**Influential civil rights leader inspires students**

**TALIA TORBICA**
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When it comes to applying for specific positions, such as an Arts and Science Senator, one has to be admitted in the college, if not, one has to provide a letter from the Dean of that college.

FIU’s SGA provides students with different leadership opportunities, allowing them to take part in the decision-making processes that affect the FIU community. FIU’s Student Government is composed of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branch.

According to Alian Collazo, the Senate Speaker, SGA is the “most important form of representation for students within the University,” allowing them to shape the future of the institution that we are all a part of.

The elections are a way for student leaders to present their different ideas and viewpoints, all in hopes of making our University the best version it can be.

The 2016 SGA elections are open and will close on February 19, at 5 p.m. If you are interested in applying to run for President, Vice President, or various Senator positions, the application is posted on the Student Affairs website, under section “Get Involved.”

Luis Callejas, the SGA Election Commissioner, explained that in order to hold a position within SGA, undergraduates must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 credit hours, with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 and a 2.0 term. Graduate students must be enrolled in at least 3.0 credit hours, and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and 2.5 terms. All candidates must attend at least 50 percent of their classes at the campus they are applying for.

Luis added that “When it comes to applying for specific positions, such as an Arts and Science Senator, one has to be admitted in the college, if not, one has to provide a letter from the Dean of that college.”

In order to run for the positions of President and Vice President, one has to be at least a sophomore and hold a position in SGA for at least one year. Additionally, all candidates must not be under any academic or disciplinary sanctions during their time in office and/or while running for their position.

If students are interested in applying for an SGA position, they must print and complete the Qualification Form and submit it to the SGA Office by 5 p.m. on February 19. Once the application is submitted, each candidate is required to attend a mandatory information session. There will be three information sessions, and each candidate is required to attend one.

The first information session is Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. in GC 150. The second session is Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. at GC 316.

The final session is March 3 at 12:30 p.m. in GC 314.

Voting will take place on April 5 and April 6, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 7 p.m., and the winners will be announced April 7 in GC.

Equality for All

**YURIELLE MENARD**
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“Who knows the black national anthem? Sing the black national anthem,” Marc Lamont Hill said during his speech at the “I am Black History” event on February 2. Hill is an affluent journalist, civil rights leader and professor at Morehouse College heavily recognized within the African American community.

The Black Student Union is presenting “I am Black History,” a series of events including guests speakers, shows and activities to commemorate Black History.

Throughout the month of February, BSU, the Coalition of Black Organizational Leaders and the National Panhellenic Council will be hosting many of these events on MMC.

Hill’s appearance to MMC was one of the highlights of the “I am Black History” series, as his speech represented the “I am Social Change” segment. In this segment, Hill addresses issues of racial inequality, police brutality, and “getting America to listen to itself.”

“We like to reduce Martin Luther King to that dream he had,” Hill said.

Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech presented in front of the Lincoln memorial wasn’t about dreams but about broken promises, promises that have been treasured various times in history by many slaves and black scholars. “America, you promised!”

Hill’s speech empowered the crowd as he engaged them to stand up and sing the “black national anthem.” “Lift Every Voice and Sing” written by James Weldon Johnson in 1899.

Hill said that the song stresses “lift every voice not just my voice or our voice”.

Prior to the event, Hill had an intimate Meet n Greet session with members of COBOL. During this meeting, Hill asked students if they had any questions and requested that most of his answers be off the record to ensure genuine answers.

Student Media was offered the opportunity to ask him about his balance between his career, the balance between his lifestyle and career and his experience in Palestine as a Dream Defender.

It just shows how powerful and how influential he is; everybody wants to come and hear him speak. He’s a really powerful and dynamic speaker, very opinionated, and has a lot of interesting things to say despite your views on what he says it’s really just intriguing,” said Fynn-Obeng.

After Hill spoke, he left crowd inspired to promote change as many students lined up to take photos and slip in last minute questions that he had not addressed or could not address due to the time limitation.

Hill left the students of FIU with a positive note of encouragement to no longer remain silent. “Seriously family, who we going to be? Do we purely want to be known for how we stroll, how we shimmy. Do we purely want to be known for how we get into the organization and not for what we did when we got into the organization? What’s the point of being good if you good for nothing?”

Hill will be able to breakdown and discuss some issues, in order to “grab the audience and let them know what’s going on,” Fynn-Obeng was attending the Meet n’ Greet on behalf of the African Student Organization.

After the Meet n’ Greet COBOL was escorted to the GC Ballrooms, where students filled the room. “It just shows how powerful and how influential he is; everybody wants to come and hear him speak. He’s a really powerful and dynamic speaker, very opinionated, and has a lot of interesting things to say despite your views on what he says it’s really just intriguing,” said Fynn-Obeng.

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**Esi Fynn-Obeng**
Senior
Communication Arts, Organizational Studies and Sociology

“I am Black History,” a series of events on MMC.

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NC fines Duke Energy $6.6 million for river spill

The United States has not elected a president fluent in a language other than English in 72 years.

And in a field of 11 remaining presidential candidates, only two could change that: Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio.

The last president who spoke a foreign language fluently was Franklin D. Roosevelt, elected to his fourth term in 1944, who was taught French and German as a child.

Presidential candidates John Kerry in 2004 and Mitt Romney in 2012 found that speaking fluent French was turned against them by opponents who painted them as elitist and even worse, European-style politicians.

Romney, who spent two years as a Mormon missionary in France, began a video for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City by introducing himself in one of the official languages of the international games: “Bonjour, je m’appelle Mitt Romney.”

Now, the United States could have the chance to elect a bilingual president. Rubio, whose parents emigrated from Cuba, grew up speaking Spanish and English in Miami.

Bush learned Spanish after meeting his Mexican-born brother.

While speaking Spanish may no longer be necessary to reach out to them the way candidates did for their parents’ generation, fluency does show an understanding and acceptance of their culture.

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New visual thinking strategies in healthcare training

JOVANY BETANCOURT, ANA PINON AND JESLYN RODRIGUEZ

“You can look at the same piece of art a thousand times and always find something new in it,” said Hope Torrance at a recent presentation about the University of Miami’s Virtual Thinking Strategies program. The Fine Art of Henderson.

VTS is the method of using visual art to complement professional career training by allowing participants to openly discuss their different interpretations on artistic pieces.

The presentation, held at Academic Health Center 4, introduced FIU students to the kind of thinking Torrance’s program encourages.

Attendees were asked to interpret a painting and to provide evidence for their explanations using only the elements of the artwork. The exercise showed how every individual had their own interpretation about the painting based on experiences from their own life. VTS trains callers this healthy and discursive discourse.

VTS has already been implemented in programs in other highly reputable universities such as Harvard University and the University of Miami.

FIU might be next to use VTS to supplement training for careers in healthcare, said Miriam Machado, Education Curator for the Frost Museum.

“We have a medical school and a museum, let’s bring them together,” said Machado.

FIU medical students have already taken a liking to the idea, saying that the program helps bring the humanistic touch back to medicine.

Efron, a medical student in FIU’s HWCOM, said: “In medical school, they really stress the importance of accurate history taking, and a workshop like this could really fine tune those skills.”

Being on the forefront of medicine requires constant advancement in the techniques used to train healthcare professionals in order to meet the needs of the changing population.

For FIU, the newest advancement in healthcare training could come from the halls of the closest art gallery.
Daughter releases new album ‘Not to Disappear’

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Jan. 15, English indie trio, Daughter, released “Not to Disappear,” a follow up to their 2013 debut LP “If You Leave” via Glassnote Entertainment Group.

Previously described as a moody folk project, Daughter intricately experiments with lush dream pop elements and subtle electronics with this well produced record.

Each layer within every track is meticulously placed, creating a density that transcends an audial experience and does not overwhelm.

Steady drum patterns, reverb heavy guitar and delicate bells work in tandem with each other. Reminiscent of Florence + The Machine, Hundred Waters and the xx, Daughter carefully executes a more melancholic and passive aggressive sound with “Not to Disappear.”

Vocalist, Elena Tonra, plays her strengths with this record. The vulnerability of her lyricism is raw, honest and relatable, and is evident throughout the entire album. Her soft and hushed vocals are a true complement to the emotional weight that is carried in every song.

In the opening track, “New Ways,” phrases like “There’s something in you/I can’t be without/I just need it here” express the difficulties of “trying to find a way out” of a relationship you still rely on. “How long must I wait for you to become what I need?” “How” further sheds light on the importance of being with someone, where you can give and receive

of being alone/Cause you are never there” and “I hate dreaming of being with you/I hate feeling alone” are words that make you wonder if solitude is better than being with someone who makes you feel like you are alone. Probably so.

Heartache is more often than not a theme used as the platform for songwriters. It may be overdone, but with good reason in Daughter’s case. Accept the pain that comes with love, but what matters most is to retain a sense of self, and not to disappear.

Heartache is more often than not a theme used as the platform for songwriters. It may be overdone, but with good reason in Daughter’s case. Accept the pain that comes with love, but what matters most is to retain a sense of self, and not to disappear.

However, this does not diminish her desire to be with someone. “Mothers!” and “Made of Stone” fall short. These cuts do not leave as lasting of an impression as the remainder of the album.

The songs feel stagnant and fade into the background, but decent enough to not ruin the listening experience of the album as a whole.

There are several themes throughout the record that constitute to its title. Feelings of loneliness and losing oneself are reflected throughout every aspect of the album.

The main concept to grasp here is to accept the pain that comes with love, but what matters most is to retain a sense of self, and not to disappear.
The Coen brothers return to parody the Golden Age of Hollywood once more

The Coen Brothers - Ethan and Joel Coen - have a knack of directing, writing and producing movies; establishing a genre and thinking outside of it to create truly bizarre humor. This talent shines brightest in films like “The Big Lebowski”, “Burn After Reading”. Their 2016 “Hail Caesar!” is no different.

The film has a star-studded cast in Josh Brolin (“No Country For Old Men”, “Everywhere”), Channing Tatum (“Magic Mike”, “21 Jump - Scandalous pregnancy under the radar and gossip columnist Thora Thacker (Swinton) is threatening to write a degrading expose on Whitlock and his disappearance. All this while he doesn’t follow the kidnapping, which is the only interesting arc of the movie.

That said, it’s parodying the Golden Age of Hollywood and commentary of the time period sets the film up for so many highlights. It’s odd in its instances but recovers quickly with its ironic take on such a complicated time for social discussions. It also pays tasteful homage to some of the most famous film genres that came from the Golden Age, like the Westerns, water dance sequence and Gene Kelly’s dance interludes (which Tatum nails perfectly). All in all, it’s a brilliantly weird movie that jumps far and sticks the landing.

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Panthers suffer fourth straight loss

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Finally - a hope for the University’s men’s basketball team to climb out from under their three-game losing streak glimmered in the distance on Saturday night.

FIU played a competitive first half against the Blue Raiders - one of Conference USA’s hottest teams - and even secured a nine-point lead with seven minutes left. But even that was not enough help for a Panthers’ team that cannot help themselves.

Instead, the Panthers fell to 11-13 on the season (5-6 in C-USA) as they dropped a 67-66 decision on the road to Middle Tennessee State University. FIU’s possession problems doomed them again as they coughed up 14 turnovers, leading to an extra 16 Blue Raider points.

FIU entered the second game of their road trip already on a three-game losing skid. Their latest loss was a narrow 74-69 defeat at the hands of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (another C-USA heavyweight).

In fact, every loss in their losing streak had been by a margin of five points or fewer. In other words, late-game execution was a familiar issue that the Panthers had hoped to correct Saturday night.

Another slow start for FIU put them in an early 16-9 disadvantage. Middle Tennessee used the three-game losing streak to haunt the Panthers throughout their winning streak.

Along with a new season come heightened excitement for the entire squad. A new season brings a newfound emphasis on opponents.

Those losses being against C-USA have been by a margin of five points or fewer. In other words, late-game execution was a familiar issue that the Panthers had hoped to correct Saturday night.

Another slow start for FIU put them in an early 16-9 disadvantage. Middle Tennessee used the three-point arc to their favor in the first half, shooting 715 from distance.

Three of those triples came from MTSU’s Giddy Potts, who made all three in the game’s first four minutes.

FIU’s guard Don Reade McGill broke his personal scoring slump in the first half, the former junior college player scored 10 points in the first 20 minutes.

With another seven points from senior forward Davion Draper, FIU fought back to tie the game with just seconds left in the first half.

MTSU got to the line before halftime buzzer rang, however, and went into the intermission with a 33-30 lead.

The Panthers came out with energy in the second half, holding off MTSU’s offense with authority.

With 7:39 left in the game, the Panthers had a 54-45 lead. Draper carried FIU through the second stanza, scoring 8 of his game-high 25 points in the final 20 minutes.

Draper’s effort wouldn’t be enough to keep FIU aloft, however, when MTSU came surging back.

Potts led an 8-2 run by the Blue Raiders, which Draper answered with five points of his own. The Blue Raiders then put together an 8-1 scoring run to put them up 66-66 with two minutes remaining.

FIU had a chance to win to win as Draper tied the game up 66-66 with eight seconds remaining. Potts made one of his two free throws and FIU missed its 15-foot potential buzzer-beater.

With Saturday’s contest, the Panthers have committed a total of 31 turnovers over their last two games.

Although they corrected some of their second chance opportunities on Saturday, turnovers and late-game play continue to haunt the Panthers throughout their losing streak.

The Panthers face the University of Texas at El Paso Thursday, Feb. 11, and follow that up against the University of Texas at San Antonio Saturday, Feb. 13, in a two-game homestand.

Softball team prepares to have a bounce-back season

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With the new season just around the corner, the FIU softball team looks to turn it around after missing the conference tournament last season.

Gator Rebhan will be entering his second season as the head coach of the Panthers.

The team will kick off their fresh journey and start the season in Miami Friday, Feb. 12 against in-state rivals, the Seminoles of Florida State University.

This will be the first of five games of an action packed weekend for the softball team.

They will have a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 13 against St. Johns University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and wrap up on Valentine’s Day as they play Long Island University Brooklyn and Valparaiso University.

Last season, the team ended up 50-24 overall, with a 10-14 mark that was not enough to reach the Conference USA tournament.

Down the stretch when it mattered the most, the Panthers lost seven of their final 11 games, with six of those losses being against C-USA opponents.

But that is all in the past now.

A new season brings a newfound excitement for the entire squad, fresh faces, a new season, and high hopes.

Along with a new season come some new faces to the field. Some might find it concerning, but two of the starters are freshmen, and the biggest additions have Rebhan especially excited.

The team has brought in two freshmen to their pitching squad, as well as leftie transfer, Rebhan says this is their major key moving forward, and that some variety and a bigger rotation for the upcoming season is essential.

Seventeen Panthers are returning for the 2016 season, and on this list is the highly favored infielder Stephanie Texeira.

Texeira was the 2014 C-USA Freshman of the Year, a member of the 2014 C-USA All-Freshman Team, two-time member of the C-USA Second-Team in 2014 and 2015 and two-time two-time C-USA Hitter of the Week in 2014.

Recently, Texeira was named to the C-USA All Preseason Team.

Entering her third season with FIU, Texeira finished her 2015 campaign with some record breaking numbers, which include a .444 batting average and eight home runs.

She also led C-USA in on base percentage with .533 and finished ranked third in RBI with 51.

She looks to lead the Panthers yet again this season, but hopefully this time with a bid to the C-USA Softball Tournament.

The first pitch of the season takes place during the JuiceBlendz FIU Softball Invitational Saturday at 7 p.m.
Heat's seven-foot situation

The Miami Heat center that exploded onto the scene last season had a roller-coaster month of January. He is a seven-footer, Whiteside, who leads the league in blocks, is in the top 10 in the league amongst rebounders and rimminers and has been one of the most consistent players month amid all these conspiracies, does not fit the plans of the future for this team and Pat Riley's vision, but this very well may be the case.

White's response to the article came a day after, only feeding the Heat's future in favor of a player we are used to seeing. How could this happen? How could a player's appreciation and admiration for a teammate, quite possibly, including the seven-foot center.

Again, these splashes are nothing more than splashes, here for a limited time, but the team has got to get as much from such numbers. It was Carolina that became the icing on the cake on an already solid staff, who as Conference champions. As everyone playing attention should already know, and as sources have informed those of you reading, the Panthers' 3, 4, 5, and 6-hitters that lead the Panthers to its first CUSA Championship, are gone.

While Tomlinson keeps on its own track, the heat is on, and the Panthers are on the hot seat. But not many fans thought the Panthers would pull off this upset. I was happy with the teams playing in this year's Super Bowl. My two picks, the Seattle Seahawks and Miami Dolphins, unfortunately, won't be playing so I didn't have any pressure. Also, not having to root against the New England Patriots or Seattle Seahawks was a positive for me.

He was the one who scored the touchdown on the final play, as long as he learns from his mistakes and becomes stronger. The sky's the limit for Newton, as long as he keeps his head in the game and stays focused on the task at hand. So far, so fans should be glad to be

It was a positive for me. The end results for the quarterbacks were completely different. As all anticiplaim, Newton will be at the Super Bowl at the end of the season, so this was possibly his final shot at winning the big game.

Around five to seven seconds into the ring, it was just like the icing on the cake on an already solid staff, who as Conference champions.

The Miami Heat pride themselves on putting in smart, experienced players who are hardworking, consistent to repeat the success of the past. The end results for the quarterbacks were completely different. As all anticiplaim, Newton will be at the Super Bowl at the end of the season, so this was possibly his final shot at winning the big game.

It was Newton's defense that set up the offense with short fields, not Carolina's. It was Carolina that struggled to run the football, not Denver. But not many fans thought Denver would pull off this upset. I was happy with the teams playing in this year's Super Bowl. My two picks, the Seattle Seahawks and Miami Dolphins, unfortunately, won't be playing so I didn't have any pressure. Also, not having to root against the New England Patriots or Seattle Seahawks was a positive for me.
Sex Fair provides health education at BBC

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FIU’s Student Health Services has once again partnered with clubs and organizations like the Women’s Center and LGBTQA to organize and host the sixth annual Sex Fair at Biscayne Bay Campus.

“The fair is a fun place where students can learn about STDs and have fun,” said Isabel Capellan, a senior health educator at the Student Health Services. She received her undergraduate degree from FIU and has a masters degree in Public Health.

Florida is the state with the highest number of Human Immunodeficiency Virus cases in the United States. According to a study conducted by the Center for the Disease Control in 2013, Miami was ranked as the first city with the highest rate of HIV.

HIV occurrences in Jacksonville and Orlando placed 10th and 11th and the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area as the 18th.

“The department wanted to spread awareness about HIV and other STDs so on 2010 they started doing the Sex Fair and it has grown since then,” said Capellan.

The Sex Fair will have games and mini-talks that seek to instruct students and faculty about the risks of STDs and how to prevent them. “We will have games like Sex Jeopardy, Risky Business etc.,” said Capellan.

Risky Business is a game that aims to instruct student about the danger of mixing sex and alcohol. The game will detail how different levels of sobriety affect your decision making and how that may lead to unwanted sexual encounters.

Community members from outside FIU like Union Positiva, will also take part in the upcoming fair, offering free HIV tests for students and faculty members.

Diego Barrios, 22, attends the fair every year. “It’s fun, and the free condoms [are a] huge perk. I try to get as many as many as I can,” said Barrios.

Chlamydia is the most widely spread STD at FIU, Capella said. This figure cannot be attested due to the fact that the University Health Services Department does not collect data from STDs to protect the confidentiality of students.

“We all know that we have to protect ourselves from STDs, but it is impressive still, how many get infected” said Barrios.

The Sex Fair is open to all students from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features games, giveaways and free food.

For more information contact the Student Health Services at 305-919-5307.