Biscayne Bay Campus candidates take part in forum

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
BCC Managing Editor

Though their futures within the Student Government Association are already known, candidates for the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus took part in a forum so students can question their future representatives.

The candidate forum took place in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center at BCC on April 4. During the forum, some current and former members of student organizations, asked questions on issues such as funding, unfulfilled promises, a possible single-council student government, retention, and outreach.

Elections will take place April 5-6. Polls will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters will be able to vote on either my.tecn, the first floor of the first block of Academic One.

The panel of candidates, who are all uncommitted, included presidential and vice presidential candidates Denise Halpin and Emilio Collyer, respectively; Arts & Sciences senatorial candidates Farah Yamini and Daniel Usma; and current-at-large senator and Honors College candidate Pablos Huelas. Absent were Xin Zheng and Yiran Song, candidates for the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management’s seats.

Michael Aquino, freshman business administration major and secretary for BCC’s Student Organizations Council, asked the panel about club funding.

Halpin said clubs would receive the same amount they received last year. She said clubs no longer need to receive an increase in their funding but also receive a cut from last year.

Halpin, as SGC-BBC’s vice president, is a member of the University-Wide Council, which hears, deliberates, and votes on funding proposals from student organizations and centers at the University, with final approval from Rosa Jones, Vice President of Student Affairs.

The focus for funding for next year is infrastructure, Halpin said, and used the WUC as an example.

“Look around you, this place is really gray,” Halpin said. “This isn’t a place that screams out for students. So we're trying to get new paint in here, we're trying to get new furniture, you’re trying to do that stuff for your guys so clubs like SOC can feel proud to be in this place.”

She added clubs could also make funding requests to the SGC-BBC senate.

Yamini, a junior philosophy major, said feedback from students is critical in regards to funding.

“If what we’re using that money for isn’t making you happy, it’s not our fault because we’re not getting feedback,” Yamini said.

Deyan Ivanov, an international relations graduate student and former senator-at-large, knows the promises the current council made. He also knows which promises were fulfilled and which ones weren’t.

“I instruct my students to turn their phones off or put them on vibrate,” said Maricel Cigales, associate chair of the department of psychology.

Most agree that texting during class, but still do it even when it is not allowed. The survey was conducted by student researchers in the University of New Hampshire’s Whittemore School of Business and Economics.

The survey asked over 1000 students about their texting habits, and it yielded the following results: 53 percent of students reported that they were distracted by texting during class; another 49 percent said they were not permitted to text during class; and 65 percent of students send at least one text during a class.

Most agree that texting during a class is at undoubtedly somewhat of a distraction to the student.

Cognitive Psychologist Dr. Ronald P. Fisher of the University’s department of psychology said, “One can text and listen to a lecture, but not do either one with the same skills as doing one task at the same time. Yes, people can multi-task, but if the tasks are at all complex [like listening and processing a college lecture], then multi-tasking performance is worse than doing one task at a time.”

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Study: 49 percent of students feel guilt for texting in class

ESRA ERDOGAN
Photo Editor

Walk into any number of classrooms at FIU and the odds of finding students texting away on their phones are good.

“If you try not to text in class, but if I feel my phone vibrate I usually respond. Sometimes it’s too hard to fight that temptation,” said Rachel Miller, junior and biology major.

A new study, released in February of this year, conducted by the University of New Hampshire concluded that 45 percent of students feel guilty when they text in class, but still do it even when it is not allowed.

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Film studies professor’s life changed by Vietnam War

JASON BROWN
Contributing Writer

Dan Bentley-Baker, 65, is a Florida International University literature and film studies professor who is one of many Americans whose life was changed by the Vietnam War.

Originally from New Orleans, Bentley-Baker has lived in Miami since 1954. He has taught for 20 years in public schools K-12 and 13 years at the university level.

Bentley-Baker always had a fascination with the arts, leading many in his family to believe he would be an artist when he grew up. His creative and analytical mentality led him to painting and writing as a child.

But when he went to the University of Miami, he pursued a degree in experimental psychology, hoping some day to be a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist.

But life had other plans for him.

“I didn’t want to go to Vietnam,” he said, when asked why he switched from a master’s in psychology to writing.

On Jan. 31, 1968, North Vietnam initiated what became known as the Tet Offensive, a surprise attack on civilian and US military locations all over South Vietnam with the aim of ending the war.

Until then, the US perception of the Vietnam War, which the United States had been openly fighting since 1964, was that we were winning. But this attack sent a chilling blow to the military effort and public perception of the war. The U.S. military called up the reserves and
The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Out of 1000 surveyed, 65 percent of students send at least one text per class of psychology.

“If the phone rings or a student is caught using it, I usually say something to them about it, which discourages them and others from doing it again. As an instructor, I find the practice extremely disrespectful to me and the rest of the class, as well as distracting.”

Enforcing a policy that bans texting in a class of 200 or more students is improbable. During exams, students notice that professors and teaching assistants pay more attention to reducing electronic activity because of cheating. Yet, during regular lectures, anti-texting rules are usually not as strictly enforced.

“Students may feel somewhat anonymous in a large class,” said Fisher on why students are tempted to text constantly. “[Students’] instantaneous motivation overcomes their removed assessment of the situation.”

Many students feel that the real damage happens to those who do not check their phones, but those who are distracted by it.

“It doesn’t bother me if someone quickly checks their messages and maybe replies but if the student is repeatedly checking throughout the class I can’t always ignore it,” said Amber Williams, junior and geography major.

There are those students who feel that laptops pose a greater tendency for distraction—not cell phones. “Honestly, I find it more distracting when people are on their laptops checking Facebook. I’ve seen students watch entire TV shows during class, which I think is more disrespectful to students and professors than texting. I can’t focus when I see Facebook or a video on the screen of the person sitting in front of me,” said Miller.

Laptops and tablet computers have become staples in the classroom setting for note taking or reading along in the class. Some professors request that laptops be put away during lectures as well as cell phones, but as the shift from paper to digital continues professors will meet a lot of dissatisfaction by students who use electronics to enhance their learning experience.

A new study conducted by the University of New Hampshire concluded that 49 percent of students feel guilty when they text in class, but still do it even when it is not allowed.
The Golden Panthers, ranked No. 62 in the nation, struggled on Apr. 3 with a 6-1 loss against the Southern Methodist University Mustangs, ranked No. 37 in the nation. The team looked strong for a good period of time at the beginning of the match. The loss put an end to the Golden Panther nine-match win streak and also was the team’s first loss on their home court all season.

Coach Melissa Applebaum-Dall’au summed it up FIU’s inability to win in one word: execution. “We had this match today,” Coach Applebaum-Dall’au said. “But a failure to execute at the end cost us.” The match started out with much promise in the doubles portion when Liset Brito and Maria Sprecenley defeated Marta Lesnai, who is ranked No. 9 in the nation. But, then things started to go wrong as the team of Guilleta Boha and Rita Maisak then lost 8-3 to Heather Steinbauer and Edyta Cieplucha. The doubles point was then conceded to SMU when Lisa Johnson and Christine Seredi lost 6-4, 6-0 to Kris Roberts and Shahzoda Hatamova. Already down 1-0 going into the singles portion, the Golden Panthers struggled to take both sets and win the match (4-6, 3-6). This was the first set and match that Brito has dropped in nearly two months of action.

The Golden Panthers will take on the University of Central Florida Golden Knights. It will be senior day as they look to finish their home careers on a high note. Following that will be the Sun Belt Conference Tournament on Apr. 20 in Mobile, Alabama to finish out the season.

In a day full of dramas, the Golden Panthers split the first two games in a three-series versus Troy on Apr. 2. Sophomore Jessy Alfonso hit two crucial home runs to keep the Golden Panthers in both games.

FIU 3, TROY 0

The first game of the doubleheader was a pitcher’s duel between FIU’s Jenn Gniadek and Troy’s Ashlynn Williams. Neither team struggled to string together hits consistently to put runners in scoring position throughout the game. The Trojans threatened to score in the top of the sixth inning with one out when Hayden Gunn reached base on a walk. Gunn would then steal second base. The Trojans would have runners on first and second with two outs after another walk was issued to Sarah Shields. Gniadek pitched herself out of a jam by forcing a ground out by Taylor Smartt to end the inning.

The bottom of the sixth inning finally saw runs scored in the game after Jenny Welch led off the inning for the Golden Panthers with a single. With one out, Jackie Tietlow reached base on a throwing error by Shields. Alfonso stepped up to the plate with two outs and on a 2-2 pitch, she hit a fly ball to left-center field that just barely went over the wall to give FIU a 3-0 lead.

“I was looking for an inning pitch,” Alfonso said. “[Williams] is a really good pitcher. You’ve got to have to have patience at bats and wait for your pitch.”

Gniadek finished out the seventh inning to record her eighth win of the season. “Once you have the lead, it just throw strikes and make them hit it,” Gniadek said.

TROY 6, FIU 5

In game two, FIU took a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Peller reached base on a double. She moved to third on a wild pitch by Morgan Grove. Another wild pitch scored Beth Peller from third base. The Trojans countered in the second inning. After a Michelle Hewett single, Shields laced a triple down the left field line scoring Hewett to tie the game at one.

The Trojans added another run in the third on a sac fly by Nikki Hollett scored Kelly Luquette from third who reached base on a throwing error by Kayla Burri and advanced to third on a wild pitch by Marijah Dawson. Troy took a 3-1 lead in the fourth inning off of a solo homer by Sarah Harris to left field. The Golden Panthers (20-16, 6-2 SBC) fought their way back into the game. In the fifth inning, sophomore Ashley McClain made appearances against Louisiana-Lafayette last year. Gniadek started one game, pitching 6.1 innings giving up 7 hits and 3 earned runs in the no decision. FIU won the game in extra innings.

SOUCING LOUISIANA

The Ragin’ Cajuns enter the series with a 27-5 record. At home, the Ragin’ Cajuns are a perfect 14-0. Louisiana-Lafayette will be the most balanced lineup the Golden Panthers will have faced as they feature eight batters with .300 averages or better. The lineup is led by Christi Orgeron and her .467 batting average. She is also second on the team in home runs with 14 and first in the RBI category at 55. Gabriele Bridges enters the series with a .457 average, 15 home runs and 46 RBI. Her impressive 1.123 slugging percentage and 35 walks lead the Ragin’ Cajuns.

In the circle, Ashley Brignac leads the Ragin’ Cajuns pitching staff with a 2.4 record and a stellar 1.29 ERA in over 100 innings.
Important series looms for Golden Panthers

PREVIEW, page 3

The Golden Panthers bounced back after a Saturday night loss and shut out the Warhawks in a 12-0 route on April 3 on the back of a complete game shutout by Daniel DeSimone.

DeSimone went the distance for the Golden Panthers, allowing no runs and striking out seven Warhawk batters throughout the afternoon. He pitched all nine innings and earned the win for FIU.

Luke Britley picked up the loss for ULM, allowing five runs off of six hits in only one inning of play. The gloves were not the only things going for the Golden Panthers. Rudy Flores started things off with a two-run home run to bring in Garrett Wittels to open up the scoring for FIU in the first inning.

The offense would add on more runs in the second inning when Yoandy Barroso brought Jose Behar home off a single to left field. Patton would later single to left field to bring in Jabari Henry and Barroso to give FIU a five-run lead early on in the contest. A few innings later after the Golden Panther bats fell silent, Behar homered to left center field to bring Shantz in for another two-run shot in the top of the sixth.

Pablo Bermudez had another solid night for FIU, doubling down the right field line to bring Henry in for the eighth run of the game. Behar, Martinez and Wittels all scored in the grand slam for FIU (18-12, 4-5 SBC) and the Golden Panthers closed out the three game series with a shutout for the first time since 2006 at ULM (15-11, 4-5 SBC).

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FEEL THE BEAT
Far East Movement and Flo Rida to perform on field for UP-Roar

KATHY PAZ
Staff Writer

There are few feelings that can compare to the elation felt when attending a concert. The atmosphere, the vibe and even the crowds combine to create an experience unlike any other. And if you're not paying to get into the show, the hype is increased tenfold.

In the past the Student Programming Council has brought popular artists such as OneRepublic, Ludacris, Pitbull and Kid Cudi to the University. Like all SPC events, this massive concert series has been free to all students. This year is no different with the traditional UP-Roar spring concert featuring Flo Rida and The Far East Movement.

"One of the first steps in deciding who’s coming for UP-Roar is surveys. We surveyed the students on what type of music they preferred for the UP-Roar concert in the Fall semester, online, at events and through Facebook," said Gaby Lambertus, SPC Vice President of Outreach. "After narrowing down which type of music students preferred, we looked at our UP-Roar budget line and checked how much money we could spend on an artist or two."

Last year, the UP-Roar concert was held at the US Century Bank Area. For the 2011 edition, the event has been moved to the Modesto Maidique Campus soccer field.

Several factors, including students’ opinions, played a role in the decision to switch locations.

"Students preferred the soccer field. Also security in the soccer field is a more manageable task than security at the arena," said Lambertus. "Because of fire codes, we could only allow a certain number of students on the floor, and the rest had to stay in ‘bleachers’ either to the side or far away. [That] was not appealing to many. Another huge reason was sound. The arena has a lot of echo, and sound at the soccer field is much better."

Panthers arriving to the show grounds early can take part in special pre-concert events. "We will have some vendors: Game Stop, Aero The Fly Kid and concessions," says Lambertus. "Also, DJ Rigo will be warming up the crowd before the artists hit the stage. We’ll also be giving out prizes and glow necklaces to the first students to arrive."

If you are interested in getting your hands on one of those snazzy
Record day hosts fun events for music lovers

POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Flipping through haphazardly organized racks of LPs looking for rare records to add to your collection was, for many years, and in many ways, a dying pastime. While vinyl records were the dominant format for music distribution up until the 1980s, by the time Nick Hornby’s ode to the record store need High Fidelity came out in the mid 90s, records had already been relegated to the niche of music sellers.

As John Cusack’s Rob Fleming says about the awkward young men who frequented his shop in the 2000 film adaptation, “Fetish properties are not unlike pom. I’d feel guilty taking their money, if I wasn’t, well, kind of one of them.”

The decade since that adaptation’s theatrical release has seen the music industry drop almost 50% in value, and the dominance and ubiquity of file sharing sites has taken much of the charm out of obtaining the physical artifact of music.

Strangely, however, toward the end of the decade, that ancient 12-inch LP has seen a somewhat miraculous resurgence in popularity. In 2009, vinyl sales hit a 10-year high, and have been steadily climbing every year. In 2008, a group of music enthusiasts decided to put together a day to celebrate the independent record stores still struggling to make ends meet across the country, and that is how Record Store Day began.

In the four years since, countless bands, looking to support the independent music stores they grew up with, use this day to release special edition albums, singles, DVDs and any number of other goodies. This year, record store day is taking place on Apr. 16, and a number of shops in Miami will be taking part with some special events planned as well.

WHEN:
Breezeway
WHERE: MMC Library

COME AND PLEDGE!
SPC: UP-ROAR CONCERT
WHERE: MMC Library Breezeway
WHERE: MMC Library Breezeway

UP-Roar-related events during the week
UP-Roar concert takes place on Wednesday, Apr. 6 at 8:00 p.m. It will air on a first come first serve basis because of its standing room only measures. Prior to the show, students should be aware of two important policies: no re-entry shall be granted, and bags are not allowed. Furthermore, no food or water can be brought into the show. Unlike other SPC events, a Panther ID is a valid means of entry. The only way to get inside is by picking up a ticket for the concert beforehand from Campus Life. Tickets will not be given out on site.

According to Lamberts, as of Monday tickets had not yet sold out. “But,” she said, “We’ve given out a large quan- tity. Hurry and get yours.”

Professor respects film, too

Baker, page 1
more civilians were drafted.
After completing his bach- elor’s degree and partially through his master’s degree in psychology, he was ordered to report for a physical examina- tion for the draft. At the time, men could obtain a four-year deferment from service as long as they remained enrolled in good-standing.

But those students who did not finish in four years were subject to the draft when their deferments expired.

“Thats was when I found out that if I started teaching for public schools in the inner cities, that I would get a (another) deferment... and so I did,” he said.

Bentley-Baker began teaching science at Nathan B. Young Elementary in Opa- Locka. He spent the next three years teaching science in the inner cities of South Florida followed by another 17 years of teaching elsewhere in the Miami-Dade.

He looks back fondly on the forced career change from psychology to teaching because in life he realized didn’t “like to listen to people whine about their lives.”

On the tail end of his 20 years in teaching in public schools, inspired by the birth of a son, he began writing. In 1988, Bentley-Baker took his partial retirement benefits and published his first novel, The Paper Boat.

“Writing a novel can be very emotional, it can be very personal... it is a very absorbing thing,” he said.

At night, after his son Austin went to bed, he would put on a pot of coffee and go to his room with a pen and yellow pad in hand.
He would chat with his wife and write until she went to bed about 11 p.m. He would then get up and go to the den to write until 3 a.m.

Then, he’d sleep until 7 a.m. and get up to teach.

When his writing career didn’t completely take off, he came to FIU and earned a master’s in writing so that he could have more credentials to teach at a university.

At FIU he opted to teach a film class. Barbara Weitz and Richard Schwartz, now retired, asked Bentley-Baker to join the film studies faculty.

He recalled, as a child, being fascinated by science fiction and horror films. He would even shoot his own short movies on a primitive film stock called “Super 8.”

And, while studying at UM, he worked at the television studio.

At the time, however, “film studies was designated, it was considered to be ‘low art,’” Bentley-Baker said. Unlike today, in English departments in the art the department had any respect for film studies.

He says that reading a screenplay can sometimes be a very emotional experience, many traditional forms of literature. But film goes one step further. Instead of writing words to allow the audience to erect his own image of what’s going on, a filmmaker uses cinematic techniques to liter- ally show the audience what should be represented.

As an instructor in the English Department, he also teaches English and literature courses and is a departmental advisor.

With an overall score of 4.8 out of 5 on ratemyprofes- sors.com, students seem to like his reserved demeanor and knowledge of the content. One reviewer on the site describes him as “the most witty, most inter- esting and engaging intellec- tual you will encounter.”

Jason Brown, a senior journalism major, produced this story in the JOU 3303 Advanced News Writing course taught by Dr. Fred Blevens.

Concert includes giveaways

UP-Roar, page 5

“Club Can’t Handle Me” and “Popping Bottles in the Ice Like Blizzard” UP-Roar t-shirts, still have a chance to get a hold of one.

“We’ve been giving them out through Facebook and Twitter with contests and different types of games,” says Lambert. SPC will also be giving them away at various SPC: UP-ROAR CONCERT
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American involvement a wise choice

KELLY MALAMBRI
Staff Writer

The recent conflict in Libya has raised many questions, including whether or not the U.S. should be involved in a conflict for the sake of another country once again. Genocide and corrupt governments are an irreversible evil which, as proven by history, rise and fall like the tide, and can never be fully abolished everywhere at any given time. While total peace is seemingly impossible to achieve, the U.S. sprang through Libya through Operation Odyssey Dawn by the U.S. and the United Nations is a noble effort.

According to the New York Times, a UN doctrine “responsibility to protect,” or “R2P” states: “World powers have the right and obligation to intervene when a dictator devours his people.” However, many argue the U.S. only “protects” countries from genocide and harsh dictatorships within which it has some sort of interest and has recently come under condemnation for it. For example, in order to quickly establish the no-fly zone desired by the UN over Libya, the U.S. took charge of the mission because of its cruise missile capabilities, while this tactical move does make sense, the U.S. refrained from using its advanced capabilities, whether in terms of armaments or political sway, in other areas devastated by genocide like Rwanda and Bahrain, in which it currently has little interests.

Unfortunately, financially it would be very difficult to defend against every conflict which arises such as these, and morally it would be even more difficult to convince the tax-paying public of the U.S. that intervening in a country with which we have no economic or political interest would be beneficial when the U.S. already faces great conflict internally and has lost many soldiers to fighting on the behalf of other countries. Because the country will never fully agree on which wars to wage, some deserving countries will unfortunately be left without U.S. intervention. We must fight for those in need while accepting that the U.S. cannot physically fight for all. Although this is the ugly truth, it therefore makes sense to defend those countries with which the U.S. does have interests.

While it seems harsh to leave the countries with which the U.S. does not have political interests left to fend for themselves, it is better that the U.S. attempts to achieve peace in some countries than not fight for troubled societies at all.

What’s more, traffic injuries alone result in more than $200 billion in expenditures. Overall, injuries could have been prevented. What’s more, traffic injuries result in more than $200 billion in expenditures. Overall, injuries could have been prevented. The Politick is a political op-ed column. For more information, send an email to fluxtalk@gmail.com.

Every year, nearly 150,000 people die from injuries, and almost 30 million people are injured seriously enough to go to the emergency room. Damage from injuries is inescapable, and if someone you know are among these statistics—a friend who suffered a car crash, an elderly family member who broke a bone from a fall or a co-worker harmed on the job site. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report on injury deaths, potential years of life are lost because of injuries that could have been prevented. While more traffic injuries alone result in more than $200 billion in annual U.S. health expenditures. Overall, injuries account for 12 percent of medical care spending, totaling as much as $69 billion per year.

In our state, injuries are the leading killer of Floridians aged 1-44 and the 3rd leading killer when one includes accidents and cancer. In 2007, which is the latest year that national data is available through the CDC’s Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, Florida’s age-adjusted injury death rate was higher than the national average by 13 percent for all unintentional injuries: 23 percent for unintentional motor vehicle injuries, 39 percent for unintentional poisoning, 23 percent for suicides, and a staggering 146 percent for unintentional drownings among children ages 1-4, according to the Florida Department of Health.

Most disturbing is that among the top five most populous states in the U.S. for unintentional injury deaths are CA, TX, NY, FL, and IL. Florida holds the largest fatality percentage due to injury in each category. In our community of Miami-Dade, we are especially concerned about injury and fatality due to motor vehicle accidents as well as pedestrian safety. Miami-Dade county is the largest county in Florida in terms of population. This large population coincides with a greater number of people traveling in motor vehicles and other forms of transportation as well as a larger number of people walking about.

This concern for motor vehicle and pedestrian safety sparked an idea for a campaign called, “LOOK UP!” “LOOK UP!” is a campaign created by the Stempel Public Health Association of the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work at Florida International University. It is a campaign that will encourage students on campus to be aware of their surroundings and to look up away from cell phones and other electronic devices when crossing the road in order to be aware of their surroundings and when driving. The key is preventing a major incident from happening before it does.

The “LOOK UP!” campaign will coincide with the American Public Health Association’s annual National Public Health Week. This year’s theme is “Safety is No Accident: Live Injury-Free and will be celebrated all over the nation April 4th-8th. National Public Health Week is an opportunity for our family, friends, neighbors, and perhaps most importantly, ourselves to live safer lives.

At Florida International University’s Modesto Maidique Campus, the campaign will host events so students may hear what the “LOOK UP!” campaign is all about. Also, “LOOK UP!” committee members will be giving out flyers and conducting surveys on Wednesday, April 6 as well as put on a hook for safety event at the PG5 garage on Thursday, April 7. Finally the campaign will close off with a showing of the film Seven Pounds on Friday at 7:30pm along with pizza.

We are met with a real health and a growing public health problem. Fortunately, we know that virtually all injuries can be prevented. If everyone paid attention while walking or driving, wore a seatbelt, properly installed and used child safety seats, or wore a helmet, we could dramatically reduce the burden of leading injuries caused by motor vehicle and pedestrian accidents in this country and save lives.

So, join the Stempel Public Health Association as we look up, prevent injury and essentially save lives.

-Taïve Oladipo, MPH
Candidate, FIU 2011
FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEND AN EMAIL TO fluxtalk@gmail.com.
GUATEMALA

Report: Court holds first lady’s divorce

A judge has temporarily blocked divorce proceedings by the wife of President Otto Creutz. The split because would allow Colombia’s wife to get around a ban on a president’s existing family from running for the presidency.

HAITI

Haitians still awaiting results in election

Police patrolled the streets and businesses boarded up windows on April 4 as Haitians awaited the delayed preliminary results from last month’s presidential election.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

NYC man faces murder charge

Police said Fallace DeJesus, a 24-year-old New York City man, is facing charges for allegedly killing an islander last year. DeJesus has been charged with first-degree murder, assault, and possession of an unregistered gun.

SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT

Plans set for multi-million dollar teaching kitchen

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Staff Writer

After 10 years and over $10 million raised through the South Beach Wine and Food Festival, the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management has decided to use a portion of that money to expand and renovate its facilities.

Of those funds, $5.6 million has been set aside for the renovation of the existing kitchen and the expansion of the HTM dining room to allow for a capacity of 150 guests, which are located on the first floor of the Hospitality Management building at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

According to Mohammad Qureshi, assistant dean of HTM, who is leading the expansion project, planning for the renovation and expansion of the teaching restaurant has been in the works for over a year now. The shell, which means the dining room expansion, will start sometime at the end of May but won’t go full force construction mode until August.

Once construction begins on the interior of the facility, the affected classes, cooking 1 and cooking 2, will be moved to the Kovens Conference Center, located on the south side of the campus.

“With the infusion of the money from the South Beach Wine and Food Festival over the last ten years, we will be able to have a true dining room as opposed to, right now, a room that we use as a dining room, but one that’s designed as a dining room. Now, we will be able to do a lot more in our abilities to serve the people and better prepare them for the industry which is something we are very excited about,” says professor Michael Moran.

As it stands, the expansion and renovation project is targeted for completion by Feb. 15, 2012, according to Chef Moran. However, Qureshi admits that with so many variables with a project of this scale, even a hurricane scare can set the whole project back.

The current project calls for a complete renovation of the way the kitchen operates and the way it flows. The kitchen will be equipped with brand new appliances, from the dish machines, stoves, and grills, to a brand new ventilation system.

“Keeping in mind HTM is not a culinary school, such as the Culinary Institute of America and Johnson and Wales, but a hospitality management program. Qureshi emphasized, “This will be the focal point of our building, not our program. The focal point of our program has, and will always be our faculty and students.”

Directly involved with the planning of the expansion and renovation project are the two professor chefs on staff at HTM, Michael Moran and Roger D. Probst, only adding weight to Qureshi’s emphasis on the importance of HTM’s faculty.

“The two professor chefs are completely engaged in this project, especially the kitchen. Until they sign off, the [project] won’t advance to its next stages,” said Qureshi.

“I think in order for FUI to continue to be at the forefront of hospitality schools, this is a necessary step. As a whole this will be a huge benefit for the program as a whole. In order for students to be successful hospitality managers they also need to gain experience in a restaurant style kitchen,” said Eli Weil, an alumnus of HTM.

Once the project is complete, there are plans to utilize the facility for additional courses within the HTM curriculum, as well as for majors outside of HTM. However there are no specifics available on what or when these courses will be available.

Additionally, HTM is planning on using the facility to host its own, on-site event for future South Beach Wine and Food Festivals.

“Having people come to the school and see what we’re doing will bring not only money through donations, but also excitement to the [School of Hospitality and Tourism Management] because students will be able to apply themselves to something they can truly call their own. Even though the Wine and Food Festival is a part of the hospitality program, at the end of the day you’re working at your location for your own event,” said Weil.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Candidates discuss single-council system and retention

FORUM, page 1

things we have scheduled.” However, she admitted there were things not done because of how busy the council was in March.

Ivanov, one of the most vocal of the few students in attendance during the forum, did not stop at unfilled promises.

“I asked the panel what their opinion is on a single-council student government, a topic about which The Beacon has written numerous editorials and supports.

“What is the purpose of having two separate student governments? What do you think of having one president and two vice presidents?” Ivanov asked.

The panel was in favor of two student government councils.

“My personal opinion is, with the direction this university is going, we need two student governments,” Halpin answered. “If not, our campus gets overlooked.”

She said the president and vice president at MMC are focused on their constituents and the ones at BBC are focused on theirs.

She said there could one day be a single-council SGA, but that day wouldn’t come until the University reaches President Rosenberg’s vision of “FRU in 2020.” She also said the idea of two vice presidents would not work.

“I firmly believe if there were two vice presidents, [the BBC one] would be overlooked,” Halpin said.

Collyer, Halpin’s running mate, cited the Pines Center as another reason why the single-council system would not work.

“We don’t only represent [BBC], we also represent the Pines Center,” Collyer said. “And we have that problem, we forget the Pines Center. Imagine how we would feel and how the Pines Center would feel if all the decisions came from [MMC].”

Collyer likened the University’s student government with that of Miami-Dade College’s, which has an SGA for each one of its main campuses.

The panel also addressed the issue of outreach to students in order to get them to join SGC-BBC and retention, to keep those students on the council.

For most of the academic year 2010-2011, SGC-BBC has not convened as a full council, boasting no more than 10 senators each semester while also suffering from resignations and expulsions due to GPA requirements.

Halpin’s way of retaining senators is to make sure they focus on their academics before SGA. This goes hand-in-hand with Haspel’s mentoring system mentioned during the forum. The aim of his system is for SGA members to help each one out on homework and sharing their SGA workload.

During the forum, Halpin pointed to her mother who was in the audience to support her daughter. Halpin said her mother asked how to get to the WUC and was told she was on the wrong campus.

Because of students’ lack of knowledge of the board,” Halpin said.

Her goal is to have “a single-council system that is efficient. We need to move forward as a whole. It’s a major part of Halpin’s plan for outreach and increasing conumer student involvement.

Usma said programs, which are at a “high standard,” is another way to get students involved, a statement with which Yamini agreed.

“Quality programs make people want to be a part of that organization,” Yamini said.

Read the full story at fi usm.com.