SGA presidential candidates discuss strategies

BY REUBEN PEREIRA
Staff Writer

Alfonso Leon
UP Candidate

BY ANA SANCHEZ
News Editor

Zach Trautenberg
BBC Candidate

BY BETSY MARTINEZ
Biscayne Bay Editor

Camilo Silva
BBC Candidate

BY BETSY MARTINEZ
Biscayne Bay Editor

Alfonso "Alfi e" Leon served in the Student Government Association as Representative-at-Large this past year and is the only candidate at University Park to run for SGA president alongside Providence Okoye as his running mate for vice president. The Beacon recently sat down with Leon to discuss running unopposed, giving advice to students running for the Representative-at-Large position and why students should vote in the upcoming elections taking place April 5 and 6.

Q: How does it feel to run unopposed?

It’s a humbling experience, instead of the elections being the highlight of my year, it will be the moment I realize that we have accomplished all the goals as a council this year.

Q: What is your goal during campaign week?

I have been Academics Affairs chair, Student Union Board chair, has decided to run for president in the upcoming elections taking place April 5 and 6.

The Beacon recently interviewed Trautenberg about his experience for the position, the current administration and his plans for BBC.

Q: What SGA and student leadership experience qualifies you to serve the student body as a member of the Student Government Council?

I have been involved with the SGA BBC for almost a year. Currently, I am the lower division representative. Camilo Silva has decided to run for president in the upcoming elections taking place April 5 and 6.

The Beacon recently interviewed Silva about his experience for the position, the future of BBC and his goals for the upcoming semesters.

Q: What SGA and student leadership experience qualifies you to serve the student body as a member of the Student Government Council?

I have been involved with the SGA BBC for almost a year. Currently, I am the lower division representative and speaker of the House of Representatives.

Q: What makes you the best candidate for the job?

I have been involved with the SGA BBC for almost a year. Currently, I am the lower division representative and speaker of the House of Representatives.
Opinions voiced on medical school

From MEDICAL, page 1

The leadership experience that I gained through SGA and the people I met prepared me. I’ve been able to get involved in every aspect of campus and student life. They have helped me understand that there is no FIU student mold, we are all so different and through them I have learned the value of community service and leadership. I thank my friends for preparing me – these people have given me ideas that have prepared me to be a student leader.

Q: The attention has shifted to the Representative-at-Large position. What advice would you give to the candidates?

I would tell them to create the buzz for elections. It’s up to them to set the agenda and media coverage. I think of the School of Medicine,“It’s exciting to see that the final piece of the University that would make it great is here. You can’t imagine how happy I feel.” However, there are students who feel that the hype and media coverage of the School of Medicine has been excessive.

“IT’s nice to see that FIU has a School of Medicine but I do think there has been a little too much hype around it,” said senior Osvaldo Ponton. Junior Gavin Noronha agreed that there has been a lot of noise and coverage of the school.

“This is the first faculty cloak of the School of Medicine for his “surgeonship” and leadership.

Leon speaks on running unopposed

From LEON, page 1

For being president?

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Q: How did your experience in SGA prepare you for being president?

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“This is the first faculty cloak of the School of Medicine for his “surgeonship” and leadership.
Students urged to donate blood

BY JACKIE DIAZ
Staff Writer

Lauren is a long haired blonde from Dallas, TX. This 10-year-old enjoys gymnastics, ballet and modern jazz dance. She has also been battling leukemia since she was three.

Biscayne Bay Campus students are taking action by holding a blood and bone marrow drive to find a matching donor for Lauren.

The drive will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. April 3 through April 5 in front of Academic II at BBC.

Lauren’s doctors have given her a 50 percent chance of survival, but if no donor is found it will drop to 8 percent.

“The topic was brought up in our crisis management class,” said Melanie Bousquet, a student of the Integrated Communications: Advertising and public relations graduate program.

“This little girl is in a life-threatening situation. We had the opportunity to take on a real crisis and just ran with it.”

Lyne Farber, who is an assistant professor currently teaching crisis management, introduced the students to this opportunity.

The class took on the challenge.

In just three days the Public Relations Student Society of America at FIU; along with graduate students in the ICAP program, Community Blood Centers of South Florida and The Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, South Florida’s office have organized a three-day drive in hopes of finding a donor for Lauren.

“Anybody is a potential match, but people of German, Irish or English heritage have a better chance of being a match because of her background,” said Catherine Ables, associate professor of advertising and public relations for the IAP program.

Anyone matching those ethnicities is a probable match, but others are encouraged to donate.

All blood donations will be tested for possible bone marrow donors.

In February, Lauren lost 95 percent of her red blood cells, making it too risky to perform a marrow transplant.

Recently, her blood count has increased by 90 percent.

Her recovery has been faster than expected, which means that she will need a transplant before her count drops again.

“Miracles do happen,” said David Gonzalez, area manager of Community Blood Centers of South Florida. “It’s taking team effort to help this little girl, everyone who helped organize the drive and the donors are becoming life savers.”

The donations will serve many purposes.

The blood that is not a match will go to several South Florida’s hospitals and the bone marrow screenings that don’t match Lauren could save another life.

“It’s a win-win situation,” Gonzalez said.

Every year the FIU chapter of PRSSA holds an organ donor drive on campus.

This year, they heard about Lauren and decided to do a bone marrow drive instead.

As the students started to research the new drive they found out that the bone marrow registration nation-wide is underrepresented among Hispanics and African-Americans.

Students of these ethnicities are encouraged to donate not only for Lauren but to increase registration among minorities.

“We are trying to find as many people as possible to donate so we can save this little girl’s life,” said Melanie Bousquet, a graduate student in the ICAP program and member of PRSSA.

Lauren’s last name has been withheld due to privacy issues.
The Beacon – April 3, 2006

**POLICE BEAT**

**TUESDAY • MARCH 21**

- The project superintendent of the new marine biology lab at Biscayne Bay Campus arrived at 8 a.m. to find water damage to the first and second floors of the building. A fire main groove cap had been removed from the ceiling in room 210 and a fire plug removed from the ceiling in room 121. After the cap and plug had been removed, water from the fire system leaked into the ceilings of floors one and two, causing an estimated $20,000 in damages to the building. The crime scene had been secured from 1:30 p.m. the day before. No signs of forced entry into the building were found.

- At 8:40 a.m., a worker at the marine biology lab at BBC slipped and fell while retrieving samples around the boat ramp. She was treated by fire rescue for cuts and bruises to her left arm and was later taken to Baptist Hospital for further treatment.

**WEDNESDAY • MARCH 22**

- The football office trailer at University Park was burglarized sometime between 5 p.m. March 21 and 8:30 a.m. March 22. Two windows were smashed and a laptop was stolen.

–– Compiled by Andrew Leins

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As SGA elections draw closer, students encouraged to vote

We could write an editorial every week encouraging the entire student body to voice their opinions as much as possible; whether it is in the form of attending Student Government Association meetings, participating in student events or even submitting a letter to the editor. We could sit here until we are blue in the face, or rather have succumbed to a violent case of carpal tunnel, telling you how important it is to be involved. With a budget of approximately $8.6 million, SGA is, without a doubt, the single most important student-run organization on campus. It is an utter shame that last year only 3,158 students voted in the SGA elections – approximately less than 10 percent of the entire student population. It is one thing not to attend the meetings SGA holds on a weekly basis, but it is a totally inexcusable thing to ignore their influence and forfeit the power granted to you in the form of a vote.

In a nutshell, SGA not only allows students, without their knowledge, to make decisions regarding how their money is spent. There is a simple solution to this problem. We are not asking you to clear your schedule to make time to make it to the SGA meetings nor are we asking you drop everything and lobby congress alongside its members. All we are asking of you is that you take 10 minutes, the usual time it takes to stand in line at Pollo Tropical, and review the platforms and cast your vote for who you feel is the best candidate for the job.

We’ve done all the work already. Just flip to our Beacon Recommends section (next page), and make an informed decision based on the various platforms.

VOTE OR DIE: Last year only 3,158 students came out to vote for SGA elections, less than 10 percent of the FIU community. 

Quotation Nation

“Why does the international community interfere in our internal affairs? Why do they interfere in our judicial affairs?”

– Mohammad Sedig, Afghan cleric, on the release of Abdul Rahman.

“If you break a window, you guys won’t be able to breathe, O.K.? So if there are any other doorways you can open where you don’t see the smoke.”

– 9-1-1 dispatcher, to one of the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center who was trapped inside one of the towers. Edited versions of the 9-1-1 calls have been released to the families. So far only one of the families has given the tapes to the media.

“Because you’re making a video and having to recite certain things with three men with machine guns standing over you, you’re probably going to say exactly what you’re told to say.”

– Richard Bergenheim, publisher of The Christian Science Monitor, on Jill Carroll’s capture and eventual release on March 30, by Iraqi gunmen.

“What are your thoughts on the approval of FIU’s medical school proposal?”

– Harry Coleman, Editor in Chief

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
To coincide with the Student Government Association elections, The Beacon’s editorial board releases a list of candidate recommendations for the presidential ticket, representatives-at-large and lower division representatives at University Park and president and vice president at Biscayne Bay Campus. These recommendations are based on in-depth interviews accompanied by questionnaires the editorial board provided to each of the eligible candidates running for office.

**UNIVERSITY PARK**

**Presidential Ticket**

Candidates (unopposed)

Alfonso "Afflu" Leon (VP)

Providence Okoye (PP)

**Lower Division Representative**

Candidates (2 elected)

Wolfgang Acevedo

Paige Anne LaPointe

**BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS**

**Presidential Candidate**

Lamar Linton

Zachary Trautenberg

**Candidates**

Out of all of our decisions, the decision for president at BBC was one that both Linton and Trautenberg presented strong but different platforms for achieving. Both Linton and Trautenberg’s platform stressed different issues: Linton’s platform focused on making the University more accountable for goals and unattainable ones – in other words, pushing for good policies at the University. While the idea of having text books free at sporting events at University Park for BBC students is something which is already in place, we feel that Linton’s platform is the better choice. Giving away free tickets to sporting events at University Park would be more practical than trying to provide shuttle services to sporting events at University Park.

For us, this reason, we feel that both candidates’ platforms are attainable and well researched. Both candidates’ idea of having text books free at sporting events at University Park would be more practical than trying to provide shuttle services to sporting events at University Park.

We recommend Linton due to the goals he has for his platform, Silva due to his platform and both candidates due to their positions. Both candidates have presented strong but different platforms for achieving the Golden Panther pride and fighting for lower costs of insurance and fighting for having carts accessible to housing students in order to alleviate having to carry many things to and from student housing.

We also feel that Linton will be a better choice for president as he goals along with Linton’s would complement one another. Trautenberg wants to work with students to see what the needs are as a student body, something much needed. He also stated that he feels SGA funds were not spent correctly this year, and with a current position of finance chair, he may be more knowledgeable. However, we can’t say that the project which was spent wrong, may be considered money well spent by someone else.

For Silva, we feel that he doesn’t have a solid platform and relies much on “teamwork” rather than have specific goals – for example, anything pertaining to the University’s advising system to be eliminated. More so, we feel that his goals lack development and are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worthy of being elected. They are worth
Introduction to dance class offers academic flexibility

This is part two of a five-part series that features five classes available to students.

Katherine Kramer tape dances in the middle of the studio as Nat King Cole’s “L-O-V-E” plays on the stereo. Fifteen students stand around her, following her every move as she leads them over the taps in the chorus.

Throughout the semester, students in Kramer’s class have received training in various dance forms such asalsa, swing and currently, tap dance.

Introduction to dance (DAN 2100), taught at the University since the early days of the dance program, gives students an overview of dance from a variety of cultural and traditional perspectives. Created for non-dance majors, the class is offered for students as part of a liberal arts education major or for extra credit.

Kramer has choreographed many of the University’s dance and theatrical productions including Hair. She believes that through this class, non-majors get exposure to dance forms they would not normally know about.

“It’s part of a liberal arts education and it encourages students to embrace creativity, open-mindedness and creative thinking,” Kramer said.

Kramer stated that the course is highly participatory.

Participation was exactly what Rojas said he was looking for when he took the class.

“When I enrolled in this class, I expected it to be fun and interesting and that’s what I got,” Rojas said. “Actually, I got more than I expected and can confidently say that it’s the only class that I left with a smile on my face.”

Campus Invasion brings mainstream rock to University

On April 11, the mtvU Campus Invasion tour will fill Pharmed Arena with sounds from rising rock bands Motion City Soundtrack, Straightway Run and Hellogoodbye.

The tour will be brought to the University by the Student Programming Council, and IFU will be the only campus on the tour broadcasted on mtvU networks.

The mtvU Campus Invasion tour is an annual tour stopping at college campuses nationwide to showcase new rock music. The tour was first brought to the University in Spring 2004 with headliner Hootenback and opening bands Lost prophets and Ima Robot.

This year, headliner Motion City Soundtrack is touring in support of their latest album Commit This to Memory.

Their hit single “Everything is Alright” is receiving regular airplay on mtvU, and the band recently finished touring with pop-punk band Fall Out Boy late last year.

Supporting act Straightway Run is also touring to support their latest disc, Titled Prepare to Be Wrong, the disc is an extended play album featuring six new songs. The group’s self-titled 2004 debut included the hit “Existentialism on Prom Night.” Hellogoodbye, the other opening act, expects to release a new disc sometime later this year.

“I’m really excited about seeing all the bands perform,” said SPC member Rosalyn Delgado. “I really think that this concert will be a great opportunity for bands like Motion City Soundtrack and hellogoodbye to gain exposure.”

Tickets for IFU students are available at the Campus Life office in GC 2240. Students will receive one ticket per student ID.

Additional tickets can be purchased at the Pharmed Arena box office for $5.

Since March 13, the official start date for concert promotion, over 800 IFU students have acquired free tickets for the show. Slightly over 100 public tickets have been purchased at

See CAMPUS, page 9

Ample promotion increases ticket distribution

From CAMPUS, page 8

The Pharmed Arena.
“We expect a big portion of our sales the day of the show. A lot of students wait until the last minute to get their tickets, so we expect a big turnout when April 11 comes around,” said SPC Concerts Committee Chairperson Jackie Gadea.

To promote the event, SPC members have been posting posters and handing out flyers around UP. Aside from promotion within the University, outside promotion has been prevalent as well.

“We gave 480 complimentary tickets to radio stations and news outlets for giveaways,” Gadea said. “Stations like 93 Rock and newspapers like The New Times have all received tickets to give away. We are also giving tickets away at SPC’s advance movie screenings.”

Leading up to the event, a concert mini-series called First Strike is taking place every Monday and Wednesday in the GC Atrium and Gracie’s Grill. Free food is being given out to any students stopping by the events to learn more about the upcoming concert.

In addition to receiving free food, students can also sign up to win backstage passes to the Campus Invasion concert.

On the day of the event, the mtvU Village will be set up in the Betty Chapman Plaza from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. At the Village, attendees will have the opportunity to meet some of the bands and receive free stuff from the show’s sponsors.

“The Village will have tents set up for the tour’s seven main sponsors including Butterfinger and Neutrogena. LIFE beat, a nonprofit organization, will also be out to help promote AIDS awareness,” Gadea said.

Doors open at 6 p.m. on the day of the show. The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. More information can be found at www.yourspc.com.

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Roberto Zaldivar
Baseball players have always tried to gain advantages

STEROIDS, from page 12

and I blame the owners, the commis- sioner and especially the MLB players’ association. Dating back to the 1994 strike, it was obvious that the players’ association had only one goal in mind: to become the most powerful organization in the world. No matter what the long-term ramifications for the game of baseball, they wanted more and more money and didn’t care how they got it. Therefore, they were more than reluctant to let the steroids issue progress because bigger stats meant a bigger fan-base, which meant greater owner revenue, which equaled more money for player salaries.

Thanks to Selig though, the players’ association got so much power that the league had to cancel the 1994 World Series, with the strike, and bring the steroid issue to the heights it encountered a couple of years ago.

Now Selig wants to act as if the steroid issue is such a big surprise that he needs to embark on an overdue investigation.

Obviously, there’s no way the hierarchy of baseball could be so dumb to not realize players were shooting up in the ‘80s and ‘90s. It was such a big deal in the clubhouse back then and there is no way it could’ve gotten past the eyes of managers or owners.

The problem is, baseball – and any other professional sport that deals with so much money – is all about gaining an edge on the opponent. Baseball players have been doing it for ages. Whether it’s studying game tape, getting scouting reports, corking bats or throwing spitballs, a money hungry organization like Major League Baseball will always be about getting an advantage and steroids are no different.

Managers didn’t say anything back then because ordinary players were becoming perennial all-star and getting their teams in the win column. Owners weren’t saying anything because homerule fans and they were bringing in more money. And Bud Selig didn’t say anything because having two players break the homerun record in 1998 brought baseball back on top.

So now, more than a year after baseball players met before Congress to “end the steroids issue,” it seems as though the problem is just beginning. By keeping quiet for so long, Selig and the rest of the baseball world has dug itself into a hole they seemingly can never get out of.

And it’s the fans that have to pay the price.

CAUGHT: Rafael Palmeiro, who told congress he was clean, tested positive months later. KRT Campus Photo

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HONORED: Sarah Belanger was named Sun Belt Conference Pitcher of the Week for the second consecutive week. Belanger struck out a career-high 12 batters in a March 24 win against Florida A&M. For the week ending March 26, Belanger had a 2.55 ERA and 17 strikeouts in 11 innings.

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PITCHER OF THE WEEK

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TWO YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS AUGUST 2006 | ONE YEAR PROGRAM BEGINS JANUARY 2007
Running back dismissed from team

BY XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

With spring practices just getting underway, the football team has already made a couple of key offensive changes.

Ben West, who was the team’s leading rusher last season, has been dismissed from the team. Backup quarterback Tavares Kendrick will sit out spring practices due to academics.

In an interview with the Miami Herald, head coach Don Strock said West was “dismissed for violations of team rules and regulations.”

“[Tavares] Kendrick has to take care of his academics and, hopefully, he’ll be back in August,” Strock said to the Herald.

West played in seven games – including one start – last season, rushed for 537 yards on 98 carries and scored four touchdowns. West rushed for a career-high 214 yards Oct. 1 against Florida A&M and recorded a career-high three touchdowns Nov. 26 against Florida Atlantic.

Kendrick, the backup to starter Josh Padrick, played in three games last year, was 11-for-18 in passing attempts and threw one touchdown and one interception.

The football team, which began spring practice March 28, got into full pads for the first time March 31 and will conclude drills April 15 with the annual Blue and Gold Scrimmage.

New MLB Steroid investigation overdue, unnecessary

BY ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Over 20 years ago, the baseball world witnessed the game’s greatest players take their physical ability to unprecedented heights and didn’t say a word. Suddenly, players like Mark McGwire – who came into the league weighing 220 pounds and when he set the home run record in 1998 weighed 270 – were caught up in a metamorphosis of gigantic proportions.

Despite the obvious cheating going on, owners and managers alike turned their backs on it. Actually, what was seemingly a criminal offense was interpreted as a gift from the heavens back then. Just as baseball was at its downfall in popularity, here were these juiced up heroes ready to carry the game back to the top with their blown-up biceps.

Now, in a desperate attempt to revive his already shattered ego, MLB commissioner Bud Selig has launched an investigation of past steroid use in baseball.

The ol’ commish has a knack for being fashionably late on issues, but this time he completely missed the party. They had already cut the cake without him. In fact, they had not only cut the cake; the clowns performed, they had opened presents, played Pin the Tail On the Donkey and passed out some lovely parting gifts.

This season was supposed to be about forgetting the steroids era and moving on. Ivan Rodriguez had already dropped all his alleged steroid weight, Rafael Palmeiro had already wagged his seemingly outraged finger at Congress and got caught and Barry Bonds has already pleaded, “My life is in shambles.”

However, as Opening Day approaches, nobody is talking about the Chicago White Sox’s chances of repeating or the Atlanta Braves going for 15-straight division titles. Everyone’s eyes are glued to this steroid issue that doesn’t seem to go away, even when it already has.

Selig is trying to make the game better by launching a steroid investigation and all he’s doing is tarnishing it more. What was it that did it for you, Bud? Game of Shadows, the book that just came out about Barry Bonds’ alleged steroid use? You mean to tell me that after all that has transpired during the last several years, one book is what made you paranoid? It seems like, once again, you’re two steps behind.

The truth is, there is no point in tapping into the steroids issue now. It just seems like an endless case that can never be solved.