4-7-2016

The Beacon, April 7, 2016

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/869

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
Student Affairs reverses SGA supreme court ruling, Access FIU back on ballot

STEPHANIE ESPAILLAT
Asst. News Director
stephanie.espaillat@fiusm.com

Access FIU presidential and vice presidential candidates, Jose Sirven and Devendra Shaw, are now eligible to run, according to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs. The candidates will be able to remain on the ballot for SGC-MMC elections.

In addition, the SGA elections on both campuses have been postponed to April 19 and 20 to give the two political parties enough time to campaign.

According to the MMC Supreme Court case Gilkes v. Sirven, presidential candidate Sirven had been disqualified from the SGC-MMC elections on the grounds that he had not held an SGC-MMC position. It has now been determined, according to Student Affairs, that an inadequate quorum was held when appointing the justices for the case.

Access FIU provided Student Media with this information from the e-mail sent out by Eric Arneson, assistant vice president of student affairs.

Sirven’s running mate, Devendra Shaw, brought forward information to the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, and submitted a petition for appeal suggesting the possibility of an inadequate quorum. This second appeal detailed new evidence in Sirven’s favor.

“Last week I submitted a 13 page appeal to Arneson in the hopes of encouraging the administration to revisit the decision issued by the Supreme Court,” Shaw said in a statement to Student Media. “I did not and still do not believe the ruling was fair to students.”

Shaw said, “Thanks to the MMC Senate at the Feb. 8, 2016 meeting because the MMC Senate lacked a quorum, any substantive actions taken are null and void. Thus, none of the justices were confirmed, leaving only the Chief Justice who cannot act alone.

In the absence of a quorum, any substantive actions taken are null and void. Thus, none of the justices were confirmed, leaving only the Chief Justice who cannot act alone.

Eric Arneson
Asst. Vice President
Student Affairs

Asst. Vice President
Student Affairs

In the absence of a quorum, any substantive actions taken are null and void. Thus, none of the justices were confirmed, leaving only the Chief Justice who cannot act alone.

Eric Arneson
Asst. Vice President
Student Affairs

In the absence of a quorum, any substantive actions taken are null and void. Thus, none of the justices were confirmed, leaving only the Chief Justice who cannot act alone.

Eric Arneson
Asst. Vice President
Student Affairs
PROTESTS continued

Iceland prime minister resigns following protests against cancellation of annual music festival

Minister Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson of Iceland resigned. Prime Minister Sigurður Gunnlaugsson tendered his resignation following a series of inconsistencies and irregularities in how they’ve gone about their investigation.” Cáceres, co-founder of the Council of Indigenous Peoples of Honduras had faced death threats from Honduras authorities and private security forces, her family said, because of her fight against the construction of a hydroelectric dam planned along a river that’s sacred to the indigenous Lenca people, a fight for which she won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize last year.

Gunnlaugsson became the first global leader to see his grip on power fail because of revelations in Panama Papers. Gunnlaugsson denied any wrong doing and was not criminally charged. However, his resignation comes amid a growing backlash against his government over its handling of an international financial scandal.

The government had an interest in promoting her mother. The response for the first couple of days was not what they expected. With the lack of advertisement the students had not heard about the opportunity.

“The best way to spread the word around [last semester],” was students hearing from friends or classmates.” Prestamo states. “The number of students coming to the Library during finals week went up.”

Prestamo believes that last semester’s numbers are not a fair assessment of the potential demand of students for extended library hours. As a result, this past February, BSU promoted a survey for students to take, in order to obtain statistical data and have a better idea of what students thought of the initiative. Prestamo says that BSU received over 2,500 responses within the two week period, the majority with positive feedback for the project.

The office of the President, Provost, as well as the Chief Financial Officer, gave the green light to running another pilot during this Spring 2016 Semester.

Since news of the extended Library hours became public, several students are looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunity. "The extended hours benefit me as a student in many ways. It is very convenient to be able to go to areas that are less packed with students when studying for finals.” Hira Ahmad, a senior psychology student says, “Usually, I go to the Library to study and do my homework”.

“Whether it’s working on academics or personal projects, the Library is a place where I can escape distractions to accomplish my task.” Joshua Soto, a second year International Business & Marketing major, says. “These extended library hours not only allow me, but other students as well, to get that extra study time in for my classes.”

The main concerns, she says, is figuring out what it is that is needed and most beneficial to the students who will be taking advantage of the extended hours.

According to Prestamo, the survey included that information to get a better concept of how much of the Library the students would want to have access to, if it came down to only certain areas remaining open for the extended hours in the future.

“As far as specific locations I would say maybe the first two floors,” Soto says, “Personally what I usually do at the Library is find a spot where I can clear my mind from distractions and focus on what needs to be done.”

Prestamo says there were staff members appointed to count the number of people on every floor each hour during the last extended period in December. During the 24 hour period in November and December that there was about 500 students on the second floor alone, according to Prestamo. There are also records about laptop and book uses in the Library during this time, all in effort of providing as much numerical and physical data of the benefits of the 24:45 extended hour project.

“As a student who is heavily involved on campus, most of my studying is done through the night, I think it’s an amazing idea,” says Soto, “There are plenty of students who will benefit from this.”

According to the official website of the Library as well as an email sent out by External Relations, the extended hours will begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 24 and will remain open through Friday, April 29 at midnight, for the first week. On Saturday, April 30 the hours will be 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., and then the Library opens again Sunday, May 1 at 10 a.m. and remains open through Friday, May 6 at midnight.

“Between now and this [the extended hours pilot] time period.” Perry Patterson says, “You will be seeing BSU start a marketing campaign in the Library and GC to get students motivated to take advantage of this opportunity.”
SGA supreme court a ‘kangaroo court,’ ‘self-serving’

Chief Justice Sergio Molina and at least one of the associate justices, are under investigation and evidently constitutionally prohibited from making a decision on Giilces v. Sirven, or anything else for that matter. No one how smart or well-intentioned the justices may be, the law is the law. That nobody has noticed how blatantly unconstitutional the appointments are is shocking; that not one SGA Senator objected when confirming not just one, but five of these justices, is outrageous and grounds to throw every single current senator out of office. Yet even if we, god forbid, decide to follow the law in the court of law and accept the legitimacy of this supreme court, there still ought to be some careful consideration of the fairness of the adjudication. Potential conflict of interests risk the impartiality of justicition and utility of legal interpretation doesn’t it? So shouldn’t it be plainly obvious that if the Supreme Court has a clear interest in one outcome of the case that they should recuse themselves? To this supreme court, it is not. They’re telling us that Molina can fairly and impartially adjudicate the case of the presidential candidacy of that of his fellow Theta Chi brother, FV0’s Allan Allianor, that Justice Gabriela Melendez, a sister of Phi Mu, has no compelling interest in disqualifying Shaw from running against Michelle Juarez, who is also in Phi Mu; that Justice Hayed Kare has no interest in seriously harming the party that is running in opposition to three of her Alpha Xi Delta sisters running as FV0o senatorial candidates. I believe the term for this kind of thing is “kangaroo court.” As I have argued through the Beacon, the self-serving patronage of the Greek establishment is un-democratic, and when applied to the context of an institution which bears such a solemn duty like the Supreme Court, is a mockery of the rule of law—a cornerstone to democratic ideals by which we hope to govern. That Collazo in his clear duty to maintain a lawful, legitimate supreme court as Speaker of the Senate probably suggests that he is unfit to govern as SGA President. At best, if he is unwilling to stamp out moral and legal ambiguity in the court, it demonstrates corruption; at worst, if he was unable to see the problem, it demonstrates incompetence.

Playwright's production ban 'bold'

“Godspell,” announced that he has consulted with his licensing organizations and his team of producers to deny the right to any theatre or similar organization in North Carolina to produce any of his shows. Friday, April 1, the online theatre publication BroadwayWorld.com publicized an e-mail written by Schwartz, expressing his intolerance for discriminatory legislation:

“To my fellow theatre writers and producers ... I feel that it is very unwise to let any state that passes such a law suffer economic and cultural consequences, partly because it is deserved and partly to discourage other states from following suit.”

Schwartz added, “Therefore, I and my collaborators are acting to deny the right to any theatre or organization in North Carolina to produce any of our shows. We have informed our licensing organizations and touring producers of this view, and I’m happy to say have met with compliance and approval from them.”

Schwartz’s bold response to discriminatory legislation is not solely marshalling the Broadway world to fight back— his actions serve as an example to all individuals and organizations nationwide to incite constructive dialogue. Though the United States has grown and has made significant steps towards anti-discriminatory laws, the legislative decisions in North Carolina not only paradox this progress but also represent a degenerative regression to backward thinking. Though Schwartz made a bold choice by proposing to ban performances and productions in North Carolina, I contend that his efforts serve as a platform for positive and constructive change. I remain hopeful that Schwartz’s example, among the many other efforts put forth by organizations, corporations and the voices and ideas of American people continue to forge a progressive path toward the future.

On the Scene is a commentary on the hottest pop culture topics. For suggestions, contact Gabrielle at gabrielle.guarino@fiusm.com.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS
Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

DISCLAIMER
The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The FIUSM Editorial Board. These views are separate from editors and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

EDITORIAL POLICY
Editors are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
AESTHETICS & SETUP

On March 29 FIU Honor students and artist begin display setup for the upcoming Aesthetics and Values Exhibition at the Frost Art Museum.

Selected Analyzed Works

Nickolas Hernandez/The Beacon

New Com Truise EP does nothing new - it’s okay

C o m  T r u i s e ,  syn th wave au t h o r and pro p e lle r of the only legit imate  nostalgia we have left in the 2000’s an s n e w release, “Silicone Tare” is an EP worth talking about - only because of the convenience that Com Truise’s legacy in his field has held him.

As a whole, “Silicone Tare” makes me desire a new album four years after the lush but fairly empty “In Decay,” but listeners are treated to a sample of Com Truise’s new direction, which may be more optimistic, situational and even more “synth wave” than necessary from an artist who spills onto chill wave and generally well-crafted electronic music.

The issue with “Tare” is that it is incapable of knowing what opinion it has on its own source material - the 80s synth pop scene. The opening track ‘Sunspot,’ is not only the best track on the album, but the only one that makes any significant changes in its own song structure worth remembering. This is the song we call “the soundtrack to every 80s film,” a seminal almost cohesive answer to an introduction to the artist. The retro synths are bubby against a moody percussion, side chained to perfection.

On the other hand, the other songs on this album seem to miss this mark completely, opting for an experimentation in how far you can push a genre based on nostalgia for a genre which already exists. ‘Forgive’ should be a dancey track, influenced with some kind of ironic tinge from freestyle of the 90s, but doesn’t seem to deliver that inspiration for dance that is so well crafted on his first album “Galactic Melt” back in 2011. I don’t think synthwave’s main goal is to be interesting enough, but ultimately sounds like an out take off of Vennian Smear 2016 album, “Traditional Synthesizer Music,” without the breakcore harshness, but with a not so elegant mixing of percussion and synths. Often, extreme juxtaposition works well in electronic music, but it does nothing for the album here. The album’s titular track ‘du Zirconia’ acts as a kind of remix to “Silicon Tare,” without bringing anything new to the table except that Com Truise truly has moved into a world without interesting percussion samples and generic time signatures that take away from his not so generic synthwave sound.

While other synthwave musicians seem to rely on the kind of field work required of vaporwave musicians, Com Truise was elegant in his focus on putting himself in before the nostalgia. However, this EP is supported by the genre coming up and creeping up behind you, whispering in your ear to make it more like what they expect of you. And that, Com Truise delivered.

Selected Analyzed Works is a column that discusses selected works from the RPM genre. For suggestions or comments email life@fiusm.com
Honeyuck, a two piece band from Satellite Beach, FL, presented the world with “Very Tiny Songs,” August of last year. They’re entire sound for this album is based on light and airy vocals tied with bittersweet memories of school yard days.

The band describes themselves as, “two cute girls making cute tunes,” and their inspiration for this album was a whirlwind romance that was never really reciprocated.

Strawberries’ is a perfect example of what a poppy sound these girls have. It’s your typical love song with a hint of adolescent insecurity. The narrator never tells them what’s going on. If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.

Honeyuck is the perfect example of keeping songs short and sweet. If their songs were any longer, they’d give you diabetes because of how sweet they are. The greatest appeal of this album is that it reminds a listener of a heart racing summer love. It’s always going to end but after a while you reflect and smile. The band has been planning something big. “Wasted Eyes” is the end of the romance. Loneliness embodies the track about realizing when to walk away. “If you’re tired, I’m tired;” one of the more poignant lines in the song, describes the back and forth between narrator and crush; If the crush is tired of the situation then the narrator must be doubly so.
**PETE'S PICKS**

The NFL is only four weeks away, and teams are attending pro days, and are looking to bring in NFL prospects to their facilities and give them private workouts before making their official draft board.

As we still in the middle of the first round pick, the five teams from number 16-20 could be crucial to them since these were the teams that were on the hunt last season in making the playoffs, but failed to execute. This draft could make a huge difference for these five NFL teams selecting in the mid-first round.

**16. Detroit Lions (7-9)**

Corey Coleman Wide Receiver 5’11 185 LB University of Miami

The Lions took a huge blow during this off-season when their star wide receiver Calvin Johnson decided to retire after eight seasons with the struggling team. Coleman may not wow fan’s with his size, however, his 4.41 speed he ran at his pro day, 40.5 inch. vertical and 129 inch. broad jump at the NFL combine makes up for the former All-American.

Coleman could possibly be one of the best deep threat receiver in this year’s draft. He may be under size, but he plays big when he lines up outside. His incredible ball skills are at an elite NFL level and could make him the number one target for the Lions. With them being a pass happy team, Coleman would fit perfectly in their offensive scheme and could be rely upon for their starting quarterback Matthew Stafford.

17. Atlanta Falcons (8-8)

Leonard Floyd Defensive End/Outside Linebacker 6’4 220 University of Georgia

Pass-rushers is must for the Falcons due to the fact that they finished last season with only 19 sacks, which is ranked dead last in the NFL.

In comes pass rusher specialist Leonard Floyd from the Georgia Bulldogs. The reason I said pass rusher specialist is because he’s coming from a 3-4 scheme where he played outside linebacker. In his three seasons at UGA, he finished his career with 17 sacks and 182 total tackles. Floyd is a speedy pass rusher that can get off blocks and could get to the QB in less than six seconds.

The Falcons might have a hard time deciding where to put the Atlanta native. Is he a defensive end or an outside linebacker in a 4-3 defense? Due to his 220-pound frame, I say he’s a true outside linebacker.

Most likely, if he ends up with the Falcons, the coaches would probably put him in blitz packages and maybe line him up on the edge where he usually lines up back at UGA.

**NFL Mock Draft predicts potential defensive stars**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pete’s Picks: NFL Mock Draft</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tennessee Titans LinebackerLBQ 120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cleveland Browns Cornerback CB 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. San Diego Chargers Defensive End DE 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dallas Cowboys Safety S 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Jacksonville Jaguars Defensive End DE 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Baltimore Ravens Receiver WR 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Los Angeles Rams Quarterback QB 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Philadelphia Eagles Lineman DT 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Detroit Lions Receiver WR 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. New York Giants Linebacker LB 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Cincinnati Bengals LB 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. New Orleans Saints Safety S 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Miami Dolphins Defensive End DE 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Dallas Cowboys Defensive End DE 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Los Angeles Rams Linebacker LB 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Detroit Lions Receiver WR 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Atlanta Falcons Defensive End DE 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Jacksonville Jaguars Linebacker LB 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PETER HOLLAND JR.**

**Staff Writer**
peter.holland@fiusm.com

**SPORTS**

**Graduate competes in USIBA boxing tournament**

**PETER HOLLAND JR.**

**Staff Writer**
peter.holland@fiusm.com

The city of Miami is well known to produce young talented athletes from major sports. Yet boxing is not one of them. However, a young up-and-coming boxer from Chicago, Illinois name Julian “Juju” Martinez is looking to change all of that as he competes in the USIBA National Tournament in Los Angeles, California starting on April 7.

USIBA stands for the United States Intercollegiate Boxing Association. It was created in 2012 by current intercollegiate boxing coaches and student leaders that believed it provides ethical, safe and positive experience for their teams.

Their main goal was to reinvent boxing to colleges and Universities’ athletics.

Fresh out of graduation, Martinez has been training non stop for his preparation for this 3-day tournament. Since February, Martinez would start his day jogging around his neighborhood every morning just to get himself warmed up. He would then begin his training at a local boxing gym in North Miami with a few other FIU students, University of Miami students and Nova Southeastern University students. They all come together to compete and train with one another with different set of goals in mind. For Martinez, his main goal is to finish on top and be a national champion.

“My normal schedule will consist of running at around 5 a.m. just to get it out the way,” Martinez said. “If not, I would spend an average day running, weight lifting like pads and push-ups, you know old school Rocky traditional.”

Martinez is looking to change the number one target for the Georgia Bulldogs. The reason I said pass rusher specialist is because he’s coming from a 3-4 scheme where he played outside linebacker. In his three seasons at UGA, he finished his career with 17 sacks and 182 total tackles. Floyd is a speedy pass rusher that can get off blocks and could get to the QB in less than six seconds.

The Falcons might have a hard time deciding where to put the Atlanta native. Is he a defensive end or an outside linebacker in a 4-3 defense? Due to his 220-pound frame, I say he’s a true outside linebacker.

Most likely, if he ends up with the Falcons, the coaches would probably put him in blitz packages and maybe line him up on the edge where he usually lines up back at UGA.
Ending playoff drought is No. 1 goal for Marlins

CLARK SPENCER
Miami Herald
TNS Staff

If so much as one menacing cloud strays anywhere near Marlins Park on Tuesday, orders will be given to close the retractable roof and avoid a repeat of last year’s Opening Day blunder when raindrops sent fans scurrying and caused a delay.

This time, unlike last year, Marlins president David Samson said he won’t be relying on his smartphone’s weather app to make that decision.

“We’ve had seasons where there’s been a lot of preseason talk, and it hasn’t led to during-season results, so I think it’s better to not have preseason talk,” Samson said.

Most baseball media preseason talk, and it hasn’t led to during-season results, so I think it’s better to not have preseason talk.

Let me be clear,” Samson said. “I have emptied all apps off my phone. Instead, we’re putting live people on the roof with binoculars looking for thunder clouds. If anyone sees clouds in any direction, the roof will be closed.”

The Marlins might have licked their rain problem at the ballpark.

But they’re still looking to end their long drought on the playing field.

When the Marlins embark on their 24th season with Tuesday’s opener against the Detroit Tigers with offseason acquisition Wei-Yin Chen facing Justin Verlander, they’re still looking to end a streak of losing seasons in the majors.

And if they can manage to experience the playoffs for the first time since Josh Beckett tagged Jorge Posada for the final out of the World Series, they will end the second-longest postseason dry spell in the majors.

Only the Seattle Mariners, by two years, have gone longer.

Samson doesn’t need to look at past standings to (2015) you name it.

But the Marlins have valid reasons that this season could be different.

They have a new manager in Don Mattingly and hitting coach in Barry Bonds, marquee stars in their playing days.

Their own two stars Giancarlo Stanton and Jose Fernandez are healthy.

There are at least a half-dozen dreadful teams in the National League, including two in their own division, Philadelphia and Atlanta, where they can feast and pile up wins.

They have 64 games against six rebuilding NL teams that are already being written off.

“Like our chances,” said Fernandez, the Marlins’ 23-year-old pitching ace, “Those are the chances with the season but I’m beginning the season with the Marlins for the first time since 2014, shortly before an arm knocked him off the mound for 13 months. “We have the talent. If we put it together, we can do some amazing things.”

Most baseball media experts are dismissing the Marlins this season, ranking them a distant third behind the New York Mets and Washington Nationals in a NL East division they have never won. At best, they’re optimistic about the Marlins’ chances not until they prove otherwise.

“If we want people to come, want people to be in the seats, win games,” Gordon said. “It’s pretty simple. We can’t expect people to come when you’re not good. Who would spend money on us? I’m not going to watch a terrible football or basketball team. We have to prove it by winning.”

Gordon said his Marlins teammates who have been with the team longer are “sick and tired of not winning.”

Yet he is hopeful the losing is about to stop.

“There’s no reason for me to show up if I don’t have confidence,” Gordon said. “If you don’t have confidence, why are you here?”

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria is quietly confident, and he’s fine that few are picking the Marlins to end their long playoff drought.

“I’m thrilled to death no one’s picking us for anything,” Loria said with a smile while watching the Marlins take batting practice during Monday’s workout. “I don’t like predictions. It’s like a curse.”

They could start with a defensive end now that former starter Mario Williams signed with the Miami Dolphins.

Shaq Lawson is a beast at defensive end, and a quarterback’s worst nightmare.

Hanging Lawson in a Bills uniform sounds like a Rex Ryan move knowing that he is a defensive minded head coach.

If Lawson is available, look for the Bills to be on top of drafting the two-time All-American.

20. New York Jets (10-6) Sheldon Rankins Defensive Lineman 6’2 287 University of Louisville

Speaking of defensive minded head coaches, the Jets’ Head Coach Todd Bowles might be looking to beef up his defensive line once again.

With the team that was one game shy of clinching a playoff spot last season, the Jets could be one or two draft picks away of being a playoff contender again.

Adding Rankins from Louisville could be another steal in this year’s draft.

Not only that he fits their 3-4 scheme as a 3-technique defensive end, he is capable of lining up on the edge.

Getting his first shot in the seats, win games,” Gordon said. “It’s pretty simple. We can’t expect people to come when you’re not good. Who would spend money on us? I’m not going to watch a terrible football or basketball team. We have to prove it by winning.”

Gordon said his Marlins teammates who have been with the team longer are “sick and tired of not winning.”

Yet he is hopeful the losing is about to stop.

“There’s no reason for me to show up if I don’t have confidence,” Gordon said. “If you don’t have confidence, why are you here?”

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria is quietly confident, and he’s fine that few are picking the Marlins to end their long playoff drought.

“I’m thrilled to death no one’s picking us for anything,” Loria said with a smile while watching the Marlins take batting practice during Monday’s workout. “I don’t like predictions. It’s like a curse.”

They could start with a defensive end now that former starter Mario Williams signed with the Miami Dolphins.

Shaq Lawson is a beast at defensive end, and a quarterback’s worst nightmare.

Hanging Lawson in a Bills uniform sounds like a Rex Ryan move knowing that he is a defensive minded head coach.

If Lawson is available, look for the Bills to be on top of drafting the two-time All-American.

20. New York Jets (10-6) Sheldon Rankins Defensive Lineman 6’2 287 University of Louisville

Speaking of defensive minded head coaches, the Jets’ Head Coach Todd Bowles might be looking to beef up his defensive line once again.

With the team that was one game shy of clinching a playoff spot last season, the Jets could be one or two draft picks away of being a playoff contender again.

Adding Rankins from Louisville could be another steal in this year’s draft.

Not only that he fits their 3-4 scheme as a 3-technique defensive end, he is capable of lining up on the edge.

Getting his first shot in the seats, win games,” Gordon said. “It’s pretty simple. We can’t expect people to come when you’re not good. Who would spend money on us? I’m not going to watch a terrible football or basketball team. We have to prove it by winning.”

Gordon said his Marlins teammates who have been with the team longer are “sick and tired of not winning.”

Yet he is hopeful the losing is about to stop.

“There’s no reason for me to show up if I don’t have confidence,” Gordon said. “If you don’t have confidence, why are you here?”

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria is quietly confident, and he’s fine that few are picking the Marlins to end their long playoff drought.

“I’m thrilled to death no one’s picking us for anything,” Loria said with a smile while watching the Marlins take batting practice during Monday’s workout. “I don’t like predictions. It’s like a curse.”

They could start with a defensive end now that former starter Mario Williams signed with the Miami Dolphins.

Shaq Lawson is a beast at defensive end, and a quarterback’s worst nightmare.

Hanging Lawson in a Bills uniform sounds like a Rex Ryan move knowing that he is a defensive minded head coach.

If Lawson is available, look for the Bills to be on top of drafting the two-time All-American.

20. New York Jets (10-6) Sheldon Rankins Defensive Lineman 6’2 287 University of Louisville

Speaking of defensive minded head coaches, the Jets’ Head Coach Todd Bowles might be looking to beef up his defensive line once again.

With the team that was one game shy of clinching a playoff spot last season, the Jets could be one or two draft picks away of being a playoff contender again.

Adding Rankins from Louisville could be another steal in this year’s draft. Not only that he fits their 3-4 scheme as a 3-technique defensive end, he is capable of lining up on the edge.

Getting his first shot in the seats, win games,” Gordon said. “It’s pretty simple. We can’t expect people to come when you’re not good. Who would spend money on us? I’m not going to watch a terrible football or basketball team. We have to prove it by winning.”

Gordon said his Marlins teammates who have been with the team longer are “sick and tired of not winning.”

Yet he is hopeful the losing is about to stop.

“There’s no reason for me to show up if I don’t have confidence,” Gordon said. “If you don’t have confidence, why are you here?”

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria is quietly confident, and he’s fine that few are picking the Marlins to end their long playoff drought.

“I’m thrilled to death no one’s picking us for anything,” Loria said with a smile while watching the Marlins take batting practice during Monday’s workout. “I don’t like predictions. It’s like a curse.”

They could start with a defensive end now that former starter Mario Williams signed with the Miami Dolphins.

Shaq Lawson is a beast at defensive end, and a quarterback’s worst nightmare.

Hanging Lawson in a Bills uniform sounds like a Rex Ryan move knowing that he is a defensive minded head coach.

If Lawson is available, look for the Bills to be on top of drafting the two-time All-American.

20. New York Jets (10-6) Sheldon Rankins Defensive Lineman 6’2 287 University of Louisville
Stand-up comedian dies of heart attack, changed the face of television

STEVE JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune
TSN Staff

It is not too much of a stretch to say that Garry Shandling invented modern television.

“The Larry Sanders Show” was his masterpiece — indeed, one of TV’s masterpieces — a blistering comic takedown of Hollywood culture through the vehicle of Shandling’s title character, a preening, insecure late-night TV host. It didn’t have a laugh track. It didn’t have the moments that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity.

“Perfectly seasoned, unassailably adult, brooding, base and piercingly funny, it is as good as everybody says it is, perhaps even better,” I wrote of “Sanders” in 1998, as its final season began. “It doesn’t elicit laughs, it wrenches them from you in the harsh recognition of human nature.”

Shandling, who died March 24 of a reported heart attack at age 66, began “Sanders” back in the dark ages of TV, a landscape of dark comedy, searing self-examination and serial storytelling that took viewers on a bumpy ride with characters — primarily (Shandling’s) cunningly neurotic talk-show host, his sidekick, and his consiglieri of a producer and his colleagues — that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity.

“Not ‘Larry Sanders.’ It didn’t have a laugh track. It didn’t have the moments that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity.”

But Shandling, who died March 24 of a reported heart attack at age 66, began “Sanders” back in the dark ages of TV, a time when things meant to be funny were punctuated by laugh tracks and always ended neatly, with a summary of lessons learned.

The writer Alan Ball, of “Six Feet Under” and “True Blood,” but before that of mediocre network sitcoms, told me once that he and fellow sitcom writers described this last-act convention as the “Moment of S—-.”

Yes, groundbreaking dramas had been on network TV before “Sanders” began in 1992. “Hill Street Blues” and “St. Elsewhere,” in particular, started to delve into more sophisticated stories and more nuanced lead characters in the latter half of the 1980s.

But even the best TV comedies, from “MASH” to “Mary Tyler Moore,” still pretty much followed the formula. Not “Larry Sanders.” It didn’t have a laugh track. It didn’t have the moments that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity.

“The Larry Sanders Show” was his masterpiece — indeed, one of TV’s masterpieces — a blistering comic takedown of Hollywood culture through the vehicle of Shandling’s title character, a preening, insecure late-night TV host. It didn’t have a laugh track. It didn’t have the moments that Ball and his ilk could capture only with an obscenity.

As important to its place in television history as its content was its locale. “Larry Sanders” aired on HBO, before a lot of people really knew what HBO was, and it helped make the pay-cable channel a destination for demanding audiences and for would-be TV auteurs, people who wanted to do more with the medium than just churn out 26 not-half-bad network episodes a year.

“It shows that allowing an artist the creative freedom to do what they want can create good work,” Shandling said, when I asked him for the 1998 piece what the legacy of his series would be.

He was being matter of fact, even a little modest, but what an impact that demonstration has had. Pay-cable executives learned the lesson and went on to green-light shows like “The Sopranos” and “The Wire” and to stick with them when they didn’t immediately find an audience. Basic cable channels got wise, too (“Breaking Bad,” to cite just one instance), and now an online store, Amazon, and a former DVD mailer, Netflix, are placing their bets on creator-driven television.

But don’t take my word for “Sanders’” influence. Listen to what David Chase, creator of “The Sopranos,” told New York Times writer Julie Salomon in 2002: Noting that “Larry Sanders” was the last series he watched regularly, Chase said, “That show inspired me to want to do something really good for television.”

Without Shandling’s Larry Sanders, it’s reasonable to ask whether we would have the comedian Bob Odenkirk being so brilliant today in “Better Call Saul,” and whether we would have “Better Call Saul” at all. Odenkirk, not incidentally, was part of the great “Sanders” cast that also included Jeffrey Tambor, Rip Torn and Janeane Garofalo.

It’s telling, and a testament to Shandling’s achievement, that the great majority of series people count as examples of TV’s new golden age are dramas, demonstrating again the theatrical maxim about dying being easy.

“Larry Sanders” showed what television could be before there was even a path, and, more impressively, it blazed that trail through the hard thickets of comedy.