**MEET THE CANDIDATES**

**President hopefuls look to “get it done” for University**

**MELISSA CACERES**
Staff Writer

In the University’s first contested SGA race since 2008, presidential candidates Patrick O’Keefe and vice presidential candidate Sanjeev Udhamani intend on “Getting it done for FIU.”

A promise that includes collaboration, advocacy and consistency for the student body, the O’Keefe/Udhamani ticket claims to have a “clear vision on engaging University students.” “We’re fighting for inclusiveness, which is why we’re open to new and fresh ideas, rather than having SGA be this exclusive club, which is how it tends to be portrayed as most of the time,” said O’Keefe in an interview with Student Media. While running with a campaign that focuses on advocating students’ rights, the candidates support and guarantee better collaboration between colleges, continuing to fund successful student programs and making FIU more commuter-friendly while still supporting residential students.

Born in Elkridge, Maryland and relocated to Miami at age 15, O’Keefe is a Political Science major whose involvement on the campus includes a past presidency position with the Student Media. O’KEEFE, page 2

**Experience, student services highlight Gonzalez ticket**

**NICOLE CASTRO**
Asst. News Director

Running on a platform of experience and outreach to students, Alina and Kevin Gonzalez look forward to the challenges ahead of them if they are elected to be president and vice president of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

Alina has been a part of three different administrations of Student Government, ranging back to the days of President AJ Meyer, who she worked for as an intern. During her sophomore year, Alina served as director of international affairs for then SGC-MMC President Anthony Riorda. She then continued her service in SGA, becoming the chief of staff for current SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez. Alina held the position until the beginning of the Spring 2011 semester, where she relinquished the position in order to fill a void left in the vice presidency after the resignation of Nick Autiello last fall.

According to Alina, the rapid transition into vice presidency and the diverse positions she has held along the way have helped her become a better leader.

GONZALEZ, page 2

$122,000 raised for first generation scholarships fund

**ALEXANDRA CAMEJO**
Asst. News Director

University leadership, faculty, staff, students and community members gathered to aid the nearly 40 percent students that will be the first generation in their families to graduate from college.

On March 31, Student Government Association along with University Advancement sponsored the 2nd Annual First Generation Scholarship Fundraising Benefit at the Ronald W. Reagan Presidential House.

“We worked in collaboration with University Advancement to fundraise money for the scholarship. It’s been a true collaboration with them,” said Alina Gonzalez, SGA vice president for Modesto Maidique Campus.

Conceptualized last year by Myka Figueredo, during her time at SGC-MMC, the benefit welcomed attendees donations to go towards the First Generation Scholarship Fund. As one of the first scholarships of its kind, private donations towards the fund will be matched 100 percent by the state legislature. Approved by the Florida legislature in 2006, with the help of Representative and FIU Alumna Anitere Flores, the Fund has awarded nearly $3 million to first generation students since its inception.

Biscayne Bay Campus SGA President Christian “Cici” Battle and Vice President Denise Haplin worked with SGC-MMC President Helena Ramirez and Vice President Gonzalez to raise money for this year’s Fund.

As of press time, $66,000 have been raised for a total impact of $122,000 with State match by Florid

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University


YEMEN
The largest protest yet against leader
Hundreds of thousands marched in villages and cities across Yemen on Friday in what appeared to be the largest demonstration in more than a month of.

**ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON**

**EGYPT**
Call for trials of Egypt’s regime figures
Thousands of people have filled Tahrir Square to call for Egypt’s military government to harshly punish members of ex-President Hosni Mubarak’s former administration.

**IRAQ**
Bomber kills 3 outside Iraqi mosque
A suicide bomber disguised as a street cleaner walked up to soldiers outside a mosque and blew himself up Friday, killing two of the troops and a worshipper in a western Iraqi city.
candidates push for student advocacy, realistic goals

Gonzalez ticket looks to unify SGA

Multiple terms, council experience eligibility discussed

REQUIREMENTS, page 8

their Constitutions, including: Florida State University, Florida Atlantic University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, and University of Florida.

While some of the listed universities require that candidates obtain anywhere from 75-500 student signatures and have basic prerequisites to be eligible, none of the institutions outright deny student government first-timers from running for elections.

Similarly, our closest neighboring school, University of Miami, has no such requirement.

Ryan Aquilina, UM student government press secretary, said while their elected presidential candidates often does have SG experience, it’s not always the case.

“This year, we had three presidential candidates, one of which had zero prior experience,” Aquilina said in an email to Student Media. “Our presidential tickets also include vice president, Treasurer, and it is not abnormal for one or two of the students on our ticket to be an ‘SG-outsider.’ Simply not having a term requirement for the president doesn’t always guarantee more students will apply for the position, though. Aquilina said UM, too, had an uncontested election in previous years.

Still, the SG at UM feels the opportunity should be open to everyone. “While student government seems to have an unwritten idea that while you need some experience, it is also beneficial to have some classroom experience because students without SG experience - to the table,” Aquilina said.

Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC adviser, said he had no prior political opinion to comment on the matter.

“The constitution says that’s the requirement, so the students have to follow it,” Zapata said. “If the students want to do it, then let them.”

Veronica Fernandez, a senior journalism major, thinks all students should be able to run.

“For the reason that is because not only would you have more competition, it also is more realistic because students graduate every semester once they’re done with classes, so it’s kind of hard to come to a person to run for president,” Fernandez said. As someone who works 30 hours a week, Fernandez said most students can’t see taking on another responsibility.

“The culture we have of students having no prior school, Fernandez said. “As long as someone is qualified, I don’t see why they shouldn’t run. I don’t see why someone’s eligibility would make a difference.”

Fernandez said while being on the council gives experience with school things, someone’s eligibility shouldn’t be based upon that.

“At the same time we’re all students, so we learn from our own experiences.”

In Vol. 22, Issue 31, the photograph on page 4 titled “Sliding In” is missing the photo credit. The photograph was taken by photographer’s name is Kristi Camara. The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Gonzalez ticket looks to unify SGA

Among the most challenging aspects during her vice presidency were budgeting. “Before the addition of a fall semester where SGC-MMC underwent several scandals that led to some internal problems, it affected the performance of SGA as a whole. “I think there was a lot of internal bickering this year and not a lot was done for students. If SGA would come together and look at the bigger picture it could be such a powerful entity,” Alina stated bluntly.

According to her, it is her honest openness which makes her stand out from other candidates.

“I am very up front,” said Alina, an international relations major who plans on going into nursing once she graduates. “I try to do everything with honesty and integrity, when making decisions. I keep it 100 percent, which ones are best for students.”

After about her time in SGA, Alina saw potential and experience in her. “I think this experience has helped her relate to students at the University who face similar economic issues. “I really want to give back to a school that has done so much for me for making sure that I’m representing the students,” she said.

This year’s SGC-MMC presidential race is the first contested election since 2008, but both Alina and Kevin have embraced this competitive atmosphere.

They believe that the more candidates running, the higher the chances to ensure the most qualified.

“Competition is always good,” said Alina, “It drives people to do their best and makes sure that they would be the best choice.”

Kevin emphasized that while a strong one of the candidates running, the better the chances to have a choice in who they want as the leader of the University.

While many candidates acknowledge that it will be a tough, fought-out election, they still remain committed to doing their best.

“I think we will do well and I’m ready to fully dedicate myself to doing the best I can to continue serving the student body in the following year,” said Alina.
BASEBALL

Bermudez propels offense in road win over ULM

ANDRES LEON
Staff Writer

After picking up momentum in New Orleans this past Wednesday with a win over Tulane, the Golden Panthers would travel upstate and continue conference play in a three-game weekend series against conference opponent Louisiana-Monroe.

Friday night would bring more momentum for the Golden Panthers on the back of Phil Haig, who would start and earning the win for FIU (17-11, 3-4 SBC) with seven innings pitched, allowing three runs on only seven hits in a 6-3 victory on April 1.

Haig would get three strike outs for the Golden Panthers.

For the Warhawks, Drew Granier would get receive the loss after allowing all four FIU runs off ten hits, but he would strike out nine. The Warhawks would fall to (14-10, 3-4 SBC) after losing to FIU.

The Golden Panthers infield would play a huge part in keeping the War Hawks off the scoreboard in the first inning. After FIU would get two hits in the top of the first, The Golden Panthers would come up short only to provide great infield work to take ULM three and out.

FIU would find themselves struggling in the second inning, but managed to keep ULM scoreless and would score the first run of the game in the top of the third.

Bermudez would single to the left side and to be brought home by Wittels single, giving FIU the lead. The Warhawks would tie the game after Les Aulds would bring Jeremy Sy for the tying run in the bottom half of the inning.

Later on in the fourth, Tyler James Shantz would score off an error by the Warhawk short stop. Shantz had reached first base off an infield single and would take second off a wild pitch.

In the fifth inning, ULM would come back again, this time taking the lead after scoring two runs off three hits. Aulds would bring in catcher Jarrett Hammond and designated hitter Jordy Poche would bring in Jeremy Sy to make the score 3-2 in favor of ULM.

That would be the last of the ULM offense as FIU would score two runs in the sixth inning to regain the lead for good.

Jose Behar hit a deep ball down the left field line that went over the wall to tie the game at 3-3. After a Bermudez single, Jeremy Patton would single to center field to bring Bermudez home to break the tie and give FIU the 4-3 lead.

Bermudez would continue to have a solid night singling to left field, earning his fourth hit of the night to bring Jabari Henry in for the lone run the eighth inning.

Bermudez finished the game going 4-for-4 while scoring twice and picking up an RBI.

FIU would close the game with a ground ball from Henry that would bring Shantz home for his second run of the game, giving FIU the 6-3 victory.

The Golden Panthers closer Bryam Garcia would close the game in the ninth with two strikeouts.

Bermudez propels offense in road win over ULM

Pablo Bermudez [left] scored twice and had an RBI in FIU’s win over ULM on April 1.

BASEBALL

FIU vs. Bethune-Cookman

- Time: 6:00 p.m.
- When: 04/05/11
- Where: FIU Baseball Stadium

10AM - 3PM: 4/11 (MMC) & 4/12-13 (BBC)
COMING TO FIU
DOCKERS® COLLEGE TOUR!

STYLE TIPS FROM DOCKERS® & RESUME HELP FROM CAREERROOKIE

Yup, it’s dog eat dog out there, so here’s how to be the man. Come on campus next week to the Dockers® College Tour.

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Fans were able to get a firsthand look at some of what they can expect to see in the 2011 football season as the Blue vs. Gold game took place on Saturday, April 2 at FIU stadium. Around 75 plays were run in the scrimmage, which ended with the offense winning the matchup 19-10.

From the start, it was the defense that really looked strong and on the first drive of the game forced a costly mistake as Wesley Carroll threw an interception to Sam Miller on the first drive for the only turnover in the game.

Medlock got the second string quarterback position and took a knock on the second drive that ended with him overthrowing Glen Coleman in the end zone, ending the drive at the defense's 32-yard line.

DaVion would then get his chance to try to get something for the offense going, but could get nothing started either. The offense would not score until Medlock hooked up with none other than T.Y. Hilton at the one-yard line to help set up a Jeremiah Harden one-yard touchdown run that put them up 12-7 on the defense.

Carroll, Jake Medlock and Blaine Dalton all took turns taking snaps at quarterback, with Carroll the only one wearing a red no-contact jersey.

The players that made the most impact on the defensive end were both linebacker Gregory Hickman and defensive lineman Isame Faciane. Hickman recorded three sacks on the day and Faciane got one of his own.

Faciane moved from outside to inside lineman, and the spring game showed that so far it has been a smooth transition for him. “I think Isame is going to be a heck of a player for us, and I think Hickman is going to be a heck of a player,” commented Cristobal on their performance today.

Dalton would end up being the biggest performer from the quarterback side as he led two drives that put points on the board. One that gave Jake Griffin a field goal and another that was a touchdown pass to Glenn Coleman that ended the practice.

Replacing graduates Cedrick Mack and Brad Serini from the offensive line is going to be tough this year, and at the start of the spring game it looked a little shaky as the defensive got to the quarterbacks quite often making them have to scramble and run down the field.

“They played okay. We had a couple bad snaps with one that was in the red zone that was unacceptable, but they’re going to keep on getting better and better,” Cristobal said.

During the second half they started to pick it up, which helped the running game get into the groove of things. Both Brandon Bennett and Torrence Seymour had 45 yards each, and Jeremiah Harden ended the day with a one-yard touchdown run and 41 yards.

“I think after the butterflies got out, we started coming off the ball and the running backs started hitting the holes harder and everyone just stayed together,” said center Ceedrick Davis.

At the conclusion of the game, all of the players and coaches received their championship bowl rings, and Mari Cristobal gave a speech to the fans thanking them for their support and encouragement to continue to make this happen year after year,” Cristobal said.

There are only 163 days left until FIU takes on North Texas at the start of the 2011 season on Sept. 1.

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With a long summer looming, team shows great promise
Monday - Great American Cleanup of FIU @ EC/Woman's Park
9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Tuesday - University Sustainability Launch & EcoFair @ Panther Garage Lawn
(next to the Arena) 9 am to 11 am

Wednesday - Farmer’s Market @ Green Library Breezeway
12 pm to 3 pm

Thursday - Nature Preserve Service Day @ Nature Preserve
2 pm to 5 pm

in a Green Economy” Lecture @RDB1100
6 pm to 7 pm

Friday - Sunset Yoga and Bike-in Movie @ Nature Preserve
Yoga 7:30 pm, Movie 9 pm

Saturday - Shake A Leg Eco5K @ Soccer Stadium
9 am to 11 am

For more information, visit
GoGreen.FIU.edu
By Andrea Nunez

The IRC is the Irvington Student Council's (IRC) human rights major and President 22, a senior international relations major and President of the IRC. “Being part of the IRC, we are aware of global poverty issues and, because we assist refugees throughout the world, we come into contact with thousands of children that go barefoot because of their poor conditions.”

The IRC began promotion within the committee itself at the beginning of the semester and then together began to promote the day to students outside of the club. “Student collaboration is key to make an event like this successful,” said Nunez. “It’s all about spreading the word and letting others know the importance of speaking up and creating more awareness for those who are limited and can’t help themselves.”

The IRC employed various mediums such as tabling in GC and using Facebook to get the word out successfully. “We had a big banner that we painted advertising the name and date of the event. On Facebook we created an event invitation and asked students to tell everyone about the event. The TOMS website was also a big help,” said Nunez.

The IRC is hoping the event opens students eyes to the fact that most of the diseases suffered in developing countries due to being shoeless are 100 percent preventable if children have access to basic shoe wear and have an opportunity to practice foot hygiene.

“I think an event such as this one fits great with the University’s initiative of Global Learning for Global Citizenship,” said Nunez. “It will remind the students that there are people around the world who do not live with the same standards we possess living in a developed country.”

The event will also serve to explain the consequences of going without shoes such as exposure to diseases. Healthy living conditions for children in developing countries are important to their community as access to education is an important factor of long-term success.

“Often children cannot attend school limiting their access to education which would affect their future and the future of their commu- nity. Going barefoot daily can negative outcomes on children in ways that can affect them for a long time,” explained Nunez. While tabling at GC, the IRC’s banners attracted the attention of many students who came up to them and asked about the event. “Student response to the event has been very positive and many I have committed ourselves to going barefoot at least once throughout the day,” says Nunez. “The tabling drew great attention.”

A Day Without Shoes has also drawn the attention of another student organization which has contacted the IRC and has promised to let their members know about the event as well. “We might see some profes- sors joining in to make a statement which would be so great!” said Nunez. The event will take place on Apr. 5 and will be an all- day event. The IRC has also reserved the GC lawn from 1:15-2:30 p.m. for some barefoot activities like a barefoot Frisbee and a bare-foot march at 12:30 p.m. along with many others. The climax of the event will take place at the housing event where IRC will air the TOMS documentary on the One for One campaign.

“We plan to start the march in the GC lawn, go through the library’s breezeway over the bridge all the way to the Law building and back,” said Nunez. “As we gather and march our way through campus barefoot I hope it inspires others to take their shoes off and join in.”

To Nunez, it doesn’t matter if participants go barefoot an hour or the whole day, the point is to experience what others go through on a daily basis. “I’m sure there will be students that will go barefoot all day, to class and back,” she said. “Some have told me they are even going to work barefoot, too.”

As a Day Without Shoes wears on, the IRC anticipates other people who are unaware of the event coming up and asking why people are taking off their shoes. “That will be our chance to talk and educate others about what’s going on. By taking off our shoes we are bringing attention to the millions of improv- ish children who have no choice other than to go shoeless,” Nunez said.

‘Day Without Shoes Campaign’ walks on to campus

FIN

TO THE PROWL

Etiquette for handling your friend's significant other

When you make friends with your friend’s significant other things can immediately get tricky. A y social butterfly, I’ve run into some bumps in the road over the years which on occasion have led to less than enjoyable situations. As it turns out, loyalty is an important aspect of a true friendship.

Our friends are the ones who are supposed to help us through tough times with our loves and give us advice. Meeting a friend’s boyfriend or girlfriend can be uncomfort- able because you want everyone to be able to get along and be their best behavior. But getting too close for comfort is a big no-no.

Upon meeting a friend’s significant other there's absolutely no need to exchange contact informa-

Alfredo Aparricio

Staff Writer

Every day millions of children in developing countries walk around barefoot, exposing themselves to serious injury, disease and infections, such as Podo-

coniosis, a condition characterized by the hardening and swelling of the lower body due to contaminated soil.

In hopes of creating awareness on campus, the FIU International Rescue Committee (IRC) has adopted the global event A Day Without Shoes created by TOMS shoes. TOMS is a shoe company that also created the One for One Campaign, donating a pair of shoes to a child in need for every shoe bought at one of their stores.

“I’m hoping to see a bunch of people barefoot throughout campus and a big turnout for the walk we are doing,” said Andrea Nunez, 22, a senior international relations major and President of the IRC. “Being part of the IRC, we are aware of global poverty issues and, because we assist refugees throughout the world, we come into contact with thousands of children that go barefoot because of their poor conditions.”

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Upon meeting a friend’s significant other there's absolutely no need to exchange contact informa-
Alina Gonzalez and Kevin Gonzalez failed to meet our expectations and therefore, will not receive our support. As per the answers in our questionnaire, some of which were omitted, we feel that Alina and Kevin failed to adequately answer the questions they had to consider. We feel that their plan to increase an already bloated Senate to 50 representatives, failure to fully address the issue of student participation and their inclusion of an unnecessary and possibly fiscally irresponsible Rent-A-Bike program will ultimately do nothing to improve student life. Unfortunately, having a cheering section did not mask their poor debate skills. Much like their questionnaire submission, their responses lacked substance and clarity. Furthermore, their unprofessional and condescending debate demeanor, both in spoken word and in body language, did nothing to save their poor debate prep. We are especially disappointed that, as the current Vice President of SGC-MMC, Alina Gonzalez failed to uphold the high standards of conduct expected of a representative of our student body. If this is the attitude these candidates will carry with them while representing us, we would much rather that they did not.

Based on the answers given in their Beacon Election Questionnaire submission and debate performance, The Beacon proudly endorses Patrick O’Keefe for 2011-2012 SGC-MMC President and his running mate Sanjeev Udhnani.

As outlined in their answers in the questionnaire, which was sent to all SGA candidates on both campuses, we believe that O’Keefe and Udhnani have a clear, feasible vision for improving the student body experience. We find their stance on improving infrastructure and career services utilization is proof that they are well-tuned to the needs of students at the University. Furthermore, their emphasis on outreach at the collegiate and the high school level shows that they are looking to the future of the University in terms of expanding its influence and supporting student government transparency.

As for their debate performance, we feel that both O’Keefe and Udhnani displayed professional, gentlemanly conduct in addition to handling questioning well. We are especially pleased to see that their conduct remained appropriate despite pressure from their opponents.

This year, the student government elections at the Biscayne Bay Campus are completely uncontested, and because of this, The Beacon will not recommend any of its candidates. All of SGC-BBC’s candidates, in both the executive and legislative races, only need their own vote to win, therefore we cannot logically recommend one candidate over another. This is not an attack against the candidates, their experience, or their ability to govern. Per our several editorials on the subject, we hope that this is not a trend that continues in future elections because it limits the choices available for students and prevents candidates from constructively hearing about issues that will have a direct impact on students.

It is important for candidates running for these positions in student governments to have opposition in order to guarantee accountability and credibility.

Visit fiusm.com for an updated elections guide
GUATEMALA

Release of accused drug lord demanded
Police say 400 people marched in support of Guatemala’s reputed top drug trafficker captured by the government and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

PERU

Resurgent leftist in Peru election
A leftist former army officer who recently won Peru’s presidency five years ago with fiery anti-capitalist rhetoric and open defiance for Hugo Chavez has once again to share the local in opinion polls.

MEXICO

AG quits, pres nominates 1st woman to post
President Felipe Calderon accepted the resignation Thursday of his attorney general and nominated his top organized crime prosecutor as a successor, the first woman to hold the post if she is approved.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

More students could run, if not for clause
BECCA GRIESEMER Staff Writer

A clause in the student government association constitution is prohibiting only a handful of students on a university of thousands eligible to run for SGA president.

In the elections which began this week, Denise Halpin is the lone presidential candidate at the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Article VII, Section 4B, the president must have held an SGA position for at least two semesters, or 154 consecutive days, prior to the first day of campaigning in general elections.

Halpin agrees with having criteria for presidential candidates.

"Being on the council gives you the opportunity to see what you can do to change certain things," Halpin said. "If you never stepped foot on BBC or [the Modesto Maidique Campus] and you ran for president, you wouldn't really know what the students there want or what actual things are essential in getting down to improving the university."

The current SGC-BBC vice president said that because the requirement is in the constitution, it's already there by law.

"But in my opinion, it also just depends on the leader you have," Halpin said. "You can have someone who has been at BBC or MMC for three years that doesn't have the heart, drive, and determination to be a good successful leader, whereas somebody that may have only had one or two semesters could do an outstanding job."

In Halpin's first semester, she recalled noticing problems like an inefficient schedule for the Golden Panther Express and a lack of food options.

"But I wouldn't say that gave me enough of a perspective to say, 'Okay, let me be president.' No," Halpin said. "There needs to be extra qualifications met because you're representing every student from that campus and it's essential for you to know what they need.

Christine "Cici" Gate, SGC-BBC vice president, could not be reached for comment.

Emilio Collyer, SGC-BBC lectures coordinator and Halpin's predecessor, said the clause is there to prevent a "totally inexperienced" or "incompetent" president taking office.

"I wouldn't be comfortable with a president that goes into office not knowing anything about how the student government structure is, how things are run, and what each position does," Collyer said. "That's not to say it completely protects us from it, it's just a precaution we have in place to make sure someone has that knowledge of what they're doing in power."

Many universities across the state, leave out a two-term requirement from

KATIE LAWRENCE Staff Writer

Donna Milo has never quite fit in: as a child, she was a Conservative, and a man.

Milo, a transsexual running for City of Miami Commissioner, was on campus on March 31 to discuss her platform with man to woman and aspirations for office.

Milo, 49, who last year ran for Congressional primaries in Miami-Dade and lost, detailed her struggles and aspirations for office.

"I don't know what it's like to be a genetic female, nor a woman trapped in a man's body. I just had an abiding need to feel complete and whole," Milo said, who shortly after decided to confer in her sister, tearing up briefly as she remembered her sister's immediate acceptance.

"Transsexuals like Milo are different from the transgenders in that the former not only identify with the opposite gender, but also wish to surgically become that gender. In a sign of growing acceptance of transsexualism, President Barack Obama appointed Amanda Simpson, a transsexual woman, to the Commerce Department.

But stigma still exists, as well as personal conflict. Milo, who grew up Catholic, was surprised at the religious organizations and the public they began to realize she valued the same issues they did – financial, health, and economic woes. Out of three candidates, Milo received almost 24 percent of the votes.

Her current run for City of Miami Commissioner for District 2 focuses on budget issues and job creation.

Milo hopes her platform can help people look past her transsexualty. In the “Meet Donna” section of her website she does not even mention it, but she is also not shy about questions regarding it.

"I think it's important people [struggling with gender dysphoria] know there are a lot more people that are caring and compassionate than are negative. I want them to know not to give up."

Camille Perkins, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Initiative graduate assistant for the Multicultural Programs and Services department at BBC overviewed the talk, as well as other on-campus events for the LGBT community.

"There is definitely more we could do," Perkins said. "We're getting better. We're lobbying now to get a full-time LGBT assistant director."

Perkins did not have figures but estimated the LGBT community at the University to be about 10 to 15 percent.

The Milo event also helped kick off BBC’s first official Pride Week, which begins on April 11, and hosts a series of events on both BBC and the Modesto Maidique Campus, including expos, special guests, and culminates in a drag ball on Friday night.

Ethan Larrea, a transitioning transsexual who attended Milo’s luncheon, was optimistic about the University and her community.

"I'm out to everybody. They're cool with it. I've never seen trouble," Larrea said.

Milo, who will continue campaigning in between contracting jobs, conforms to the idea that everyone is different, so normalcy can never be clarified.

"I don't define myself as transsexual," Milo said. "I'm just a butch bitch that builds houses and runs for office.”