Florida Senator Marco Rubio seeks to end special refugee status for Cuban immigrants

JAMES ROSEN McClatchy Washington Bureau
This Staff

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who based his presidential bid this year in part on his personal story as the son of poor Cuban immigrants, on Wednesday urged Congress to end a decades-old program that’s enabled immigrants from the island to get welfare benefits from the moment they set foot on American soil.

In an impassioned speech on the Senate floor, Rubio, who ended his White House bid last month after badly losing Florida’s GOP primary, said Cuban immigrants no longer deserved special treatment.

“Many of you know, I am the son of Cuban immigrants,” the Miamian told his colleagues. “I live in a community where Cuban exiles have had an indelible imprint in our country, on the state of Florida and in South Florida in particular. And yet I stand here today to say that this provision of law, this distinction, is no longer justified.”

Rubio’s proposal would end automatic refugee status for Cubans and place them in the same category as other immigrants. He offered it as an amendment to a bill authorizing funding for the Federal Aviation Administration, which is before the Senate this week.

Rep. Carlos Curbelo, a Florida Republican and fellow Cuban-American, is sponsoring a similar measure in the House of Representatives.

“As the Senate works through their amendment process, I will continue to build bipartisan support amongst House colleagues for this critical legislation and explore all paths forward in getting the bill signed into law,” Curbelo told McClatchy on Wednesday.

Haitians are the only other immigrant group that gets automatic refugee status upon entering the United States. Rubio’s legislation would not affect their status.

Thanks to a major welfare overhaul two decades ago by President Bill Clinton working with congressional Republicans, other immigrants are ineligible for welfare benefits for their first five years in the United States.

Some immigrants can get aid earlier, but they must prove that they are political refugees who were persecuted in their homeland; Cubans don’t have to prove that. But they must prove that they are political refugees who were persecuted in their homeland; Cubans don’t have to prove that.

Support for the provision has faded as tales of abuses of the benefits have been revealed, even as some Cuban-Americans have asserted that the Cuban government has cracked down on dissidents since President Barack Obama re-established diplomatic relations with Havana last year.

Obama made a historic visit to Cuba last month.

Rubio told a gripping tale of alleged abuse of the privileged status, noting that many Cubans who are granted the status arrive in the United States via Central America, working their way north through Mexico before crossing into the United States.

“A significant number of people are drawn to this country from Cuba because they know when they arrive they can step foot on dry land, they will immediately receive status and they immediately qualify for a package of federal benefits that no other immigrant group would qualify for unless they can prove they’re refugees,” Rubio said.

“This current policy is not just being abused, it’s hurting the American taxpayers,” said Rubio, who is not seeking re-election to the Senate. “There are reports that indicate that financial
**NATION & WORLD BRIEFS**

Congressman attempts to close gun show loophole

As lawmakers are filtering into the House chamber to get ready for legislative business, some will turn to California Democrat Scott Peters and ask, “What are you doing?” Once a week, Peters delivers a one-minute speech to read names he does not want forgotten: the victims of gun violence. “We thought the one way to remind people about the human cost of inaction was to start reading these names,” he said. So far, there have been 278 names, over 13 readings, “It’s not the typical, ‘I rise today to talk about this or that’ or you know, school championships or Olympics. It’s just reading names,” he said. The names began with Sandy Hook Elementary School’s massacre victims and as he proceeds, they are read from every shooting since.

California plans to unleash fly to crush ivy invasion

Coastal Californians battling pervasive Cape ivy have been waiting years for a helpful fly with a regal name. Now, Agriculture Department officials are finally getting ready to pull the trigger, turning the fly loose on the vine that has infested shady parts of the Pacific Coast. The fly deposits its eggs on the Cape ivy, causing a huge boil-like growth known as a gall to form on the plant’s stem and stunt its growth. For San Luis Obispo County resident David Chipping, it’s about time. “Invasion of both upland and riparian habitat by Cape ivy long ago reached crisis proportions in our county,” Chipping told the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Germany lets let's prosecutor consider charge for poem about Turkey's Erdogan

Late-night comedy sketches featuring a German song and a follow-up poem making fun of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have created a diplomatic rift, and left German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the midst of negotiations to stanch the flow of refugees from Syria and elsewhere. It began March 17 with a late-night sketch that featured a song with the refrain of “Erdowie, Erdowo, Erdogan.”

The song, played in front of a background of news footage, notes among other things, “He hates the Kurds like the plague, and bombes them rather than the brothers of the Islamic State.”

**SPECIAL REPORT**

## SGA hosts final elections debate

**DEBATE, PAGE 1**

provides for all of our students.”

"Unfortunately, there is a budget, and you cannot fund everything that our students cannot afford students to students," said Collazo. "There are certain things that are essential to our students that we cannot cut.”

Sirven responded by saying “I’ve dealt with A&S fees for the past two years, at the Resident Hall Association. I know that A&S keeps reiterating that we cannot be cutting important services, but that’s not what Access FIIU intends to do.”

“Whatever we intend to do is prioritize,” said Sirven. “We want to work with our students, and sit down and say ‘hey student, how do we improve you FIIU experience?’ So by using the limited budget that we have, we are meant to tailor it best to all of the students, and include them in their own governance.”

Juarez also said that “the fixed budget rate that [Collazo] says about every three years is called base budgeting. We don’t change that.”

“Once base budgeting is taken at $19 million, you are left with $4 million for both campuses. When you come down to campuses specific, you are left with $2 million,” she said. “You think $2 million is great, it’s perfect, no it’s not. Out of that comes SPC, homecoming, all these other organizations that need funding like CSO, more than 200 organization that are relying on them for that money. So when you say $650,000, you are literally saying that you have to zero fund SPC, or homecoming, and that is something university wide.”

Shaw commented “what I understand is that FIIU has the highest population of homeless students than any other institution in the state of Florida. So when we are talking about making the bus free, you’re not talking about benefiting the student that does not want to spend $5 on the bus trip. You are talking about benefiting the student who can’t afford it.”

“A free BBC to MMC bus, yes is very expensive,” said Shaw. “When you think about the 1,300 students that ride that bus a day compared to the attendance at an Uproar concert, it is much more far reaching and provides a better service than a one concert a year... I am really encouraging for you all to really evaluate your priorities, and what are the priorities of FIIU students.”

Even though the parties may have their differences, they both acknowledged that FIIU student’s voices need to be heard within student government. The few individuals that are running for SGC-MMC have provided their platforms.

**REFUGEE, PAGE 1**

support for Cuban immigrants exceeds $600 million in the year 2014 alone, and those numbers, by the way, have quite frankly gone up since then.”

Among the 43,000 Cubans who entered the United States last year, about 10,000 came directly to Miami, with most of the rest crossing the Mexican border, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data assembled by the Pew Research Center in Washington.

Rubio described a still-worse form of abuse. With travel restrictions loosened between the two countries, some Cubans with no intention of leaving their homeland permanently, he said, are coming to South Florida dozens of times a year, filing for benefits in different locations and then having relatives wire them the money back in Cuba.

“IT IS DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY REFUGEE benefits for people who are arriving in the United States and are immediately traveling repeatedly back to the nation they claim to be fleeing,” Rubio said.

Under the measures by Rubio and Curbelo, Cuban immigrants would be able to obtain welfare benefits without waiting five years, but like other new arrivals they would have to provide evidence that they were personally persecuted in their homelands to get the aid.

Rubio addresses Cuban immigrants’ refugee status
"All-nighter" culture is counterintuitive

As final exams week looms nearer, sleep-deprived students are dozing off in library cubicles, napping on the benches or grass outside and even catching a few’s in their cars. Leading up to final exams, Panthers will be pulling night after night of studying into the early hours of the morning, living off endless coffee, energy drinks and power naps.

All-nighters are nothing short of ordinary, but the college experience is fueling a bottomless culture of sleeplessness where it’s normal and sometimes even celebrated to forego sleep.

As reported in a study by the University of Alabama, approximately 80 percent of students receive insufficient sleep and worse, 30 percent of college students confess that sleep difficulties have been “troublesome” or “very difficult to handle,” shows the American College Health Association.

There is a mantra that exists between sleep, grades and maintaining a social life, but many college students feel compelled to cut one out. It’s not necessarily a matter of being inefficient or procrastinating the day away, but some students really do have a lot on their plates. If sleep is not making up for that, things means doing less, then it’s only that natural that sleep feels like the most desirable of the three.

Most students would never cut out drinking, eating, or other necessities to their daily routine, so why is sacrificing sleep acceptable?

While pop culture likes to claim otherwise, there is more to college life than going out to parties, Netflix and Chill and cramming school work. However, college students will remain unwilling to change their habits to better suit their health and happiness as long as the cultural norms that maintain this pressure continues.

A 2014 report by the American Psychological Association found that millennials, ages 18 to 33, were the most stressed generation, with more than 52 percent lying awake at night due to stress.

Founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Huffington Post, Arianna Huffington, is currently doing a book tour to promote her new book, “The Sleep Revolution.” Huffington is traveling to over 50 college campuses across America to help students create better sleep habits and improve many aspects of their lives.

The goal of The Sleep Revolution College Tour is to start a cultural conversation around the importance and power of sleep and its benefits.

Huffington hopes to change cultural norms.

“It started with the industrial revolution, when we began to think humans are social creatures and treat them like machines. The goal of a machine is to minimise downtime, but human beings are not machines,” Huffington said during an interview with The Beacon.

For students need eight hours of sleep is evolutionary - it’s not negotiable. If we ignore that need, we pay a huge price in every aspect of our health and cognitive performance.”

Research shows that the “all-nighter” culture is counterintuitive. By exploiting health for grades, college students have inhibited their capability to develop memory, attentiveness, physical coordination, stress management and emotional stability. College students are ambitious, drunk on achievement and strive for near perfection. That’s great and all, but blunting the lines of day and night causes us to relinquish our health, something that shouldn’t be considered a badge of honor.

Granted, students are all wired differently. Some may enjoy staying up late and being involved on campus, but everyone needs to recognize when they need a break. It can be difficult to get a full night’s rest in college but it’s not impossible. By making sleep a priority, Panther will feel happier and healthier and enjoy a fuller and richer college life.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health in nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU Student Media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee.kramer@fiusm.com.
The onstage cameos began organically as a product of Coachella's always-stacked lineup, its 2016 edition on Sunday at Indio's Empire Polo Club. Specifically, Lawrence was referring to the rock-group reunion, the pop-star drop-ins at the cost of music, and the one with the most mileage: the music itself. And this was a lineup with strong Social media have only increased that sense. Now, topping up on someone else's stage for three minutes means scoring countless posts on Instagram and Twitter that will live forever (or at least until Justin Bieber crashes some kid's bar mitzvah).

Yet the obsession with Coachella's digital afterburn is beginning to come at the expense of the music itself. And this was a lineup with strong Social media have only increased that sense. Now, topping up on someone else's stage for three minutes means scoring countless posts on Instagram and Twitter that will live forever (or at least until Justin Bieber crashes some kid's bar mitzvah).

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Yet the obsessi
Kimmy Schmidt’ premieres on Netflix

VERNE GAY

NOWADAY
TNS Staff

THE SHOW: “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt,” on Netflix
WHAT IT’S ABOUT: Kimmy (Ellie Kemper), who last season found her way into the wilds of New York after spending 15 years in a doomsday cult’s bunker, manages to find a new job, or jobs, and is still struggling over her feelings for Dong Nguyen (Kit Hong Leung). Roommate Titus Andromedon (Titus Burgess) is about to find romance, too.

A punchy “Jungle Book,” Favreau said.
and update it for our moment in
history,” Favreau said.
by Mark Ronson over the closing
sequence.
voice for a mysterious character
Man 2” and “Chef”) as the snake

to incorporate the word
musical legacy, had to find a
way to incorporate the word
“gigantopithecus.

Like You,” which has Walken
and Sethi, and “I Wan’na Be
expected to feature a full reunion of N.W.A, the
acts to get in on the surprise action, whether
the 2016 “Jungle Book” and

Like the first
A punchy
“Unbreakable
5
JUNGLE,

‘Kimmy Schmidt’ premieres on Netflix

JUNGLE, PAGE 4

John Debney, as more than 100
musicians playing instruments like
Indian tablas and windwinds
boost long, dialogue-free action
sequences.

Early on, Favreau made the
decision to retain some of the
key songs from the ‘67 film,
including “Bear Necessities,”
which is sung by Murray
and Serhi, and “I Won’na Be
Like You,” which has Walken
delivering new lyrics written
by Richard Sherman. Sherman,
now 87, who wrote the original
with his brother, Robert, as part
of their distinguished Disney
musical legacy, had to find a
way to incorporate the word
“gigantopithecus,” among other
changes.

“We’re sitting there in Jon’s
office, and he’s talking to
Dick about this creature, King
Louie,” said Debney, who had met
the Sherman brothers during
his first job out of college, in
the Disney musical department.
“Dick was writing the word
down, and we saw the wheels
turning. He immediately started
coming up with a lyric in the
meeting. I looked at Jon and
said, ‘Wow, this is cool.’ ”

Without spoiling the movie’s
third act, it’s worth noting one
major difference between the 2016
“Jungle Book” and its predecessors, which treated returning to human civilization as Mowgli’s inexorable destiny.

“This movie makes a choice
that identity is not necessarily
something you are born into,”
Marks said. “We see that as
an evolved version from where
Kipling started all the way to
today.”
Panthers conclude rollercoaster regular season with four out of five match win

If there was a perfect way to describe how the beach volleyball team’s season has gone so far that would be a rollercoaster ride.

Granted anything the Panthers did this year would have been tough to match the AVCA semi-finalist squad from a year ago, but the ups and downs have been far too common. Are the Panthers riding the rollercoaster up at the right time?

After losing six seniors from last year’s team, my expectations for this season were not extremely high. However, by maintaining a strong coaching staff, I knew the Panthers could make some surprises here and there.

The Panthers had one late push to keep the Islanders take the first game one as he made 42 saves to help the Islanders take the first game of the series.

The Panthers for the third time in a row. The Islanders ended up scoring another goal four minutes later to give them a two-goal lead late in the third period.

The Panthers knew this was an important game of the series as their goaltender Roberto Luongo had a fantastic game. He had 41 saves and helped the Panthers win 3-1 which tied the series at one.

Teddy Purcell notched the first goal of the playoffs for the Panthers.

The score remained the same until Tavares scored his second goal of the series with three minutes left in the third period.

The Panthers once again got an early lead in game two as Smith scored a goal and had two assists in the win. Panthers’ defense and goaltending stepped up in game two as they tie the series.

The Islanders and the Panthers kept trading goals until the third period when Kyle Okposo scored to make it 4-3, which gave the Islanders their first lead of the game as Davis and Giron took the lead down to one goal with 13 minutes left in the third period.

The Islanders at the end to solidify the Panthers win.

The series then headed to Brooklyn for game three and four. The Panthers lost the third game to the Islanders.

The Panthers for the third time in a row. The Islanders ended up scoring another goal four minutes later to give them a two-goal lead late in the third period.

The Panthers had one late push in them when Reilly Smith cut the lead down to one goal with 13 minutes left in the third period. The Panthers peppered the Islanders goaltender Thomas Greiss with 46 shots in the whole game.

Greiss was the main factor of game one as he made 42 saves to help the Islanders take the first
Hornet defeat in game one

JASON LIESER
The Palm Beach Post
TNS Staff

The turning point of the game came after having many opportunities in the 10th-inning rally against Edwin Jackson and Jace Peterson followed with a second run of the inning. Drew Stubbs walked with two out to start the 10th-inning rally against Edwin Jackson and Jace Peterson followed with a single before Smith's first-pitch hit up the middle drove in the winning run.

The Islanders would not give up. Each time the Panthers had a two-goal lead they would fight their way back into the hockey game. The game ended up going overtime — the first in the series.

The two goaltenders fought to keep the game alive until the Islanders Thomas Greiss made a save in the 10th inning, driving in the winning run.

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A string of kayaking events brings student life to BBC, shows resources

GARRETT EPPERSON
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The Outdoor Adventure X Programs and Biscayne Bay Recreation put on a few events every month, the most recent being Kayak After Dark at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 14.

This event allowed people to rent kayaks from the University and take them out as a group around the bay.

The program and campus provide everything in order to participate including, paddles, kayaks, life vests and a safe area for belongings.

These events are beginner-friendly. The groups are always together and kayaks are tandem, so no one is lost.

All the kayaks come equipped with neon lights to light up the path and prevent straggling behind during nighttime trips.

The kayaking route goes through the mangrove trails of Oleta State Park and around the open waters of the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Lifeguards are on duty during the event.

everybody had a great time,” said Michael Vasconez, graduate student and lifeguard for the Kayak After Dark event.

The reason the BBC rec puts this event is not only to show the students and community members a good time, it’s also to show our support for them and that they have other resources that they can use here in the school.

Iris Ramos
Program Representative
Campus Recreation BBC

The majority of the time everyone comes out just because it’s such fun, out of the norm, you don’t have to worry about studying or tests,” Ramos said.

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“IT TAKES TWO
TO SAY YES.
be clear on consent.