Members of Student Government rack up costs during trip

VINCENT FERNANDEZ
Staff Writer

Student Government Association members traveled to Washington D.C. recently as part of a trip to lobby members of congress for funding and support of University initiatives in a trip totaling $2,137.35, possibly leaving students to foot the bill.

Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Helena Ramirez, Vice President Nicholas Antioch, Chief of Staff Alina Gonzalez, and Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Christian "Cici" Battle all traveled to Washington D.C., on Sept. 30 per the request of the University's Government Relations office.

"This trip to Washington D.C. is out of the norm for [SGC-MMC] because they have historically traveled to Washington D.C. only once in March," said Jose Toscano, assistant director of Campus Life and adviser to SGA.

After the trip, Antioch submitted a total of $1,700.95 for reimbursement from the University. This included airfare, the hotel stay, and various meals. Gonzalez expressed a total of $353.40, which also included several meals and airfare. Ramirez only expensed three meals, which totaled $83.00 and did not submit reimbursement for airfare.


The reimbursement of these expenses will be directly submitted by SGA, page 2

University looking to reach students on smoking ban

MEELISSA CACERES
Staff Writer

With the campus-wide smoking ban set to begin on Jan. 1, 2011, the Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Steering Committee set Oct. 8 to discuss ways to disseminate the information and reach out to University students.

"We’re not telling people that you have to quit your tobacco habit, we’re just saying that when you’re on campus you cannot use tobacco products," said Mariella Gabaroni, assistant director of University Health Services and chair of the Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Steering Committee. "However, if you do want to quit, we have sessions and programs available so that you can manage that habit."

During the meeting, Gabaroni lead the discussion and emphasized that the committee must make a point of clarifying, to the University community, the focus of their educational plan.

"When you think of an educational plan, you think that we’re just going to be educating people about the harms of tobacco," Gabaroni said. "But what we’re talking about is what happens when you first leave tobacco, the effects of second and third-hand smoke, and a huge [emphasis] about the education on the new regulation that is coming to the University community on January 2011."

She also mentioned that they will focus on sharing information to the public about what to expect when trying to quit, how to manage a smoking habit while on campus for those who don’t want to quit, and the different resources available both on and off-campus.

The committee has already launched one-on-one consultations, a website in the health services site and sporadic university-wide emails. Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Official Partners has also begun meeting with the deans of the schools and colleges; with recent visits to the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, and the College of Engineering. Smoke-Free Tobacco-Free Services has also begun meeting with the deans of the schools and colleges; with recent visits to the School of Business, Arts and Sciences, and the College of Engineering.

"Now that the regulation has passed, we have a lot of support," said Gabriela Pena, senior director of University Health Services. "We want to make sure that when the students do decide to quit, we have all the resources available to them.

LAUREN NOVIRA
Contributing Writer

In 2009, college students nationwide held a 60% approval rating of President Barack Obama’s actions in office – a number which has dropped significantly.

An Associated Press poll conducted last month which surveyed 2,027 randomly selected undergraduate students ages 18-24 showed that currently 44% of students support President Obama and 29% are unhappy with his overall performance.

"I feel there was a lot of hype about him, but he has failed to make significant change," said Juan Ledesma, a junior at the University.

A general loss of fervor for the “change” campaign has ensued among many students.

"He had us riding on his hope and change bandwagon, but he didn’t pull through," said Nick Hart, a junior majoring in psychology.

“There’s been no change, just more of the same.”

Frustration with Obama’s handling of the economy, the progression of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, social reform belittling this generation’s openness, health reform, onimport unemployment and the continuing existence of Guantanamo Bay, has dimmed collegiate approval for President Obama.

"I think Obama ran on a platform of radical change. For mitigating reasons he’s not been able to deliver… I disagree of his actions on the war," said Brian Bonilla, a freshman at the University. "He declares it ‘over,’ but says he wants to maintain troops overseas."

The declining percentage of student support also comes from the feeling that Obama has unsuccessfully procured his ends despite his administration holding a mostly democratic Congress.

"Yes, he has to deal with Congress, but he was holding a majority. I don’t get it," said William Sanchez, a political science major.

Maximilian Staedler, an international student from Germany majoring in international business, also expressed his disappointment.

"He’s off track. He’ll lose many seats, but this might make him focus more on obtaining his prior goals," said Staedler.

However, the effect of dismayed students not going out to vote in the upcoming midterm

President Barack Obama at a rally at the University of Washington in Seattle, on Oct. 21.  

SMOKE-BAN, page 2

OBAMA, page 2
SMOKE-BAN, page 1

The Beacon – Monday, October 25, 2010 www.fi usm.com

and I conducted our own

an average of $320.95 per

given to them when booking

nights.

a four star hotel which cost

the Mayflower Renaissance,

members that went stayed at

and the rest of the SGA

Americans to quit tobacco

November that encourages

related expenses, only pays

Great American Smokeout,

University’s Procurement

review by Toscano. The

Healthier FIU Carnival, which

discussed was the structure of a

educational plan that was

public health masters student.

Expenses still pending review, hotel costs total $1,283

SGA, page 1

want to give them information

about all of the services offered

by [UHS] and also how we can

continue to smoke on campus,

are to be fully launched after

the six to eight month period

of Jan. 1. John Stuart, a faculty

member at the School of Archi-
tecture and faculty fellow at

the Office of the Provost, felt

that however the committee

decides to approach the issue,

the University community

must become informed as soon

as possible.

I think information and
giving people that information

is the job of this committee,

and of this initiative and this

University,” Stuart said. “We

should not be in the business

of making statements that

provide a mystery as far as

where we stand because we

are about truth.”

Support for Obama dwindles, faithful remain

OBAMA, page 1

elections may not take such a

considerable toll on the party’s
dominance of Congress.

People that don’t vote, just
don’t vote,” said Kathryn

Depalo, an undergradu-

ate adviser in the Politics

and International Relations
department.

Michael Santanna, presi-
dent of the College Democrats

at the University explained:

“This is a midterm elec-
tion not a presidential [elec-
tion],...yes democrats will

lose numerous seats, maybe

even the house, but not the

Senate.”

College Democrats Vice

President Donovan Dawson

reaffirmed that there may

be negative setbacks in the

midterms, and went on to
describe the general air of

resentment as a product of

pessimism.

“I think that many people

who supported the President

have become cynical and

may have abandoned him

because he hasn’t been able
to enact the changes that he

promised as fast as he would
to,” Dawson said.

On campus, there still

remain those that are faithful

in the current administration.

“He said he’d reform

healthcare, and remove troops

from Iraq and he did. He’s

more or less kept his word,”

Oliver Ljutzinger, biology

major, said. Obama, however,

remains popular among college

students despite the overall

waning enthusiasm from the

AP poll and upcoming midterm elections will deter-

mine the sway of polit-

cal power in the legislative

branch.

“Many fail to realize that

although the Presidency is a

powerful position, it is only

one branch of government

that must co-exist with the

other two in order to ensure

the preservation of our

republic,” Dawson said.

Expenses still pending review, hotel costs total $1,283

SGC-MMC is supposed to

travel locally for the Florida

Student Association, which

holds their events in different

states. Also, SGC-MMC is

tasked with attending many

SGA related events such as

Rally in Tally, he added.

Because of these duties,

the SGC-BBC has a traveling

budget that is $4,000 higher

than SGC-MMC’s, totaling at

$18,000 a year.

“As far as urgency of that

trip, it’s important as our legis-
lators are in the process of

being re-elected that they do

not forget the priorities that

we have set for them,” Antu-

ello said.

SGC, page 1

SMOKE-BAN, page 1
RICO ABBARRACIN
Staff Writer

Sabrina Gonzalez is special in that she gets playing time on the team as a freshman despite only having three years of experience. A Miami native, Gonzalez played volleyball at Miami Sunset Senior High, where she was a three-sport star, earning honors throughout her high school career in volleyball, track and field, and basketball.

With a resume like that, it’s no surprise Head Coach Danijela Tomic recruited her for the program. Tomic not only loves her talent, but the work ethic that she shows day in and day out.

“Sabrina works hard everyday, from day one,” Tomic said. “She comes into the gym, she does extra work. In the office, my assistants give her a DVD and she watches the games.

“It’s the little things that the public does not get to see on a daily basis that Gonzalez emphasizes. She studies game film. She is constantly pushing herself. When the practices finish, after the players head to the locker room, you’ll see Gonzalez talking with the assis-

Gonzalez’s dedication makes her an all-star threat.
Seniors honored at final home game

great send off, but also ended a three-game losing streak.

The game allowed for other players to take a break and others to play, such as goalkeeper Paula Zuluaga filling in for Melanie Raimo for a total of 32 minutes.

"Don't stop. Work hard, especially during conditioning, and to always be there for each other," Leiva said, quoting advice seniors gave her during her first collegiate season with the team.

"I wanted to leave this field on a good note and it's just a pleasure to play with these girls," Mayara said. "It's just really sad to think that I'll never step on this field again to play. I will never forget everything that I've gone through."

Thune added: "It was awesome, my parents were here and all my friends and it was nice."

In the end, the four seniors were rewarded for all their efforts during their time at FIU.

"They've come a long way and have seen the change here at FIU, and it's been largely part of all their hard work that they've put in the last four years," Head Coach Thomas Chestnutt said. "We just want to thank them for everything."

The Golden Panthers face Louisiana on Oct. 24 at 1 p.m., and end the regular season at rival Florida Atlantic on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. The conference tournament schedule has yet to be determined.
The University’s month-long “French Music Festival” kicked off on October 6th with its goal of exposing the South Florida student body to a culture rarely represented in Miami.

“I’m the one who was kind of the instigator behind it,” quipped Robert Dundas, Chair of the Marketing Committee for the School of Music and Associate Professor for Voice, “everyone liked the American theme last year and that was a big success, we wanted to make sure the big concert organ [in the Wertheim Auditorium] was used and the French repertoire.”

His colleague, Kathleen Wilson, Associate Director for the School of Music, had a similar take, “It really came about by coincidence. Many of the groups were doing French music and so it was very easy to culturally market it that way.”

The Festival, which began with the “Vive le France” Faculty Convocation, boasts a huge variety of events all performed and organized by FIU School of Music students, faculty and colleagues.

“I have had to work very closely with all my colleagues. I rely very much on them, on their imaginations, on their terrific ideas. For me its fun putting things together like this because there’s such a great repertoire here”, Dundas said of the process of setting up the kick-off convocation.

Wilson, who was featured at the Frost Art Museum with her own spot-light recital, said, “Hundreds of hours went into this! All the French festival begins month-long revelry

FASHION FINDS

Goodbye dear J. Crew

Ever strolled through a J Crew store and whimpered because you don’t have the funds to buy a $248 beaded cardigan? I do, every single time. That’s why we’re breaking up.

As ridiculous as breaking up with a store sounds, it’s true. I can no longer dish out the kind of money I used to at J.Crew.

J.Crew is one of the leading brands keeping the preppy look alive. They do a marvelous job of marketing the line in a way that gives the preppy vibe an edge.

To me, it’s a way of styling. Classic things mixed a certain way—especially special color combinations—look very preppy... Maybe that little cargo jacket that we would have shown ten years ago with a polo shirt we’re now showing with a little sequin top and high heels. And the thing about preppy is it can be alienating to some people,” said Jenna Lyons, the president of J. Crew in an interview with Style.com.

Their mix of classic chinos with a new twist, like the sequined khaki shorts they came out with last spring, make my heart melt. I love J.Crew because everything mixes and matches. I hate J.Crew because it’s just so expensive. It may not be on the same level as couture designer prices, but it’s still pricey. They try to get away with being affordable, but it’s only affordable to people who dish out $800 for a pair of Yves Saint Laurent pumps.

In fact, I’d rather be able to afford J.Crew over couture because I wouldn’t look like I’m trying too hard to walk in caged CREW, page 6

SWEET TRANSEVESTITE

The cast of Rocky Horror Picture Show performs on Oct. 21. The cult classic production is performed with the 1975 film playing in the background.
French Music Festival ends at the end of the month

FRENCH, page 5

Our students have been practicing since last August,” added Wilson.

Most of the Festival’s events, including “French Music Festival: Amernet String Quartet in Concert” and “From the Belle Epoque to the Crazy Years!” (Monday, Oct. 25, 7:30 p.m.), and concerts profiling musician Franz Liszt (on Oct. 27 and 28) are offered to students for $5 and to the general public for $10-$15.

“We’re kind of like a big family, a big community. We spend lots and lots of hours together,” said Wilson. “We have a wonderful faculty. I really enjoy working with such high level musicians.”

For more information on the French Music Festival or any of FIU School of Music events visit: www.Music.FIU.edu or contact the School of Music at (305) 448-2096.

Press Start Reviews: Sonic the Hedgehog 4: Episode 1

The last 12 years have been rough for Sega’s one-time mega mascot. The brand has been run into the ground by poorly designed games, the death of the Sega Dreamcast, and a general loss in public appeal. To try and restore the series’ past glory, Sega’s taking a step into the way-back machine to channel what made the character an icon bit “90s pop culture.

Sonic the Hedgehog 4: Episode I returns the brand to a simpler time, where running, loop-de-loops, and robots made from fuzzy woodland creatures were the norm.

The story is no more pressing than just Sonic taking on series arch-nemesis, Dr. Robotnik. The evil scientist is after Sonic using machines that bark back to the original trilogy, but revamped to offer new tricks.

The idea of retrograding isn’t as extreme as in Capcom’s Mega Man 9, where the game went so far as to fully resemble and sound like a game on the Nintendo Entertainment System. Instead, it modernizes the feel of the game with paint-like colorful backgrounds and environments.

Since the game is a simple platformer, requiring players to jump across platforms, roll through loops and corkscrews, and navigate jumping puzzles, there’s really not much to say about the gameplay other than what’s there is a mix of fun and flawed.

Immediately, Sonic controls like a loaded shopping cart in that he feels slow to start into a run but drops to a dime in mid-air. This makes timing some jumps a little tricky at first since it feels like the character is being weighed down by a 20-ton anvil. To help, Sega gave Sonic a new move in midair that gives him a small boost in speed and can give an added push for players unsure about their jumps.

Sadly, because of the sloppy state of the game’s physics programing, odd shenanigans happen that often take the player out of the experience. In one stage, I walked—not ran—up a very tall vertical wall and still cleared it. I’m pretty sure that’s not how momentum works.

Despite these problems, the levels themselves are quite entertaining and will certainly please players with who just want a fun game to play. Sonic can swing across vines, light up dark caves and detour dynamite with a torch, and play one of the game’s more tiny segments, run through the sky on a deck of poker cards.

The levels are themed after older stages in the series, though each stage has its own little gimmick to set it apart. Not all of them work so brilliantly. One such stage requires the player to aim cannons to guide Sonic across the level, usually with rings or arrows to guide the way.

The poor air physics make this a chore to do and the heavy reliance on the cannons makes the level a bit of a bore.

The game’s soundtrack is hit or miss, some of the synth-loaded tracks sounding good, others getting grating by how short they are when they loop back to the start.

The Wii and iPhone versions suffer out of the bunch. Because of Nintendo’s size restrictions, the Wii version has poor quality music, and a grainy image quality while the iPhone, even with two exclusive editions, is much more difficult to control and has graphical and audio quality worse than the Wii version.

What Sonic 4 does well, it does in strides. Issues at the very core of the gameplay however keep it from becoming a great game. For those who can put up with this, a short but entertaining game lies ahead. I would recommend waiting for the price to drop too, as $15, $10 on iPhone, is steep for a downloadable title.

Press Start is a weekly column on video games. Look for it every Monday.

J. Crew’s abusive prices lead to an abrupt break-up

The wheels of J. Crew are turning so quickly and the company is improving so fast; the only price that will remain competitive will be the sale price.

CREW, page 5

Their cheapest option for a tee is around $30 and it’s the most basic tee shirt you’ll ever find. The nicer, embellished ones can run up to $78.

Another thing that makes me sad about J.Crew is that there is no substitute for them. No one cuts a cardigan or pants the way they do.

Looking through their catalog or website is a great place for getting ideas, in theory. But then it sets in that you can’t get their stuff. It makes a bargain shopper like me, very sad.

The store in Dadeland Mall is small and boutique-like, so it has a real intimate feel. I’m really torn about this store. It’s so beautiful, but just not in the realm of possibilities for my measly bank account.

Lyons revamped the line to take it from a boring Vineyard Vines knock-off to an abrupt break-up. They’re looking for help editing. There’s so much noise, so many things to look at now,” said Lyons.

J. Crew’s abusive prices lead to a abrupt break-up.

Lyons gives fans a look at how she works the line’s style into her everyday life. Last month she showed us what was inside her purse.

Everything is beautiful and overpriced, including a rhinestone-encrusted pair of tweezers. It’s totally ridiculous, but I’m totally jealous.

This is where our relationship becomes abusive. Why would you try to sell me a pair of Tweezerman tweezers for $75 just because it has cheery rhinestones? Not fair.

So, for now, I’ll end my rant. I really wish it didn’t have to be this way. You’re out of my shopping realm, J. Crew, no matter how much I wish to be there.
There are few topics that arouse as much uproar from Americans as taxes, and today’s polarized and hypertrophic political climate guarantees even more controversy than usual. With midterm elections looming, both parties are looking to capitalize on the passionate issue of taxation, particularly the Bush-era tax cuts that are due to expire by Jan. 2011. The tax cuts were enacted under former president George H.W. Bush in 2001, and accelerated by another act in 2003. Their expiration will basically raise taxes to what they were a decade ago. I, along with most economists, feel a middle-ground approach to them is in order; not only for this era of overriding partisan schism, combined with cynicism towards “academic elites,” I’m not sure a balanced approach is feasible.

President Barack Obama and the Demo- crats favor retaining the tax cuts for any house- hold that makes less than $250,000, raising taxes on the richest two percent of the population. The Republicans, however prefer to maintain the tax cuts for everyone, including the wealthiest.

Once again, Democrats are accused of targeting the rich to win votes, while Republi- cans are branded as defenders of the wealthy at the expense of the poor. Furthermore, the GOP is being charged with hypocrisy for demanding more tax cuts even as they drum up concern about the deficit, which would be worsened by a total extension.

In a more respectable political climate, a more serious debate based on economic data should be the basis of a decision. Taxes are too easy a topic to exploit. They’ve also taken to utilizing the perception that the Obama administration is anti-busi- ness and may not, if not otherwise, emphasize the tax cut debate as proof of this.

Ultimately, both parties are overlooking their case. While extending the cuts for all but the richest will indeed save us billions of dollars – $34 billion by next year – it won’t fix the deficit. Astonishingly, that $34 billion will only cover about nine days’ worth of deficit. Even though the total amount saved over the next decade could amount to a whopping $700 billion, revenue generation spending will have to be curtailed for even that number to make a difference.

The Republican fear that restoring taxes will kill a recovery isn’t all that accurate. Previous tax cuts on the rich didn’t have a destabilizing effect on the economy. In fact, during former president Bill Clinton’s admin- istration, taxes on the wealthy were raised without negative consequences. Rather, the economy boomed.

The fact is, Democrats need to address the need for lower spending, while Republi- cans need to address the funding from the tax cuts. A little of each will have to be to get the budget and public debt in order. Extending the tax cuts for now seems most prudent, but they should be phased out in the long term, or as not to “shock” the economy, or deprive the deficit of needed revenue.

I’m investigating some cautious optimism. Despite their posturing, both parties have shown potential for compromise. Moderate Republicans are open to extending the cuts for another year and even John Boehner, the House minority leader, conceded to following Obama’s plan if it came down to it. Both parties also seem to be heading towards government spending, a report by a newly created deficit commis- sion, due by December 1st, may lead to prog- ress on a plan.

If only hope that once the hype and bravado of the midterms are over, each party will find more cause for tackling the deficit and less for swagger.

National Climate fuels hatred for gays

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

The recent reports of the four suicides committed by chil- dren under the age of eighteen after being taunted endlessly for being gay has been deemed by an “epidemic” second only to bullying as a cause of adolescent death. However, the reality is these suicides are a manifesta- tion of the dehumanization that is inflicted on homosexuals on a national level.

The speculation as to why these bullies drove these kids to suicide is only a small part of the much bigger issue of marginalization on a federal level, which is the point of ostracization and dehumanization.

The “kids are cruel” argu- ment is a cop-out and a dangerous answer to a question that is begging our nation’s attention. Why are teenagers, in this supposed period of moder- nity and youth, being driven to suicide because of their sexual orientation? If Society is to perpet- uate this “separate but equal” nonsense that is propagated by our government, churches and media, we must not be so shocked that teenagers, with little hope of their future being any less isolated, are driven to suicide.

As comedian Sarah Silverman stated, “When you single out Americans that they can’t serve their country openly or marry the person that they love, you’re telling them that they’ve lost the chance to fulfill all that they are.” Thus taunting these bullies is to cartel young kids and driving them to kill themselves because they’re different. They learned it from watching you.

I feel you can apply this mantra to a national level. The bullies learned it from watching you.

It speaks absolute volumes about our culture’s collective cognitive dissonance that while feeling the sorrow and acknowledging the particularly chilling idea of a child killing oneself, we remain so oblivious to the connection between laws that marginalize homosexuals and homosexual teen suicide.

When any minority is marginalized and not given equal rights, they are being dehumanized by the state. This dehumanization of homosexu- als is in part what contrib- uted to these suicides and the heinous tortures of three homo- sexual men in the Pentagon.

We cannot be certain that there were not a myriad of other factors that contributed to these suicides, but society must dig deeper than labeling these trag- edies as hate crimes. We must ask, as a whole, what is making this nation such a conducive environment for such devas- tating hatred and gay-bashing?

When Carl P. Paladino, candidate for New York Governor makes statements like, “I don’t want them [children] brainwashed into thinking that homosexuality is an equally valid and successful option. It isn’t.” I don’t think we can really say the national climate is encouraging one for children and teenagers struggling with their sexual identity.

When Christine O’Donnell, the Republican senate candidate for Delaware says homosexu- alism is an “identity disorder,” there is little wonder as to why younger generations of bullies are taunting teenagers and chil- dren literally to death.

For 18-year-old Tyler, who killed himself after his room- mates labeled him having sex with another man, for 13- year-old Asher in Texas who shot himself in the head, for 15-year-old Billy in Indiana, and for Seth, 13-year-old in Minne- sota who hung himself, all after being tormented by classmates for being gay, sympathy is easy.

For the two teenagers and the 30-year-old man in the Bronx, they were bound, stripped, severely beaten and sodomized with various objects, outrage is easy.

Actually questioning the national climate that is perpetu- ating the idea that being homo- sexual is inherently wrong, thus creating an environment susceptible to these crimes and suicides, is far more complex and necessary.

When Christina O’Donnell states that “We are a nation of believers,” the current climate of the country is that, “Our traditions are for people of every faith, every color, every race.” I say, “You are a liar.”

If the current climate is perpetuating a “separate but equal” climate, then it is time for the national climate to change to one that is equal and acknowledges that love should be free. Initially, changing the climate will have to involve changing the state’s climate by changing how our state and federal legislatures view these issues.

The Beacon

Useless trips drain student funds with little results

An unscheduled trip led members of Student Government to spend $2,137.35 in student money on travel expenses.

The trip was made by SGC-MMC Pres- ident Helen Ramirez, Vice President Nick Antiuillo, Chief of Staff Alina Gonzalez and Student Government Council at Boca Bay Campground in Florida. They were there, at the recommendation of members of the University’s Office of Governmental Rela- tions in Washington, D.C. They also made the recommendation for them to stay at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel.

The four-star hotel ended up costing members of the executive branch a total of $1,283.80 for a four-night stay. Jose Toscano, assistant director of Campus Life and SGC- MMC advisor, told Student Media that “no research was conducted towards finding money efficient hotels.”

Antiuillo on the other hand, told members of The Beacon that they made their own alterna- tives which cost up to $220 less than what members of SGC-MMC’s executive branch spent per night.

It is unacceptable that members of the Student Government Association - who are responsible for millions of dollars of student money - would go on such a trip, or any for that matter, without doing any research. It took a simple five-minute Google search for The Beacon to find less expensive hotels.

The Be on also questions the need for the trip in the first place.

According to Toscano, the trip is “out of the norm,” because members of the SGC-BBC typically the ones who lose funds with little results for the University on a nation-wide scale, while SGC-MMC typically lobbies for the Univer- sity on a state level.

Toscano also added that typically, SGC- MMC makes a single, scheduled trip to Wash- ington D.C. in March. Furthermore, the urgency behind executive branches to not forget for these projects is seemingly non-existent.

The projects that members of the Executive Cabinet lobbied while on their trip included $4 million dollars for a “Mass Scale Biosensor Diagnostic Test for In-Theater Defense Utilization,” $3 million dollars for a “FIU/ Jackson North Hospital Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Facility” and $2 million for a “Forensic Science Center of Excellence Focusing on National Security.”

“A lot of the trip, it’s impor- tant as our legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them.” Antiuillo told Student Media.

As Antiuillo said, they are “our legislators,” which means that they hold office in the state of Florida – which makes the trip to Wash- ington D.C. even more necessary. Instead of rushing up to the nation’s capital, SGA could have saved themselves and the student body thousands of dollars by begging for these priorities to change, to visit their state. Instead of rushing up to the nation’s capital, SGA could have saved themselves and the student body thousands of dollars by begging for these priorities to change, to visit their state. Instead of rushing up to the nation’s capital, SGA could have saved themselves and the student body thousands of dollars by begging for these priorities to change, to visit their state. Instead of rushing up to the nation’s capital, SGA could have saved themselves and the student body thousands of dollars by begging for these priorities to change, to visit their state.
The Beacon – 8

Haiti’s upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections are the most important elections to occur in the country since the first free democratic elections in 1990.

On the brink of what President Barack Obama refers to as “one of the largest relief efforts in history,” Haiti is in dire need of a strong leader to effectively begin the reconstruction of the country.

Promised roughly $5.3 billion in aid, expectations are high.

“My issue is that the country is flooded with money from international countries for reconstruction and Haiti has a history of reimbursement. I’m afraid the person who wins the seat will misappropriate the funds,” said Daoudnya Nemorin, a senior international relations major.

General elections were scheduled to occur on Feb. 28; however, after the earthquake exacerbated political and social instability in the country, presidential and parliamentary elections were postponed until Nov. 28.

In Haiti’s bicameral National Assembly, 11 of 30 senate seats are up for election; 99 seats of the Chamber of Deputies are up for grabs as well.

Haiti’s Electoral Provisional Committee, handpicked by President Rene Preval, has come under scrutiny by US lawmakers after barring candidates from 14 political parties from participating in the elections, including Haiti’s largest party, Lavalas Family.

On Aug. 20, the CEP approved 19 of the 34 Candidates eligible to run for office.

From these 19 hopefuls Haitians have favored a first lady, a world-renowned Haitian musician and a former Haitian presidential candidate.

Michel Manigat, a National Progressive Democrat, has 23 percent of support from Haitian citizens and is currently the leading candidate in the race to the top.

Manigat, a university scholar who spent years in exile is the wife of former President Leslie Manigat, campaigning on a platform of jobs, education and social programs.

The former first lady simply pledges action in her platform and like many of the Presidential candidates she has made no point to offer any ideologies to her constituents.

Charles-Henri Baker, referred to as “The Hope of Haiti,” is behind Manigat in the polls with 17.3 percent of voting intentions. Baker is running under the Respe Haiti party.

Baker is looking to instill hope in the hearts of a people disillusioned with their leaders.

World-renowned Haitian musician Michel Martelly, “Sweet Micky,” is currently in third place in pre-election polls. Martelly’s campaign focuses on “change” and sustainable development, affiliated with Response Peyizin, or the People’s Response Party.

Martelly is the president of the Foundation Rose et Blanc, created by his wife Sophia and himself, to help the poor and disenfranchised of the country.

This being the basis for choosing him as the Good Will Haitian Ambassador for the Protection of the Environment by the current Haitian Government.

“It’s one thing to be an activist and I know Sweet Micky has done a lot for Haiti in that respect, but transitioning to politics and considering the history of Haiti knowing of the corruption and coups I don’t know if he’s ready for that,” said Edvard Servius a sophomore finance major.

The upcoming elections have stirred great debate among the international community as well as in the United States.

Eyes around the world are watching to see how the Elections pan out and how the new Parliament and President will govern the nation’s post-quake reconstruction.

Students voice opinions of Haiti’s nearing elections

Haiti’s future discussed this week, plagiarism causes debate

DEBORAH SOUVREIN
Contributing Writer

A student in the “Aztlan” Week Roundtable.

CUBA

Church announces release of more prisoners

The Roman Catholic Church announced the names of five more Cuban inmates who have accepted exile in Spain in return for freedom, none are among 52 political prisoners jailed in a 2005 roundup of dissidents.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

126 students fall ill after free meals

Officials say 126 students were sickened on Oct. 21 after eating free school breakfasts despite the Dominican government’s efforts to solve past problems with tainted school food.

HAITI

Cholera outbreak feared in rural Haiti

At least 135 people have died in a suspected cholera outbreak, and aid groups are mobilizing in medicine and other supplies on Oct. 22 to combat Haiti’s deadliest health problem since its devastating earthquake.

NEW MULTIMEDIA LAB

Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications Ulleen Lodge Kopenhaver; E.W. Scripps President and CEO Richard A. Boehne and Scripps Howard Foundation President and CEO Mike Phillips cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the new Scripps Multimedia Lab in Academic Two 255.

TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

TREMANIE STEED
CHRISTOPHER TURPIN
Beacon Staff

With contemporary issues continue to rise globally, discussions for solutions can seem inevitable or therapeutic.

“Jail me to be an open forum, expressing opinions on politics, celebrities and what it means for us when we cast a vote,” said moder-ator Julissa Castellanos, director of operations for the office of the Vice Provost Bioccihany.

The topic for the upcoming TTR discussion on Oct. 26, “High Hop for Haiti,” discusses the recent arrest of musical artist Wyckel Jean cited against Haiti’s council decision to rule him ineligible for the upcoming presidential election.

The ruling was due to residential requirements that according to the Haitian council, Jean has not met, being that he moved to the United States as a child.

Original Jean accepted defeat as he respect-fully acknowledged the decision; however, later he and his lawyers decided to respectfully challenge the ruling just a weekend after announcing it on his twitter page.

Although Jean may seem like a reason-able candidate, busing his generosity toward Haiti with organizations such as Vele, a creole word meaning “scream, and being native of the country, does his “celebrity” set him as an auto-matic candidate? Are his concerns really for the betterment of Haiti? And does the traumatic earthquake that destroyed the Haitian nation give lead way for him to be elected?

“I think it is something positive, being someone famous that the youth looks up too, I feel that celebrities should use their fame for something positive, and that will be discussed during the roundtable,” Castellanos said.

All of these questions will be discussed as students gain more insight on the issue.

“A way of expressing opinions on celebri-ties, we can be heard and say that this gener-al effect the Haitian community or only those who follow the music industry, all of this will be discussed, as I do hope to learn from the students myself,” Castellanos said.

Though how this week’s discussion will turnout is still unclear, last week’s discussion on plagiarism caused heated debate between students, faculty, and staff.

In attendance were over a dozen students and faculty, including Communications Professor Lorna Verardi, Interim Dean of the School of Hospitality and Tourism Managemt Joan Remington, and Associate Dean of HTM Rocce Angelo.

Interim Vice Provost Stephen Moll cited an article by The New York Times columnist and College of Law professor Stanley Fish called “Plagiarism is Not a Big Moral Deal.” Moll also alluded to former Times writer Jayson Blair, who was fired for plagiarism.

“Although the University requires all profes-sors to put in your syllabus a statement regarding plagiarism, we don’t do as good of a job as we should letting people know what plagiarism is,” Moll said.

“Sometimes students don’t even know they’re plagiarizing because, they don’t know what it’s all about,” Moll said.

A few students were annoyed by having to keep track of multiple writing style manuals, such as Modern Language Association, Amer-ican Psychological Association, and Associated Press.

Diiferent areas of concentration have different research formats, countered Verardi and Remington. These research formats are designed to simulate and prepare students for the working field.

Other concerns students expressed dealt with how to properly cite sources, even the number of sources.

When Moll asked Angelo about his research process, he remembered an arduous experience.

“It was painful. I spent a year locked in front of my computer,” Angelo said.

Students caught plagiarizing should be expelled,” said Fedelook Lastra. “If that’s what you’re going to do in one class you’re going to do it for the other ones.”

In closing discussions, both students and faculty agreed that recent technology has made it much easier to plagiarize, made the process much easier.

“You can take a subject, look it up on your phone and in five minutes you can sound like an expert on the matter,” Lastra said.