coaches and student leaders that believed it provides ethical, safe and positive experience for their teams.

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

Fresh out of graduation, Martinez has been training non stop for his preparation for this 3-day tournament. Since February, Martinez would start his day jogging around his neighborhood every morning just to get himself warmed up. He would then begin his training at a local boxing gym in North Miami with a few other FIU Students, University of Miami students and Nova Southeastern



PETER HOLLAND JR./THE BEACON

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

University students. They all come together to compete and train with one another with different set of goals in mind. For Martinez, his main goal is to finish on top and be a national champion.

“My normal schedule will consist of running at around 5 a.m. just to get it out the way,”

Martinez said. “If not, I would do it later in the day. Generally, I would spend an average day running, weight lifting like every other day, but real light because I don’t want to be bulky and you can’t throw your hands, and obviously sparing, road work, which is the running, the sit-ups, the waist, sparing, the

pads and push-ups, you know old school Rocky traditional.”

Martinez is going into the tournament with a chip on his shoulder.

Last year’s tournament, he came up short in the final round, and in result, he finished with the record of 16-1 (1-1 against collegiate opponents) and

finished the tournament ranked the number two intercollegiate amateur boxer in the country. After the loss, the 141 pounder believed that he should be the number one boxer, and it has been in his mind ever since.

His expectations can’t get any higher than it was last year. His determination, confidence and desperation of being the best could make him the favorite in winning the whole tournament.

“I’m so hard on myself, I mean every athlete should be hard on himself,” Martinez said. But, I feel like I have something holding me. Nothing is going to be giving to me. I feel like I work so hard, and I want it so bad that it almost messes with my sleep at night.”

With one more year of eligibility, the Criminal Justice major is looking to finish his collegiate career as the best collegiate boxer in the country.

Martinez will represent FIU in the USIBA tournament this coming week. Boxers from University of Miami will also be participating during the tournament.

The first bout will begin This Thursday on April 7, and the final bout will end this Saturday on April 9.

## NFL

# NFL mock draft predicts potential defensive stars

### PETE'S PICKS



PETER HOLLAND JR.

attending pro days, and are looking to bring in NFL prospects to their facilities and give them private workouts before making their official draft board.

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

16. Detroit Lions (7-9)

The N F L is only f o u r weeks away, a n d t e a m s a r e

Corey Coleman Wide Receiver 5’11 185 Baylor University  
The Lions took a huge blow during this off-season when their star wide receiver Calvin Johnson decided to retire after eight seasons with the struggling team. Coleman may not wow lion’s fans with his size, however, his 4.41 speed he ran at his pro day, 40.5 inch. vertical and 129 inch. broad jump at the NFL combine makes up for the former All-American.

Coleman could possibly be one of the best deep threat receiver in this year’s draft. He may be undersize, but he plays big when he lines up outside.

His incredible ball skills are at an elite NFL level and could make him the number one target for the Lions. With them being a pass happy team, Coleman would fit perfectly in their offensive scheme and

could be rely upon for their starting quarterback Matthew Stafford.

17. Atlanta Falcons (8-8) Leonard Floyd Defensive End/Outside Linebacker 6’4 220 University of Georgia

Pass-rushers is must for the Falcons due to the fact that they finished last season with only 19 sacks, which is ranked dead last in the NFL.

In comes pass rusher specialist Leonard Floyd from the Georgia Bulldogs. The reason I said pass rusher specialist is because he’s coming from a 3-4 scheme where he played outside linebacker. In his three seasons at UGA, he finished his career with 17 sacks and 182 total tackles. Floyd is a speedy pass rusher that can get off blocks and could get to the QB in less than six seconds.

The Falcons might have

## Pete's Picks: NFL Mock Draft

1. Tennessee Titans Laremy Tunsil OT Ole Miss
2. Cleveland Browns Carson Wentz QB North Dakota State
3. San Diego Chargers Jalen Ramsey DB Florida State University
4. Dallas Cowboys Joey Bosa DE Ohio State University
5. Jacksonville Jaguars Vernon Hargreaves III CB University of Florida
6. Baltimore Ravens Ronnie Stanley OT University of Notre Dame
7. San Francisco 49ers Jared Goff QB University of California-Berkeley
8. Philadelphia Eagles Laquan Treadwell WR Ole Miss
9. Tampa Bay Buccaneers Noah Spence DE Eastern Kentucky University
10. New York Giants Myles Jack ILB UCLA
11. Chicago Bears DeForest Buckner DL University of Oregon
12. New Orleans Saints Jaylon Smith LB University of Notre Dame
13. Miami Dolphins Ezekiel Elliott RB Ohio State University
14. Oakland Raiders Jack Conklin OT Michigan State University
15. Los Angeles Rams Reggie Ragland ILB University of Alabama
16. Detroit Lions Corey Coleman WR Baylor University
17. Atlanta Falcons Leonard Floyd OLB/DE University of Georgia
18. Indianapolis Colts Taylor Decker OT Ohio State University
19. Buffalo Bills Shaq Lawson DE Clemson University
20. New York Jets Sheldon Rankins DL University of Louisville

CAYLA BUSH/THE BEACON

a hard time deciding where to put the Atlanta native. Is he a defensive end or an outside linebacker in a 4-3 defense? Due to

his 220-pound frame, I say he’s a true outside linebacker.

Most likely, if he ends up with the Falcons, the

coaches would probably put him in blitz packages and maybe line him up on the edge where he usually lines up back at UGA.

## MLB

# Ending playoff drought is No. 1 goal for Marlins

CLARK SPENCER  
Miami Herald  
TNS Staff

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

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

remind him.

"All I do is look at my son," Samson said. "My son was born two months before the World Series, and he's about to be Bar Mitzvahed. He reminds me every year that he's never enjoyed October baseball, and to me he represents all kids."

It has been a long stretch of failure for the Marlins, who have carried high expectations into previous seasons, only to see them go up in smoke for one reason or another: lack of talent (2013), underperformance (2012), injuries to star players

a few are calling them "sleepers."

And that's fine with the Marlins.

"We've had seasons where there's been a lot of preseason talk, and it hasn't led to during-season results," Samson said. "So I think it's better to not have preseason talk."

Dee Gordon, the Marlins' All-Star second baseman who became the first NL player to lead the league in batting average and stolen bases in the same season since Jackie Robinson in 1949, said he doesn't see why any outsiders should



DAVID SANTIAGO/TNS

The Miami Marlins; Austin Nola (73), Robert Andino (1), and Ichiro Suzuki celebrate after a 2-1 win against the New York Yankees in a spring training exhibition at Marlins Park in Miami on Saturday, April 2, 2016.

“

We've had seasons where there's been a lot of preseason talk, and it hasn't led to during-season results, so I think it's better to not have preseason talk.

David Samson  
President  
Miami Marlins

”

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

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

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

When the Marlins embark on their 24th season with Tuesday's opener against the Detroit Tigers with offseason acquisition Wei-Yin Chen facing Justin Verlander, they will be seeking their first winning season since 2009.

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

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

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

Samson doesn't need to look at past standings to

(2015) you name it.

But the Marlins have valid reasons that this season could be different.

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

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

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

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

Most baseball media experts are dismissing the Marlins this season, ranking them a distant third behind the New York Mets and Washington Nationals in a NL East division they have never won. At best,

be optimistic about the Marlins' chances not until they prove otherwise.

"If we want people to come, want people to be in the seats, win games," Gordon said. "It's pretty simple. We can't expect people to come when you're not good. Who would spend money on us? I'm not going to watch a terrible football or basketball team. We have to prove it prove it by winning."

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

Yet he is hopeful the losing is about to stop.

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

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

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

## NFL

## Young talent can bring league to new heights

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

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

19. Buffalo Bills (8-8) Shaq Lawson Defensive End 6'4 260 Clemson University

Look for the Bills' front office to focus heavily on defense on this year's draft.

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

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

Speaking of defensive minded head coaches, the Jets' Head Coach Todd Bowles might be looking to beef up his defensive line once again. With the team that was one game shy of clinching a playoff spot last

season, the Jets could be one or two draft picks away of being a playoff contender again. Adding Rankins from Louisville could be another steal in this year's draft. Not only that he fits their 3-4 scheme as a 3-technique defensive end, he is capable of lining up on the edge against any left tackle. He has incredible penetration when getting off blocks, and he is a disrupter when it comes to stopping the run. Look for the Jets to focus on the front seven, or get a quarterback.

*Pete's Picks is a biweekly column about the NFL and FIU Football. For commentary and suggestions, email Peter Holland Jr. at peter.holland@fiusm.com*

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## Stand-up comedian dies of heart attack, changed the face of television

**STEVE JOHNSON**  
*Chicago Tribune*  
 TSN Staff

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

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

But Shandling, who died March 24 of a reported heart attack at age 66, began “Sanders” back in the dark ages of TV, a time when things meant to be funny were punctuated by laugh tracks and always ended neatly, with a summary of lessons learned.

The writer Alan Ball, of “Six Feet Under” and “True Blood,” but before that of mediocre network sitcoms, told me once that he and fellow sitcom writers

described this last-act convention as the “Moment of S—.”

Yes, groundbreaking dramas had been on network TV before “Sanders” began in 1992. “Hill Street Blues” and “St. Elsewhere,” in particular, started to delve into more sophisticated stories and more nuanced lead characters in the latter half of the 1980s.

But even the best TV comedies, from “MASH” to “Mary Tyler Moore,” still pretty much followed the formula.

Not “Larry Sanders.” It didn’t have a laugh track. It didn’t have the moments that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity.

“Perfectly seasoned, unassailably adult, brooding, base and piercingly funny, it is as good as everybody says it is, perhaps even better,” I wrote of “Sanders” in 1998, as its final season began. “It doesn’t elicit laughs, it wrenches them from you in the harsh recognition of characters — primarily (Shandling’s) cunningly neurotic talk-show host, his astonishingly uncomplicated on-air sidekick, and his consiglieri of a producer — behaving true to themselves and to human nature.”

As important to its place in television

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

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

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

But don’t take my word for “Sanders” influence. Listen to what David Chase, creator of “The Sopranos,” told New

York Times writer Julie Salomon in 2002: Noting that “Larry Sanders” was the last series he watched regularly, Chase said, “That show inspired me to want to do something really good for television.”

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

It’s telling, and a testament to Shandling’s achievement, that the great majority of series people count as examples of TV’s new golden age are dramas, demonstrating again the theatrical maxim about dying being easy.

“Larry Sanders” showed what television could be before there was even a path, and, more impressively, it blazed that trail through the hard thickets of comedy.



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