University visited by controversial exhibit

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

With an exhibit comparing abortion to genocide, the Genocide Awareness Project aimed to spark debate and influence students through an interactive photomural presentation.

Sponsored by the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, the display stood outside of the Betty Chapman Plaza in front of the Graham Center on Feb. 21 and 22 at Modesto Maidique Campus.

“Genocide is the systematic destruction of a group. In this case it is the destruction of the very young, singling them out,” said Mark Harrington, executive director of the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform and president of the Pro-Life Institute.

The exhibit is part of a tour throughout universities in Florida, including the University of West Florida, Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University. According to Harrington, the organization is also campaigning to establish a pro-life group on campus and have collected “over one hundred names” while the photo exhibit was up.

“The project also focuses on training pro-life activists from the United Kingdom, South Africa and Canada. “I want to fight for respect for human life and advocate loving options, such as adoption,” said Amanda Country, a student at Lakehead University in Canada. “I am motivated because my father was an orphan and went to become a doctor. Adoption is an option that is over-looked.”

Some members of the University community and local organizations also participated in setting up the exhibit.

“Our goals are to bring awareness about abortion and the reason we work so well with the G.A.P. is because not only are we a local connection, but we also complement them by providing services to the community,” said Kristen Weissinger, FIU senior.

The exhibit has been a subject of controversy on other university campuses, including trespassing charges against the group, after their refusal to turn the billboards inward at the University of Calgary last November.

“We have received some complaints, but we have a vested interest in our students and in trying to work with other institutions, like public health and public broadcasting, to inform the public and help to educate our students,” said Allan Richards, associate dean at SJMC.

Richards and MacMillin have wanted to involve more students and the public health sector to expand the campaign beyond SJMC, so they reached out to University Provost, Douglas Warzeck, for support. Richards said Warzeck helped them to facilitate meetings with the deans of the College of Medicine so they could present their productions and have discussions about how to incorporate the field of health into this communications project.

“There are treatments that infected people can take to save their lives,” said William Darrow, professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at the University and former CDC researcher. “But there is no vaccine, there is no cure, and there is no way that we can deny we have a serious and growing problem right here in paradise.”

Darrow has incorporated the campaign into his Spring 2011 PHC 6750 course. Students are working in teams of five to come up with an HIV prevention plan for current and future students.

Richards and MacMillin will be part of a panel of judges on April 11, in which the teams will present their plans and be judged American Idol-style for the first-annual Smarty Pants Bowl competition.

“Allan has agreed to play the role of Simon Cowell. Kate will be Paula Abdul,” said Darrow. “It should be a great learning experience and whole lot of fun.”

Richards had previously interviewed Darrow before going to South Africa. He has been studying HIV/AIDS since 1981 and has been a tremendous asset and source of knowledge to the campaign, according to Richards.

“The contrast between the obvious concern and attention given to AIDS in South Africa and the absence of awareness and action in South Florida is mind boggling,” said Darrow. “If we are Worlds Ahead at FIU, we should be able to lend our expertise to confront and control the AIDS epidemic in South Florida.”

MacMillin and some students also established a Health Communications Club as part of an expansion of the SJMC’s Health Communications unit. Students interested in joining the club can contact Ordenez at sodeno03@fiu.edu.

“Are filling the gap in print reporting on health issues,” said Silvana Ordenez, club president and junior journalism major.

Campaign seeks to reignite AIDS dialogue

MELODY REGALADO
Staff Writer

In response to a recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that states Miami is number one in newly-diagnosed AIDS cases, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications’ “It’s Somebody New” campaign has expanded a few steps further.

“The campaign has a very simple message: we need to keep the dialogue going about HIV/AIDS,” said Kate MacMillin, SJMC professional.

Now, SJMC has partnered with the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work and the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, along with the Miami-Dade Health Department.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cut backs put jobs on the line

BRENT KALLESTAD
AP Staff

Florida’s legislative session set to start March 8 could be one of the most explosive in years, with thousands of state jobs on the line as new Gov. Rick Scott presses to cut back on the size and cost of state government.

Whitting down state government was one of former Gov. Jeb Bush’s goals and it’s been attempted by other governors across the country, too, although not often successfully.

But with Florida’s economy in the doldrums, a budget shortfall of at least $3.6 billion and a desire to cut taxes, Scott and a conservative Republican Legislature see a chance to eliminate or curtail programs they see as an unneeded or wasteful.

Rank-and-file state employees, who haven’t seen a pay raise in five years, will lose ground again with changes in their pension and health benefits. Key government services also face cuts.

Scott and legislators are taking dead aim at education, social services and even law enforcement, with police agencies concerned that they’ll have to release some inmates to save housing and feeding costs.

I’m focused on building private sector jobs,” said Scott, who promised during his campaign that he’d create 700,000 new jobs in Florida over the next seven years. “That’s going to be the key.”

During his inaugural speech after he was re-elected in 2002, Bush said he’d like to empty the buildings surrounding the Capitol that housed thousands of state employees. And now Scott comes to town — the third straight Republican governor — with a similar philosophy to Bush that the private sector fuels America’s economy.

“Government has to get back to its core functions, but only its core functions,” an unapologetic Scott said. And he’s borrowing from some of the strategies he used in building HCA/Columbia, the company he founded, into one of the largest hospital chains in the world. “All of the citizens in our state have to tighten their belts.”

Scott was elected in part on a campaign message of “Let’s Get to Work,” and his first mission is to do something about Florida’s bleak unemployment situation where one of every eight workers are jobless. He has proposed cutting the
Proposed cuts would reduce workforce by seven percent

JOBS, page 1

current budget from $70.4 billion to $65.9 billion for the next fiscal year, which starts July 1.

They’ve got a real chal-

enge ahead,” said noted University of Florida professor and author David Demos. He recalled a similar challenge faced by former Gov. Reubin Askew nearly four decades ago when the role of government had a smaller affect the overall economy.

In his Feb. 7 budget message, Scott outlined major cuts in services to balance the budget. Privatization and consolidation are being closely examined as means of meeting that requirement and at the same time putting the brakes on government growth.

Scott proposed cutting pension benefits for state workers, teachers and some local government employees and requiring them to contribute 5 percent of their salaries to their retirement plan. He wants to cut education spending by $3.3 billion or $700 per student and save $1 billion by reducing Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals and nursing homes, but not to doctors.

He has proposed cutting the state’s work force by about 8,654 positions, or nearly 7 percent. About 2,000 of those positions already are vacant.

The question is how do you meet the important needs of the state?” asks Doug Martin, legislative director for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), a union that represents 57,000 Florida government employees.

“You’re talking about road maintenance, child protection, juvenile justice, prison, veterans homes,” Martin said.

“Florida will still have 100,000 prisoners. Florida will still have juvenile gang problems. It will still have children in need of protection.”

Scott believes he can cut taxes by about $2 billion and still balance the budget.

But it’s the Legislature that will make the final decisions on state spending, albeit Scott holds the veto pen.

House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, and Senate President Mike Hadi-
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House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, and Senate President Mike Har-
opulos, R-Merrit
FIU women cruise to easy win over Trojans

On a night that the FIU seniors were playing their final game at U.S. Century Bank Arena, the Golden Panthers sent them off on a winning note. FIU was able to hold off Troy 71-47, giving the Golden Panthers a #2 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament, along with a first-round bye. It was Senior Night for FIU, giving the Nittany Lions a 2-0 lead. This had to do with their poor pitching, where they outscored the Golden Panthers 16-9.

Most of the scoring was in the first half. Donette McNair would single to give the Golden Panthers a 28-21 lead with 3:19 left in the first. Freshman Jerica Coley broke the FIU all-time scoring record for a freshman when she stole an inbound pass from Troy and hit a 13-foot jump shot. Besides the accomplishment, the first half was riddled with traveling calls, with the referees blowing the whistle every chance they could. The Trojans would make a push to cut the deficit by scoring from three point range and disrupting the Golden Panther offense. FIU scored a run in the fifth inning, Sovereign would hit a double to left field which scored a runner from second to give UNC a 2-0 lead.

“North Carolina jumped out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. After a one out single by Tisha Mahon, she would advance to second on a wild pitch by starting pitcher Jenn Gniadek. Ally Blake would score the game’s first run on a RBI double by Kelli Wheeler.

The Golden Panthers would begin the top of the third with a leadoff single by Rachael Slivka. She would be followed by a single by Alfonso. Rojas would draw a walk with two outs and the bases loaded, Jenny Welch would strikeout to end the inning. We started the game with a pretty good credit, Torina said. “We started off putting [the ball] in play, but with a pitcher [like Lori Spingola] with that talent, it would be tough to fight back.”

North Carolina would break the game open in the bottom of the fourth inning. Dani Manko would single to left scoring Butler from third to give UNC a 2-0 lead. Kelli Wheeler would single to give UNC a 3-0 lead. Wheeler would advance to second on the throw to home plate. After scoring another run to give UNC a 4-0 lead, Daille Dickey would hit a two run homer to left. Torina said after the game. “I think we had a lot of issues that happened in the fourth inning with stolen bases and their ability to put good ground balls in the wrong place for us,” Torina said after the game. “We definitely let one thing turn to another and we could not stop the bleeding. We were in every other inning of the ballgame and it was unfortunate that we couldn’t stop it and stop it there.”

SENIOR SWEEP

Golden Panthers end season with overtime win over Troy

FIU went to overtime once again against Troy and came out on the winning end with an 85-76 victory to end the season on a high note.

Marvin Roberts, Phil Gary, Tremayne Russell, Anthony Anderson and Stephan Weaver all played their last game at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on senior night as seniors, and it was an emotional night to say the least, especially for Roberts.

“I feel good, I didn’t have a good enough season as I thought I would have had. But today I was hot and my teammates kept finding me,” Roberts said.

Roberts scored a game-high 26 points and is now the 15th all-time point scorer from third base, giving Horne’s attempt to throw out Renwick at second base. Giving Terry a back and forth scoring battle that saw Marvin Roberts come out with 11 points to lead the team.

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“The game was the wrong emotion to say the least, night as seniors, and it was an emotional night to say the least, night as seniors, and it was an emotional night to say the least, night as seniors, and it was an emotional night to say the least.” Torina said. “I’m really that senior year, we could make it as great as it is.”

At the start of the first half, all three seniors made an appearance in the starting lineup with Liene Jekabsons and Maja Krajacic getting the rare start. FIU (15-15, SBC 10-6) looked at the pace early, with three-pointers by Michelle Gonzalez and redshirt junior Fanni Hutlassa.

While leading 10-6, FIU allowed Troy (5-24, SBC 1-14) go on a run to overtake the Golden Panthers 19-18 with 10:57 left in the first half. Donette McNair led the charge for the Trojans, but it was short lived as FIU would come out on a 10-3 run for a 28-21 lead with 3:19 left in the first. Freshman Jerica Coley broke the FIU all-time scoring record for a freshman when she stole an inbound pass from Troy and hit a 13-foot jump shot. Besides the accomplishment, the first half was riddled with traveling calls, with the referees blowing the whistle every chance they could. The Trojans would make a push to cut the deficit by scoring from three point range and disrupting the Golden Panther offense. FIU scored a run in the fifth inning, Sovereign would hit a double to left field which scored a runner from second to give UNC a 2-0 lead.

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**BASEBALL**

Offense outbursts help lift FIU over MVSU

**ANDRIES LEON**

**Staff Writer**

The Golden Panthers opened up a four game series against Mississippi Valley State on Feb. 25 at FIU Baseball Stadium. After beating St. Thomas early in the week, the Golden Panthers hitting game was up to par again.

In the first inning, Rody Flores hit a three-run home to bring in Jeremy Patton and Mike Martinez, giving the Golden Panthers the early three-run lead.

Joe Behar provided more offense for the Golden Panthers, hitting a straight shot up the middle to bring in Vandy Barraso home to make the score 4-0. Behar provided more edge to the Golden Panthers having his second career steal to put himself in scoring position and scored on a single by Garrett Wittels.

The Delta Devils attempted to rally back. With momentum going their way and runners on second and third, Curtis Ford hit a straight shot to second bringing Norman and Derek Wallace home to make it a 5-3 game in the fourth inning.

In the bottom of the fifth, with MVVSU having pitching issues, third baseman Jeremy Patton hit a homerun to extend the lead for the Golden Panthers.

**MEN’S, page 3**

only converting two of 10 three-point attempts. On the defensive end, they could not seem to find an answer for Regis Huddleston, who had 14 points in the first half alone. FIU would go into halftime down by just one 36-35.

The Golden Panthers started the second half slow, and let Troy build the lead up to 17-29 left until they finally started to make a comeback and kept the game close for the rest of the way.

FIU tied the game up with 3:37 remaining when Roberts hit a three to make it 70-70, and then took the lead for the first time in the second half off a DeJuan Wright free throw.

With a minute left, Tremayne Russell dove on the floor for a loose ball and quickly called timeout as the scored time in the second half off a DeJuan Wright free throw.

FIU continued to cruise and releaver Justin Cromartie closed the game for the Golden Panthers.

“We got the bats going early and we are getting used the feel of the new bats,” Patton said. “We definitely need the momentum going in with the double header tomorrow and the other games this weekend.”

**FIU 9, MVSSU 3**

With the score 4-0, MVSSU hit an early base hit to right field, Chris Norman brought MVSSU right fielder Michael Lowe in for the score. Late in the top of the fourth Scott Hornstra added a homer to make the score 4-2. The Golden Panthers continued swinging the bats well. Garrett Wittels hit a deep fly ball between a gap in right field to bring in Iosmel Leon and Capote.

MVSSU got behind the plate and looked to rally but Wittels made a huge play to throw to first after Curtis Ford popped one over the pitcher to end the inning.

With good defense, Wittels continued to excel. In the bottom of the fourth inning Wittels hit another RBI double, making the score 6-2.

At his first at bat, Andre Vasquez hit his first collegiate homerun, a two run shot, extending the lead to 9-2.

**SUN BELT CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT**

Where: Hot Springs, Arkansas
Time: 9:45 p.m. EST
When: 03/06/11
Where: Hot Springs, Arkansas

**WOMEN’S, page 3**

Win gives FIU first round bye beyond the arc for the Golden Panthers. As for the Trojans, Sophie Kleeman put herself in good position to hit a three herself.

The Trojans would see the deficit increase by not being able to slow down the Golden Panthers on the fast break or from three-point range. The Golden Panthers increased their intensity on defense to push their lead to double digits, and ultimately over 20, giving FIU a 60-37 lead with 10:31 left in the game after a 17-3 run. The FIU charge was led by Hulatassa, Coley, and Gonzalez, who combined for 13 of FIU’s 17 points during the run.

The Golden Panther offense would cool off for next few minutes, but the defense continued with the same intensity, only allowing one basket by the Trojans. Troy began to unravel offensively with miscommunication and bad shot selection, giving FIU a comfortable final few minutes to enjoy a 71-47 victory.

After the victory, the Golden Panthers will now put their focus on the conference tournament, having a first round bye and waiting on the winner of the Troy vs Louisiana-Monroe/Arkansas State. FIU’s first game of the SBC tournament will start at 2:30 p.m. EST, in Hot Springs Arkansas.

“We came second in the east. Now we get two days off,” said Russo, while laughing. It’s a good way to wrap up the season after started off a bit rough. They have a lot of heart.”

Roberts leads FIU with 26 points in final home game

The Beacon – Monday, February 28, 2011
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INTERNATIONAL OPTICIANS.BIZ
Target and The Frost Art Museum have teamed up to present Target After Hours, a collaboration that gives students a chance to meet contemporary artists and engage with controversial art, music, film and dance.

This month, Miami-Dade County Public School’s Clinical Art Therapy Department and The Frost Art Museum presented “ARTWORKS!”, the purpose of which is to support art as a healing process. Aside from “ARTWORKS!”, there will be an art therapist present conducting workshops called Storytelling through Art Therapy, which allows participants to experience the benefits of art therapy. This event is taking place from Feb. 23 through Mar. 2.

Florida International University’s Pino Global Entrepreneurship Center presents

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FIU Track open to all current FIU Students & Alumni
Entry Deadline: March 25, 2011

For more information:
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Easy and practical fashion for guys is not an impossibility

I grew up around a lot of boys, a lot. I was the last kid to come along in my generation and I was the first and only girl. To say that my amps and mom were excited to have a little girl to play dress-up with is understatement.

Somewhere between the princess costumes and tea parties, though, my mom forgot to show my brother Danny how to dress like a human being.

I always got annoyed with boy fashion because I think it’s so easy for them. You have three basic elements to worry about: a shirt, pants and shoes. No one cares or even notices if guys have a visible panty line or if their necktie is askew.

This weekend, my mom and I crept into the abyss that is my brother’s room and decided to give him a wardrobe revamp.

We started with his dresser. My God, boys have so many ties. Whether it’s a novelty tie with their favorite childhood cartoon or comic or tee shirts from every single sports team they were ever a part of or fan of, boys seem to keep them all. Danny still has his elementary school physical education tee. By the way, Danny is 27.

How that shirt lasted 20 odd years in his care is beyond me. I love my brother, but he’s a slob and incidents like the survival of this shirt are a mystery.

When going through my brother’s drawers, there was no sympathy for memorabilia. If the shirt had a stain or a hole, it had to go. I didn’t care if he thought it was the coolest Chewbaccas shirt he’d ever seen in stores.

He was allowed to keep his “Doug” t-shirt collection. Shirts like his “Let it Beet” one shows quickness and personality. Plus, who doesn’t like “Doug”?

We kept all salvagable solid color v-neck and crew neck tees. These tees work for day and night with a pair of jeans and what my brother calls his “nice sneakers” which is basically any kind of sneaker that’s not made for the gym.

I agree with the “nice sneakers” idea. Converse are a favorite of mine and I’ll always have a soft spot for the look of Converse, dark wash jeans and a nice button-down shirt. It’s a really high school look but so cute.

Oh, and if I ever see a guy wearing a pair of Supergas (the Italian version of Converse) in stores.

I’ve spent the past 10 years trying to convince my brother to buy a pair of dress shoes.

They are an investment piece for guys because they can run you around $250 for a cheap version, but they are a nice in between shoe for day or night.

We whirled down his vast collection of cargo shorts to two pairs of khaki shorts, an olive colored pair and a gray pair. Neutral tones are goof proof for guys because matching isn’t an issue.

I don’t believe in the rule that navy, black and brown can’t be mixed together. Boys, just make your lives even easier than they are and mix it up.

Jeans are an essential for both guys and girls. The dark wash rule applies to guys the same way it does for girls: dark washes are slimming and give a more polished look.

The Gap offers a variety of styles from their “1969” collection.

The chain retail store has mastered the art of cutting jeans for men. They are flattering to all sizes and shapes.

**OUTFIT IDEAS**

1. A good outfit option for guys using the driving mocs is to pair a long-sleeved button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up, a sleek pair of chino shorts and the shoes.

2. For a night out at a bar, pair a solid v-neck tee with jeans and “nice sneakers.” Add a cardigan for chilly weather. The slightly nerdy look works on every kind of guy. Don’t let your shirt compete with the cardigan’s fabric or color. For a nice event, try a blazer in navy or black.

3. Cargo shorts with a polo shirt is a classic look that works for so many occasions.

**Fashion Finds is a weekly column on fashion. Look for it every Monday.**

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**Passion Parties are an educational and fun girl’s night**

Last Wednesday night I came home to around 15 young women seeing, talking about and touching sex toys in my living room. There were powders, creams, oils and gadgets that can’t even be shown on network television.

My roommate and I decided to throw a Passion Party as a fun girl’s night in for our group of friends. A Passion Party is an adult sex toy party in the comfort of a friend’s home.

A Passion Party is designed to “inform and educate women through tasteful in-home presentations.” You can spice up your sex life by trying and buying these sensual products.

Besides the tons of fun and excitement the party will cause among your friends, you’ll also receive a complimentary sex education lesson. If you answer enough questions right, you can even earn free passion products.

To host a party, all you have to do is make a quick online search for representatives in your area from the network of 3,000 all-female sales reps.

Last year, Passion Party sales exceeded $20 million. They have customers of all ages upwards of 18, but their typical customer is in her early 30s.

Some women even confide in their representatives about the problems they’ve been having with their significant others.

Some of my friends began to share their stories with the group in order to get the party’s and the representative’s opinion of what products would be best for them and their partners.

This part-time job brings in between $500 and $1,000 a month, but many representatives find it important that they’re getting women to talk about what used to be said in whispers.

Weeds-like penis, clitoris and orgasm made some girls a little uncomfortable at first, but by the time we were done they were using those terms casually.

Even if your girlfriends don’t buy enough to get you free goodies, it’s a great way for you and your gals to have a girls night in and share a few giggles.

We added some wine to the equation and had a great night in.

If you’ve never attended a Passion Party, I highly recommend you do so soon.

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**FASHION FINDS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011**

**A BEACON OF HUMAN RIGHTS MOVIE: “THE BURLINGTON”**

WHERE: MMC GC Tables

WHEN: 6 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC GC 267

**BEGINNING’S SUNSET YOGA**

WHERE: MMC GC 243

WHEN: 7-10 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Free

WHERE: MMC GC 243

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**ON THE PROWL**

**Passion Parties are an educational and fun girl’s night**

**WHEN:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

**WHERE:** MMC

**WHEN:** 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Free

**WHEN:** 8-11 p.m.

**WHERE:** BBC

**WHEN:** 6 p.m.

**WHERE:** Free

**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Free

**WHEN:** 6-9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Free

**WHEN:** 8-11 p.m.

**WHERE:** BBC

**WHEN:** 6-9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Free
Post-abortion syndrome a myth

CHRISTOPHER DIAZ
COLUMNIST

As it stands now, there are 52 students that have been ignored. The research spread like wildfire and culminated into the perpetuation of this myth.

Finally, on Dec. 13, 2010 Dr. Julia Steinberg, of the University of California, San Francisco, and Dr. Lawrence Futer of the Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit research organization that specializes in reproductive and sexual health, analyzed the same data that Coleman reviewed. Their results were much different.

According to The Washington Post, the new study “failed to find the same link, even without taking into account other key factors such as a history of mental health problems.” Furthermore, Steinberg stated “We are unable to reproduce the most basic tabulations of Coleman and colleagues. Moreover, their findings were logically inconsistent with other published research — for example, they found higher rates of depression in the last month than other studies found during respondents’ entire lifetimes. This suggests that the results were substantially inflated.”

In 2011, it is troubling that there still needs to be a conversation about why abortion needs to be safe, legal and de-stigmatized. There are a myriad of situations in which a woman chooses to have an abortion. If anti-choice activists are so concerned about women’s mental health post-abortion, perhaps it would behove them to take a look at the stigmatization and fear mongering women could experience when actively seeking an abortion.

Holding up vulgar signs of aborted fetuses does not soothe a woman’s psyche, nor does having an unplanned, unwanted child. If these activists truly cared about women’s mental health post-abortion, they would actively promote the de-stigmatization of abortion, not contribute to it by making inflammatory statements about a “syndrome” that the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association do not recognize as actual mental health issues.

With hope, the new analysis of data, analysis that is more sound and thorough than Coleman’s, will be a one-council executive branch, such as at MMC, or a barely-filled cabinet, such as at SBC, or a barely-filled cabinet, such as at MMC, or a barely-filled cabinet, such as at SBC, or a barely-filled cabinet, such as at MMC, or a barely-filled cabinet, such as at SBC, or a barely-filled cabinet, such as at MMC.

The creation of a one-council system that equally represents students and allows the Student Government Association to run efficiently would entail a completely new constitution and a carefully thought-out process.

However, with only eight students running for SGA positions at MMC, the College Student Government unceasingly would suggest a major revision of how a university’s SGA should look. In our model, if all 32 senators get $800 per year, the total salary would be $25,600, saving over $15,000. Shifting our focus to a more streamlined meeting experience, one that could possibly incorporate live online streaming, which would allow senators to attend meetings and promote true transparency, as this could also be displayed online.

Furthermore, we also think graduate students should have the option to run as senators in either the school or college they are a part of, or specifically as graduate student senator. They may be on the graduate level, but the decisions made by senators of their college or school affect them too. Ergo, they should have at least the opportunity to voice their concerns both as students of their school or as graduate students.

The Beacon would also suggest adding two online student senators. As of late, more and more students are taking all of their courses on the web. The online student senator would represent this growing demographic and give voice to a group of students that have been ignored.

JUDICIAL

Like the executive and legisla-
tive branches, the SGA currently has two judicial branches with one at each campus and five justices allotted to each court. Like our one-council model for the executive and legislative branches, the judicial branch would consist of one court that would hear cases at the campus in which they arise.

As Christopher Lawton, SGC- BBC’s chief justice, is the only justice for the council, horizontally is that council’s judicial branch. This situation would be less likely to occur with one court handling University-wide issues, as it would not be constrained to any one campus.

A two-council system has left SGA overstretched on one side, understaffed on the other and inefficient overall. A single-council system will help SGA present a more united front in representing students, help heal the rift between both campuses and finally drive home the point that, in reality, we belong to one University.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the Beacon editorial board. These opinions are excerpted from an additional feature of contributing writers and members of the University community.
MEXICO

3 relatives of slain activist found dead

Mexican police on Friday discovered the bodies of three people related to a human rights activist who was killed last year in the volatile northern border state of Chihuahua.

VENEZUELA

Anti-Chavez parties to hold primary

A coalition of Venezuela’s opposition parties announced Wednesday that its member have agreed to hold a primary to pick a presidential candidate to run against Hugo Chavez next year.

GUATEMALA

Witness: Cash hauled to past president

A witness in Guatemala’s embezzlement trial of former President Alfonso Portillo says millions of dollars were hauled from a state-owned bank to the leader when he was in power.

THE HONORS COLLEGE

Partnership tutors Overtown grade and high schoolers

NADRA MARBOUK

Staff Writer

Four years ago, a bond was built between the Honors College and the Overtown Youth Center. Professor Jayne A. Klein, program assistant of the Honors College and professor of religious studies began this partnership initiative.

The Overtown Youth Center, on NW 14th St., is a program of the Alonzo Mourning charities. The center was established in 2003. It was the vision of a local real estate agent, Martin Z. Margulies. By way of the Margulies Foundation and the support and assistance of Alonzo Mourning, former player of the Miami Heat, the center was built.

The intention of the center is to provide a stable, safe place for the children in Overtown. It offers in-school, after-school, summer and weekend programs for children that help build character, physical fitness, academic achievement, and arts, including “family oriented” activities. The program is for children from second grade to 12th grade. According to Klein, some students are monitored even after graduation.

It took Klein many attempts to be able to compose the partnership between the center and the Honors College.

“A lot of people want to get involved with [Mourning],” Klein said. “So, they’re very cautious about who they’re letting in. It took a lot of effort and I wrote a lot of letters.”

Carla Penn, executive director of the OYC at the time, agreed to the partnership with the University and was firmly established in April 2007.

Every Tuesday at 5 p.m. OYC students come to the Biscayne Bay Campus to receive tutoring from members of the Honors College, mainly from the Tau Sigma Alpha Honors College club.

Klein teaches and provides practice SAT and ACT exams for high school students holding real timed sessions to better prepare them. According to Klein, two vans belonging to OYC bring the students over on Tuesdays.

“It inspires me,” 12th grader Chelton Walton from Center of Life Academy said. “It makes me feel important and it really helps us with the SAT and prepare for college.”

On October 8, 2007, the first luncheon was created to celebrate the higher education potential of the hard working students and the bridge built between the Honors College and OYC.

A few students from the center this year, which took place on Feb. 18 in the Wolfe University Center ballrooms, claimed that they would love to go to FIU when their time comes.

“It helps me realize that college is a good place to be,” eighth grader Ka’Neesha Brown from Doral Middle School said. Klein is the 2011 recipient of the University’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Service award largely due to the founding of the partnership initiative and for other services related to OYC and FIU campus such as the two-hour tour of BBC to 30 middle school students from OYC and for creating an OYC Book Club. As of August 2010, the total hours of community assistance and participation in events Klein had on and off campus was 3,000 hours.

“I wasn’t aware this was something I was passionate about until I started doing it,” Klein said. “It’s something I think is important. Nothing feels better than [the] giving of yourself and making a difference in someone else’s life. Doing the program made that clear to me.”

University-wide campaign has origins in SJMC class

SIMC, page 1

“With all the budget cuts, health is one of the areas not covered enough by the press—especially HIV/AIDS. Our goal is to find a way to make it informative without turning people off.”

They also want to raise more awareness of the epidemic and create events where people can get tested.

“A health is a concern for everyone, especially HIV/AIDS. We are living in Miami, the city with the largest numbers of HIV/AIDS cases in the whole nation,” said Klein. “We are more vulnerable than others because we live here, and the most alarming part of this is that not everyone is aware of it.”

They are also working with the Miami-Dade Health Department to find out what they can do on March 10 for Women and Girls’ HIV Awareness Day.

“Now with this new health communications direction of the campaign and thanks to their established relationship with WPBT2, the moving parts of this union came together on air again Feb. 16 with “The Miami Epidemic,” an hour-long segment MacMillin produced.

“We decided to [keep] HIV out of the title to at least create some curiosity and call it what it is,” said Richards.

“WPBT2’s Pulse” host Jesy Schuster moderated the special and it included “Lessons from South Africa,” followed by a panel discussion including Richards and Darrow, along with Oscar Leyva, director of University Health Services, and Kira Villamil, Human Services Program Manager of the Miami-Dade Public Health Department.

“Let’s not repeat the mistakes of the past. Ignoring the AIDS epidemic in South Florida will not make it go away,” said Darrow.


“When I asked them to go report on it they asked why, and when they came back they were shocked because they weren’t aware,” said Richards. “I was shocked because four of the 17 students had lost family members.”

After the class, Richards traveled to South Africa with two of his students, Jillian Simms and Tiffany Parkes, to experience the epidemic first-hand during a 10-day trip when they interviewed various media outlets that were working towards increasing awareness and education in the country.

They came back with their footage and new knowledge and produced a half-hour documentary titled “Lessons from South Africa.”

“It’s very easy to look at them with that ‘poor Africa’ attitude, but you need to take a trip to South Africa and get educated,” he said.

He added their media do an amazing job at informing people. They have several different methods of education, including reality shows, comedies and cartoons. Even in very rural and remote communities with little media exposure and technologies, women are being lectured on safe sexual practices.

Richards sees the limited HIV/AIDS advertising in South Florida, such as the occasional billboard or bus stop, and feels it has to be more compelling.

“You drive down the highway at 70 miles per hour, and it’s no different than a beer commercial,” he said.

MacMillin saw the footage and wanted to expand on the topic here in South Florida. She and 12 of her students then developed a series of four webisodes during the fall 2008 semester that was then posted on The Miami Herald’s website in March 2009.

“The Sigma Stoops with Me,” a series of four webisodes, followed Damaris Cruz for over three months. Cruz, a then-38-year-old Hispanic woman in Miami who is living with HIV, was diagnosed nearly 20 years ago and now promotes HIV/AIDS education at the Miami-Dade Health Department.

At the end of Spring 2009, Richards and MacMillin hosted a lecture at the Wolfe University Center for students to watch the series. Representatives from the Miami-Dade Health Department along with Cruz were on-hand to answer students’ questions. Clips from this question-and-answer session are also available on the website.

MacMillin knew, Neal Hecker, vice president of Programming at WPBT2, from her years in public television. He was supportive and inter- ested in the topic to help educate the community and offered to air a one-hour special with all this content titled “Tell Somebody: The New Face of HIV/AIDS.” It aired on WPBT2 Oct. 15, 2009, which was National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

“We had been told by many students who have watched the series that it did propel them to get tested and tell their friends to get tested,” said MacMillin.