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 Governing Council at Modesto Maidique Campus President Helena Ramirez, Vice President Nicholas Autillo, Chief of Staff Alina Gonzalez, and Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Christin “Cici” Battle all traveled to Washington D.C., on Sept. 30 per the request of the University’s Governmental 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, Autillo 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 costs during trip expenses is not the norm for SGC-MMC because they have historically traveled to Washington D.C. only once in March. The committee has already launched one-on-one consultations, a website in the health services site and sporadic university-wide emails. However, the effect of dismayed students 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. “Obviously he needs to deal with Congress, but he was holding a majority.”

“Obama’s approval rating among college students drops

LAUREN ROVIRA  
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 emerged 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 billfiling this generation’s openness, health reform, important 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. Maximiliam Staedtler, 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 Staedtler.

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

SMOKE-BAN, page 2

AY, QUE COMICO!

Lauren Gauthier, a junior majoring in psychology.

TAWAIN

7 dead, 25 missing after typhoon hits

A powerful typhoon caused massive mud- and rockslides that killed 7 people and trapped vehicles on a highway, where one bus carrying 19 Chinese tourists was missing.

CUBA

Church names more Cuba prisoners

The Catholic Church announced the names of five more Cuban inmates who have accepted exile in Spain in return for freedom, though none are among 32 political prisoners jailed in a 2003

HAITI

Cholera outbreak kills 135

At least 135 people have died in a suspected cholera outbreak, and aid groups are rushing in medicine and other supplies Friday to combat Haiti’s deadliest health problem since its devastating

SAO TAWAIN

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

www.fiusm.com

Monday, October 25, 2010

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The Student Programming Council presented Bill Santiago, a comedian famous for his Latino parodies. SPC brought Santiago to the University as a part of Hispanic Heritage month. He performed on Oct. 20 in the Graham Center Ballrooms.
Healthy FIU Carnival part of educational plan

SMOKE-BAN, page 1

want to give them information about all of the services offered by [UHS] and also how we can get this information to their students," said Daniel Estape, a member of STOPP and a public health masters student.

One of the ideas within the educational plan that was discussed was the structure of a Healthier FIU Carnival, which will be modeled after The Great American Smokeout, an annual nation-wide event held on the third Thursday of November that encourages Americans to quit smoking.

First held in 1977 by the American Cancer Society, the event challenges people to stop smoking cigarettes for 24 hours, while hoping that their decision to not smoke will last for the rest of their lives. Still in its planning phase, the committee hopes to incorporate games, t-shirts and activities that will better inform the smokers about the regulation as well as other health initiatives throughout the University.

While the enforcement aspect was to be specifically addressed by a different committee, the steering committee members still debated the plan and the fact that sanctions, for smokers who 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 Architecture 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.”

SGA, page 1

Taylor and I conducted our own research and could not find any cheaper hotels.” However, Toscano told Student Media: “no research was conducted towards finding money efficiently.”

Student Media conducted its own research and found much cheaper alternatives within five miles of the Mayflower for as low as $199 per night.

During the group’s time in Washington D.C., SGA members lobbied local representatives Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, and Lincoln and Mario Diaz-Balart; all of whom have offices located in Miami. According to a press release sent out on Sept. 30, Ramírez, Antiello, González, and Battle were lobbying for several projects including $4 million in funding for a “Mass Scale Biosensor Threat Diagnostic for In-Theater Defense Utilization.”

The press release added that this project will help in “developing devices that can detect non-specific, unknown toxicants using nano-scaled based biosensor devices.” This is a project intended for the United States Department of Defense.

Another project, the “Green Technologies Research Incubator,” was requested by the School of Environment and Technology and seeks to “augment existing research facilities and make instrumentation investments to spur technological advancement and economic development in sustainable technologies.”

Historically, SGC-BBC is tasked with traveling nationally due to Battle being a member of the United States Student Association, which requires her to travel nationally throughout the year. Toscano told Student Media, “SGC-BBC has a traveling budget that is $4,000 higher than SGC-MMC’s, totalling at $18,000 a year. As far as urgency of that trip, it’s important as our legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them,” Antiello 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 legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them,” Antiello said.

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 undergrad- uate adviser in the Politics and International Relations department.

Michael Santanas, presi- dente of the College Democrats at the University explained: “This is a midterm election 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 reconfirmed that there may be negative setbacks in the midterm elections, 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 like,” 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 Lijtzinger, 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 political power in the legislative branch.

“Many fail to realize that although the Presidency is a powerful position, it is one branch of government that must co-exist with the other two in order to ensure the preservation of our republic,” Dawson said.

Trump’s immigration plan: "A policy of reunification," said President Donald Trump, and as he continues to focus on strengthening the nation’s borders, his words have become the focus for many students who support the administration.

Though, according to Anti-ello, SGA’s discounts were given to them when booking the stay, the lodging itself cost an average of $320.95 per night.

In a press conference on Oct. 22, Antiello said, “Helena and I conducted our own 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 legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them,” Antiello said.
**Golden Panthers blank ULM on Senior Night**

**Jackson Wolek  Staff Writer**

The Golden Panthers’ last home game of the season ended on a perfect note, as they went on to score the most goals they have all year, in an impressive 5-0 shutout victory.

The University of Louisiana Monroe (2-15-0, 1-9 Sun Belt Conference), who has not won a game in conference play, proved to be no easy task. FIU is averaging 1.3 goals per game in conference play, and their defense has given up just 0.9 goals per game.

FIU had a good start out of the gate, scoring all five goals in the first half on two goals from senior forward Kaley Durance, one from senior forward Mayara Bordin, and two from freshman forward Sabrina Gonzalez.

The game started out pretty quickly, as April Gonzalez, a midfielder, played a long ball into the ULM box, which was followed up by senior forward Mayara Bordin. Bordin took the pass from Perry and helped FIU to grab a comfortable lead of 3-0.

Not even a minute after, ULM made a mental mistake and scored on their own goal, which put FIU up 4-0, and with 26 minutes to go in the game, it seemed inevitable that the game was over. It wasn’t, at least for FIU that is, because two minutes later Charlie Leiva dropped in to score her second goal of the night and half of her goal off a pass from senior Mayara Bordin.

The first goal I look at my first tough forward and I saw that the goalie was already low so I tipped it over her head and into the back of the net. The second goal I got a great ball from my teammate and just took a touch down the line and put it back the other way,” said Leiva on her two goals. “After every goal I told them (the seniors on the team) that it was for them.”

Mayara Bordin, Kaley Dumure, Kassandra Sorzano, and Linn Thune make up the Golden Panthers’ senior class. This was a very important and emotional night for all of them, and picking up an impressive victory was not only a huge achievement for the team, but also for the seniors.

They were not finished yet, as eight minutes later, another freshman, this time Nicole DiPerna, took the pass from Perry and helped FIU to grab a comfortable lead of 3-0.

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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 stop 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.

Golden Panthers win in exhibition

Gonzalez’s skills refine with time

season, you can’t truly appreciate her play unless you see it in person.

She is quick for her 5’11” frame, moving around with hustle and poise, protecting and attacking the net, almost like a post player would in basketball. Her development was helped by the emergence of Andrea Lakovic, another junior middle blocker, who pushed her to play better.

“Andrea and her are pushing each other, which is great,” Tomic said. “Andrea is playing better and better, and that’s a competition you want to see. Teammates who play against each other everyday, who play the same position, are pushing each other to be better.”

This play has come as no surprise to coach Tomic, who has told Gonzalez what she sees as the potential for her.

“She has blossomed this year,” Tomic said. “If she continues like this, she’ll be one of the top players. I told her after her freshman year, if you continue to develop like this, you’ll be one of the best middle blockers in the Sun Belt. She’s showing that.”
LIFE!

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 groups were working hard to put on a great show."

The Festival continues throughout October with events ranging from lectures and films to concerts and recitals. For more information, visit www.fiu.edu/music/frenchfestival.

NATALIE LEVY
Staff Writer

French festival begins month-long revelry

SWEET TRANSVESTITE

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.

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.

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 in 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
French Music Festival ends at the end of the month

FRENCH, page 5

 groups and all the ensembles and all the work they do. For musicians a 5-minute piece takes more than 200 hours to put together. That’s just the nature of the kind of thing we do.”

In fact, by far the most impressive aspect of the French Music Festival are the sheer man-hours spent rehearsing for and coordinating each individual event. “Everyone is rehearsing during regular class periods, the faculty will rehearse after or on week-ends. All the members of the faculty are performers so something like this just adds in to their regular preparation period,” said Dundas.

This year’s festivities, headed by the October 6th convocation, have been in the school’s plans since last spring.

“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 contact: www.Music.FIU.edu or contact the School of music at (305) 348 – 2906.

Press Start Reviews: Sonic the Hedgehog 4: Episode 1

Return to roots effort falls short of initial expectations

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 iconic bit of ‘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 hark back to the original trilogy, but revamped to offer new tricks.

The idea of retrograding isn’t an 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 gate 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 at 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 sloppiness of the game’s physics programing, odd shenanigans happen often that 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 detonate dynamite with a torch, and even using one of the game’s nifty segmented, 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.

I’m not sure if this is where our relationship becomes strong or if it’s just Sonic箱 controls. The game’s soundtrack is hit or miss, some of the synth-loaded tracks sound 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 controls, 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 that can put up with them, 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 download title.

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

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

Heels.

Their cheapest option for a toe 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, 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 meagre bank account.

Lyons revamped the line to take it from a boring Vinyl Vines knock-off to the wardrobe staple mecca they are now. Everyone who shops from the store or online admires the line should check out her monthly “Jenna’s Picks” newsletter on the website.

“I want people to trust ‘Jenna’s Picks,’ and I think they respond to it because they’re looking for help editing. There’s so much noise, so many things to look at now,” said Lyons.

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.

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.

Fashion Finds is a weekly style column. Reviewers do not receive any gifts in return for favorable reviews.

"French Music Festival ends at the end of the month" is from the document.
The recent reports of the four suicides committed by children under the age of eighteen after being targeted endlessly for being gay has been deem as an “epidemic” seemingly spurred by a Scream of ostracism and dehumanization. However, the reality is these suicides are a manifestation 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. It is the point of ostracism and dehumanization. The “kids are cruel” argument 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 modified hates, being driven to suicide because of their sexual orientation? If Scream is a strategy to perpetuate 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 have also added to it a Scream of Americans that they can’t serve their country openly or marry the person that they love, you’re telling them to kill themselves. No bullies should be shocked and wonder where all these bullies are coming from that are torturing 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 while that feeling the sorrow and acknowledging the particularly chilling idea of a child killing oneself, we remain somewhat 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 homosexuals is in part what contributed to these suicides and the heinous tortures of three homosexual men in the Boston. 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 those tragedies as hate crimes. We must ask, as a whole, what is making this nation such a conducive environment for such devastating hatred and gay-bashing? When Carl F. Goldberg, 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 senatorial candidate for Delaware says homosexuality is an “identity disorder,” there is little wonder as to why younger generations of bullies are taunting teenagers and children literally to death. For 18-year-old Tyler, who killed himself after his roommates, filmmakers who had 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 Minnesota 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, these were bound, stripped, severely beaten and sodomized with various objects, outrage is easy. Actually questioning the national climate that is perpetuating the idea that being homosexual is inherently wrong, thus creating an environment susceptible to these crimes and suicides, is far more complex and necessary. When President Barack Obama and the Demorats favor retaining the tax cuts for any house that makes less than $250,000, raising taxes on only the richest two percent of the population. The Republicans, however prefer to maintain the tax cuts for everyone, including the wealthy.

Once again, Democrats are accused of targeting the rich to win votes, while Republics 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 the deficit. Astonishingly, that $34 billion will have to be curtailed for even that number of tax cuts for now seems most prudent, but they should be phased out in the days to come as not to “shock” the economy, or deprive the deficit of needed revenue. I’m not sure what other options. 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 seem to be heading for a government spending, yet a newly created deficit commission will have to be curtailed for even that number to make a difference. The Republican fear that restricting 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 administration, 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 Republics need to address the need for lower taxes. A little of each will have to be get to the budget and public debt in order. Extending the tax cuts for now seems most prudent, but they should be phased out in the days to come as not to “shock” the economy, or deprive the deficit of needed revenue.

The Beacon searched for hotels located around the area of the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel and found several alternatives 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 prior research. It took a simple five-minute Google search for The Beacon to find less expensive hotels.

The Beacon - on 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 are typically the ones who lobby for the University on a nation-wide scale, while SGC-MMC typically lobbies for the University on a state level.

Toscano also added that typically, SGC- MMC makes a single, scheduled trip to Washington D.C. For March. Furthermore, the urgency behind executive branches to not forget for these projects is seemingly non-existent. The projects that members of the Executive Committee lobbied while on their trip included $4 million dollars for a “Mass Scale Biosensor Threat Diagnostic for In-Theater Defense Utilization,” $3 million dollars for a “Flu/Jackson North Hospital Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Facility” and $2 million for a “Forensic Science Center of Excellence Focusing on National Security.”

“An unscheduled trip, that is important as our legislators are in the process of being re-elected that they do not forget the priorities that we have set for them.” Autiello told Student Media.

As Autiello, they said are “our legislators,” which means that they hold office in the state of Florida – as which makes the trip to Washington D.C. every member, not just a handful of people or whatever the case may be to lobby for those members of congress to be back in their home state.

The Beacon believes it is important for SGAs and the student body in general to prioritize the opportunities that the student body has set for them, for instance, not spending student money for unnecessary and costly trips.
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 among 52 political prisoners jailed in a 2003 roundup of dissidents.

A church official said 32 other inmates have also expressed interest in leaving Cuba, making the releases numbers 11 and 12. The Catholic Church has been working to free political prisoners in Cuba for more than a decade.

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

Students voice opinions of Haiti’s nearing elections

The topic for the upcoming TTR discussion will be whether politicians should be held responsible for plagiarism.

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 growing with money from international countries for reconstruction and Haiti has a history of embezzlement. I’m afraid the person who wins the race will misallocate the aid,” said Dalourny 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; the 99 seats of the Chamber of Deputies are up for grabs as well.

Haiti’s Elector 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.

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.

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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 pledged 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 the 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 Pétion, or the People’s Response Party.

Martelly is the president of the Foundation Rose et Blain, 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.

“Its one thing to be an activist and I know Sweet Mickey 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 Servis 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

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Contributing Writer

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TUESDAY TIMES ROUNDTABLE

Haiti’s future discussed this week, plagiarism causes debate

TREMANIE STEED
CHRISTOPHER TURPIN
Beacon Staff

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

“Now that this to be an open forum, expressing opinions on politics, celebrities and what it means for us when we cast a vote,” said moderator Jelissa Castellanos, director of operations for the office of the Vice Provost Biocciency Bay.

The topic for the upcoming TTR discussion on Oct. 26, “Hip Hop for Haiti,” discusses the recent appeal muscular artist Wyclef Jean filed against Haiti’s council 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.

Originally, Jean accepted defeat as he respectfully challenged the ruling just a weekend after announcing it on his twitter page.

Although Jean may seem like a reasonable candidate, basing his generosity toward Haiti with organizations such as Yele, a creole word meaning “scream, and being native of the country, does his “celebrity” set him as an automatic candidate? Are his concerns really for 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 celebrities, we can be honest and say that this generally affect the Haiti 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 Mangement Joan Remington, and Associate Dean of HTM Rocco 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 professors to put in their 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 type keep track of multiple writing style manuals, such as Modern Language Association, American Psychological Association, and Associated Press.

Different 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 Fedecito 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 people lazy as well as increased the temptation for students to take the easy road of plagiarism.

“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.

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