It was perhaps the shortest-lived protest in South Florida history, starting and ending before the cops could arrive.

But hundreds of Miami Dade College students hoped their show of solidarity Wednesday outside the offices of two Miami-Dade lawmakers would be enough to breathe life into a proposed $1 billion boost for their school.

About 300 students wearing fresh MDC T-shirts and waving hand-made posters suddenly appeared on chartered double-decker buses just before rush hour at the Doral office of state Rep. Carlos Trujillo, an opponent of proposed half-penny sales tax legislation to benefit Miami Dade College.

They poured into the cramped parking lot off Northwest 25th Street and 107th Avenue, blocking the cars of cosmetic surgery patients for about 10 minutes before filing back into their buses when a representative of the BB&T building called police.

The students hoped their rally would boost the chances of the proposed bill (HB 113), which would allow Miami-Dade County voters to decide on a sales tax increase to fund improvements to the college's facilities. Leaders of the college of 175,000 students say the money is badly needed for unfunded campus repairs.

"We're coming to all of [the lawmakers] who don't support the bill," said Deandra Cooper, a 26-year-old criminaljustice major. "Some classrooms have mold. Some classrooms just aren't in good condition."

The rally did not appear to sway Trujillo, but it may have thrown more gasoline onto the fire ignited by MDC President Eduardo Padron when he blasted Trujillo and several other Republicans last week, saying they were sabotaging the legislation.

Padron has since apologized for a personal shot included in his criticism. But some members of the Miami-Dade legislative delegation said what chances the bill had of passing were damaged by his comments to the Miami Herald editorial board.

Reached Wednesday evening, Trujillo said he supported the college's funding proposal when it surfaced years ago, but cooled on it because of what he said was a lack of information about how the money would be spent. He said the college's audited financial statements show the school is crying poor while sitting on $500 million "cash on hand" and making annual profits of more than $80 million.

"What I discovered is appalling," he said. "These children should be outraged that the school is holding up $500 million."

Not so, said Miami Dade College chief financial officer E.H. Levering. "Those numbers are all news to me."

Levering said he would be happy to walk Trujillo or anyone else "through the realities" of the cash-strapped, nonprofit college's budget and the specifics of the proposed spending.

As for Wednesday's protest, a spokesman said the college supports its students' right to express themselves.

Katherine Fardin, government relations director of the North Campus student government association, said Wednesday's trip to the offices of Trujillo and Rep. Jose Oliva — who apparently, like Trujillo, was not there — was organized by the Student Life Department. Student activity funds paid for the five chartered buses, she said.

"We just want them to know that we want our right to vote [in a referendum]," Fardin said.
MIAMI HIGH MUST IMPROVE

Re the April 11 article, Miami High restored as resplendent castle of learning: I find it outrageous that $55 million was spent on remodeling Miami High, making it look like a castle in Spain, yet the school has a dismal academic performance. State figures show that only 39 percent of Miami High students read at grade level. Math and science is not much better.

Perhaps they should have spent some of the remodeling cash to help students succeed academically.

— Riva Galant, Miami

DRIVING ETIQUETTE

I've long felt that teaching "defensive driving," however well intended, was a poor choice of words. Much better that we teach "cooperative driving," which seems in line with what Tom Swick suggests.

— Bill Cushman, Miami

EROSION OF RIGHTS

The only important piece of information left out of the April 15 article, Lawmakers should learn from Padrón, was the name of each of the ignorant, incompetent state legislators who have failed to support the bill permitting Miami-Dade residents to vote on a half-penny tax increase to fund Miami-Dade College and FIU.

In the same edition there appears an article, House passes bills to limit abortions, protect fetuses — indeed a compelling contrast! The Republican-dominated House continues down a path which — through its irrational actions — erodes personal rights and protections, while concurrently ignoring the pressing financial needs of our local public institutions of higher education.

Couple these realities with the action of Republican Representative Erik Fresen in seeking to extend the grace period for Miami-Dade Medical College to overcome the state-mandated probation on which its disastrous nursing program has been placed, and one gets the picture that politics in the Florida House is clearly not about the best interests of our community.

Rather, it is about young, inexperienced, un informed, and terribly, self-serving Republican legislators.

They see their personal careers and bank account balances as more important than community quality-of-life issues, ethics and accountability.

— Ted Baker, Miami

REVOKE BOND

Once again special treatment is accorded to those who are supposed to "Serve and Protect."

The April 15 article, Veteran cop granted bond in U.S. drug-running case, reports that Lt. Ralph Mata is accused of running dope, smuggling arms and plotting to murder two drug dealers.

This "outstanding" police officer was afforded bond for his actions that never would have been offered to a non-law enforcement citizen.

The justification was given primarily because he had 22 years on the police force.

He should have been held to a higher level because he had so much experience as a cop and knew better.

Disgraceful.

— Ronald Paynter, Hollywood

PREPARE FOR HURRICANES

Re the April 16 story, Chastened forecasters look deeper: Although the forecast for the 2014 hurricane season calls for a below normal one due to the influence of a strong El Niño, I hope my fellow storm-tested Floridians don't forget to do their planning and shopping before the season starts. It only takes one to make landfall to make it a bad season.

— Jorge Menocal Jr., Miami

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

Re the April 12 article, For Miami-Dade County, a dispute over potty breaks for voters:

Only here would the availability of toilets for voters waiting in line would be an issue. Of course bathrooms should be available.

The fact it made the paper makes one shake their head.

On the same day the Herald ran an article on the possibility of cuts to the staff and hours of libraries at the same time people are talking about building a soccer stadium. The priorities in this town are a little off.

— John Henslee, Coral Gables
Florida is considering giving in-state tuition to non-citizens. WPTV

A controversial plan that's failed for a decade in the Florida Legislature, this year has its best chance of succeeding.

It would allow for the children of undocumented migrants to pay in-state tuition. Right now, they have to pay out-of-state tuition at a much higher cost even though they live in the state.

You have to travel all the way to Miami Dade College to find one of two schools that currently offers in-state tuition to undocumented students.

"These are students who we have already invested a tremendous amount of public money getting them through high school, and the next step is to have them get a college education," said Rene Garcia, the school's enrollment director.

The college took the step ahead of a proposed state law that would allow in-state fees for students despite their immigration status.

The Florida Legislature continues to move the issue forward.

It faces a few final votes before landing on the governor's desk. It's never made it this far before.

Opponents call the change of political heart an election year gimmick.

"This is very clearly a demographic pandering to a minority," said David Caulkett with Floridians for Immigration Enforcement.

Wednesday at 11, meet a young man who makes the long commute to Miami just for the chance to go to college.

He explains why this bill can mean the difference in higher education for him and others like him.

Copyright 2014 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.
Undocumented student goes to great lengths to pursue college education

Hopes state passes in-state tuition plan

BY: Michael Williams, Juan Diasgranados (mailto:juan.diasgranados@wptv.com)
POSTED: Apr 16, 2014
UPDATED: 4 hours ago

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. - For Brayan Vazquez, the day starts early. His dad drops him off at the Boynton Beach Tri-Rail station just after 7 a.m. so he can make the long commute to go to school in Miami.

Vazquez wants to become a scientist. And the 19-year-old figures his twice a week, 110-mile round trip on Tri-rail has him on the right track.

There is plenty of time on his long commute to watch the world go by and reflect on the journey that brought him here from his native Mexico.

"I came here when I was 11 years old, My parents brought me here in search of a better life," said Vazquez.

Vazquez has been searching and striving ever since. He graduated from Olympic Heights High School in Boca Raton last year.

"I graduated with honors," said Vazquez.

The Tri-Rail trip followed by a bus ride now opens a door onto a new world that might otherwise be shut. His destination is Miami-Dade College. It is one of only two schools in South Florida—Florida International is the other -- that allow an undocumented student, like Vazquez, to pay in-state tuition.

"I want to learn, you know. I want to teach," said Vazquez.

Vazquez won his tuition waiver under a program called-Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Bottom line--four classes that cost him just under $1,400 at Miami Dade college would cost him at least $4,800 at a comparable school that does not offer the tuition waiver.

"That is the only thing I can afford, a little bit of classes, 4 classes a semester, instead of just one class if I were to attend Palm Beach State College or Florida Atlantic, which are closer to my house," said Vazquez.

The Florida Legislature is close to approving a plan that would allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition if they meet certain criteria. Governor Rick Scott has indicated he'd sign it into law with certain provisions.

Vazquez is a story of hope to his family, and a story of unfairness to some others.

"If there is a student in Alabama who wants to go to college in Florida he can't go unless he pays the out of state rate, but the Florida Legislature says we can give reduced rates to foreign nationals here illegally and that is unpatriotic and unfair to Americans," said David Caulkett, Floridians for Immigration Enforcement say students, like Vazquez, may squeeze out an equally worthy American Student, a legal U.S. Citizen.
"It's just going to make it more difficult for Florida families to get their legal students into schools," said Caulkett.

And Caulkett claims politicians supporting the idea are just looking for votes in this election year.

"This is very clearly a demographic pandering to a minority," said Caulkett.

Miami Dade College officials don't see it that way. They look at undocumented students like Vazquez and see potential that could be wasted for young people who had no say in how they got to the U.S.

"We feel this is important. To deny someone an education because of their status is not something we believe in," said Rene Garcia, Enrollment Director at Miami Dade College.

Vazquez is undaunted, fighting he says for his dream, no matter the odds or the opposition.

"I want my sister to say it is possible. It may be hard. But it is possible. So i do it for them. I do it for 11 million undocumented immigrants. I do it for the ones who have been deported," said Vazquez.

A young man trying to emerge from the shadow cast by the legal status he did not choose, yearning for the bright possibilities of tomorrow.
Downtown's growth key to drawing auto race to Miami

A new auto racing series wants to hold one of its annual events in downtown Miami, where last month's injury and arrest-filled Ultra Music Festival has city politicians fuming. The Real Deal has learned.

Downtown's recent growth, fueled largely by residential development, is a pivotal reason for London-based motorsports company Formula E Holdings' interest in the area. But large-scale events that close off downtown streets are a sore subject in the city at the moment. Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado and Commissioner Marc Sarnoff are among those calling for Ultra to leave downtown, after more than 55 arrests were made and a security guard was trampled.

Race organizers say their event does not pose the same risks as the two-day music festival and would be much smaller in scale. "The race track we're planning is designed to minimize the impact to the residents and businesses in downtown," Andretti Sports Marketing executive director Tim Mayer told TRD.

The race, scheduled for March 2015, is part of the inaugural season of the Formula E Championship, the world's first electric racing series. It kicks off on Sept. 13 in Beijing. Other stops include London, Berlin and several South American cities.

Los Angeles and Miami are the only U.S. cities on the tour.

"Every race is being held in iconic downtown areas," Mayer said. "It is a huge undertaking."

Mayer cited the influx of real estate development in downtown Miami over the last decade as a factor in selecting the Magic City.

"The whole area has exploded," he said. "I used to live in Miami in the early 90s. The area that surrounds I-395 was pretty much a wasteland. Now, you have the arts center complex, Museum Park and the arena."

It wouldn't be the first time Miami's streets host high-speed cars. From 1983 to 1994, the buzzing吼of of 1,000-horsepower engines and pungent odor of high-octane gas engulfed downtown Miami during an annual car race that attracted celebrity fans and the most popular names in racing. Back then, The Grand Prix of Miami was one of the city's signature sporting events, even earning a spot in the opening credits of "Miami Vice."

Grand Prix organizers moved the race to the Homestead-Miami Speedway following the 11-year run downtown.

The proposed race course includes streets abutting or near Miami-Dade College, the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Perez Art Museum Miami and American Airlines Arena.

Andretti Sports Marketing, an Indianapolis firm owned by the famous racing family, is working with the city and representatives of those facilities to keep disruptions to a minimum.

Owners of Formula E teams include the Andretti family, multi-billionaire Richard Branson and Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio.

A spokesperson confirmed the Arsht Center is working with race organizers to ensure its patrons and employees are not disrupted by the event.

A Perez Art Museum representative did not respond to a request for comment.

Organizers say the Formula E race will be nothing like the Grand Prix of Miami or the short-lived Grand Prix of the Americas in 2002.

For starters, it's a green race, with none of the cars combusting fuel. Event organizers also plan to have exhibitors on hand to promote sustainability products and services. And unlike Formula One events, where crowds reach up to 300,000 people, Formula E only expects to draw an average of 25,000 people.

The Formula E Championship is designed to promote interest and investment in electric vehicles and sustainable motoring, according to Mayer. The league is comprised of 10 teams. Miami's race would be broadcast live on Fox Sports.

"The way we designed the course, people around the world will get to see Miami's iconic waterfront and how the city has really developed," Mayer said.

Local politicians are on board with the race so far, but several hurdles remain before the event is finalized.

Last year, Miami commissioners approved the race in concept. The commission must also grant Andretti Sports Marketing a special use permit for the proposed course. In March, the Miami-Dade County Commission directed Mayor Carlos Gimenez to prepare a report on the race's potential economic impact.

Andretti Sports Marketing also still has to obtain approval from the Florida Department of Transportation to close off parts of Biscayne Boulevard and

http://therealdeal.com/miami/blog/2014/04/16/downtowns-growth-key-to-drawing-auto-race-to-miami/
streets located near I-95 on-ramps.

"We don't want to trap anyone inside residential buildings during the race," Mayer said. "And we don't want to close any businesses for the day."

Tags: adrienne arsht center, american airlines arena, downtown miami

RELATED POSTS

Miami science museum includes event space
Super Bowl tab estimated at $21M
Coral Springs input on future downtown

Trending Articles and Offers

Current & former NFL players are notorious for their hot wives & girlfriends. Here's 20 of them.

New 'fast acting' diet pill flying off shelves amidst consumer frenzy.

Seniors to be hit hard by new currency law set to go into effect July 1st, 2014... [Devastating]

Top cruise lines are giving away their unsold cabins...

The secret to annuities with 8% guaranteed for life

2013: The Best Sunless Tanners: You Won't Believe The Results

http://therealdeal.com/miami/blog/2014/04/16/downtowns-growth-key-to-drawing-auto-race-to-miami/
ANNOUNCEMENT

MARTHA MARCHENA IN CONCERT: A CELEBRATION OF THE PIANO MUSIC OF HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS

Saturday, May 10, 2014, 7:00 p.m. (DATE CHANGE)
When:

Where: Koubek Center of Miami Dade College
2705 SW 3rd Street, Miami, Florida Miami FL 33135

For reservations please call 305.529.5400

Martha Marchena has been inspiring audiences worldwide with her unique repertoire, captivating performances and innovative discography for decades. Born in Cuba, she graduated with honors from the University of Miami's doctoral program, where she wrote her dissertation on the piano works of Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. A versatile artist, she has performed as a soloist with orchestras and chamber music ensembles worldwide. Marchena has been invited to perform in major international music festivals including the Encuentros Festival in Buenos Aires, the International Contemporary Music Festival in San Salvador, Festival Internacional de las Artes, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Fiesta Iberoamericana de las Artes, Puerto Rico, Latin
American Music Festival in Caracas, and Opera Barga Festival in Italy.

Marchena has also kept a rigorous academic profile as a Professor in the Music Department at Kean University, New Jersey. She has participated in many residencies, given master classes, lectured and performed recitals worldwide, bridging Latin American music and women's studies. From 2007-2010 she was a panelist in the Piano Committee for the prestigious National Fulbright Award. In 2001, she was the recipient of the Hispanic Caucus Latino Cultural Arts Award from the American Association for Higher Education, and she was recently awarded her second grant from The Fund for U.S Artists at International Festivals and exhibitions by the Rockefeller Foundation for the National Endowment for the Arts.

About Sweet Home: Museo Cubano
The aim of this series is to bring Cuban artists, authors, performers and scholars from the myriad places of exile to Miami, the virtual "home away from homeland" of the Cuban Diaspora. The Cuban Museum is grateful for the support of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, through a Knight Arts Challenge grant, matched generously by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs' Targeted Initiative Grant Award, as well as private donors like Memorial Plan, Bank of America, individual donors, friends, and "pillars" of the Cuban Museum. In other newsâ€¦; construction has officially begun on The Cuban Museum's permanent site, the former Florida Grand Opera building, located at 1200 Coral Way. The building was purchased by the museum in 2007 with funds awarded from Miami-Dade County's Building Better Communities Program, of the Government Obligation Bond (GOB).

Cuban Museum presents at Koubeck Center of Miami Dade College
2705 SW 3rd Street, Miami,
Florida Miami FL 33135
Ph: 305.529.5400
www.facebook.com/cubanmuseum

For more information about local events, please visit www.miamiartguide.com

E-ANNOUNCEMENTS Send your announcements via email and reach 30,000+ local, national and international qualified art related subscribers. For more information contact: sales@miamiartguide.com or call (1) 305.918.2763
Mobile App Development with AppInventor Miami

Saturday, May 31 10:00a

at Miami Dade College Carrie P. Meek Entrepreneurial Education Center, Miami, FL

BlackGirlsCODE is excited to host our 1st mobile app development workshop in Miami on Saturday, May 31st, 2014 at:

Miami Dade College Carrie P. Meek Entrepreneurial Education Center
6300 Northwest 7th Avenue, #1101
Miami, FL 33150

This workshop will focus on mobile app development with Android AppInventor.

Category Business & Tech

Location & Nearby Info

Miami Dade College Carrie P. Meek Entrepreneurial Education Center, 6300 NW Seventh Ave. Miami, FL 33150

Show nearby:
- Bars
- Restaurants
- Hotels

1. Club Boi: 0.9 mi
2. Kings Stable: 1.0 mi
3. Churchill's Pub: 1.2 mi
4. Sweet Saloon: 1.6 mi
5. Moonshine's Sweet Saloon Lounge: 1.6 mi
6. Soho: 1.9 mi
7. World of Beer - Midtown: 2.0 mi
8. Wood Tavern: 2.3 mi
9. TSL Lounge: 2.5 mi
10. L'Boulevard Cafe: 2.5 mi

SABVOR IBERICA FOOD & WINE EXHIBITION

SPAIN - UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Tuesday, June 10, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM (EDT)

Miami, FL

Ticket Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TICKET TYPE</th>
<th>SALES END</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>FEE</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>Jun 10, 2014</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibitor</td>
<td>Jun 10, 2014</td>
<td>$575.00</td>
<td>$27.20</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Order Now

Who's Going

Connect to see which of your Facebook friends are going to SABVOR IBERICA FOOD & WINE EXHIBITION.

Share SABVOR IBERICA FOOD & WINE EXHIBITION

Email  Share  Tweet  Like  Sign Up to see what your friends like.

Event Details

SABVOR IBERICA FOOD & WINE EXHIBITION

Miami Culinary Institute, June 10th

http://www.eventbrite.com/e/sabvor-iberica-food-wine-exhibition-tickets-11115782805?aff=es2&rank=68&sid=9d813d03b661e3a68912313e007891
DESCRIPTION
The Spain-US Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Miami Culinary Institute, General Consulate of Spain in Miami, Office of Tourism, Madrid Chamber of Commerce, Accio, Extenda, and Association of Entrepreneurs and Professionals Gallegos U.S. - will be organizing a Gourmet fair in Miami of great importance; this grand exhibition will display internationally acclaimed food and wines.

This fair is primarily aimed at professionals in the agri-food industry as this event will provide the opportunity for companies to taste products and establish greater business opportunities while simultaneously networking with possible business partners.

EVENT DETAILS
DATE: June 10, 2014
LOCATION: MIAMI CULINARY INSTITUTE
HOURS: 11:00 am - 8:00 pm: Exposition will be open to exclusive professionals in the business sector: sommeliers, retailers, wholesalers, hospitality, and trade press.
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Open to the public. (Pending date for Registration).

PRICE FOR EXHIBITORS:
International Exhibitors:
Partners € 750 | Non-Members (does not include FDA) € 950 €

* Partners FDA / eMembers Chamber of Commerce Spain-USA based in Miami includes FDA.

Local Exhibitors: $ 575 (Members 20% Off)

The participation fee includes:
• Exhibition sector products
• Call monitoring and visiting professionals
• Dressed table and material tasting.

Additional services to be estimated:
• Storage and logistics of the products to the event date
• Graphic Materials: signage at the event, data list of exhibitors
• Special prices on flights and hotels

REGISTRATION DEADLINES
Opening session: March 25, 2014
Close call: May 22, 2014

REGISTER
For registration and information please contact Arantxa Jordan:
info@spainchamber.org | 305 358 5988
Have questions about SABVOR IBERICA FOOD & WINE EXHIBITION?
Contact SPAIN - UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Miami Dade College tiene necesidades financieras que no se están cubriendo.

El reciente intercambio de palabras entre el presidente del Miami Dade College (MDC) y algunos miembros de la Cámara de Representantes ha sido poco afortunado. Pero ha llamado la atención de nuestra comunidad sobre las críticas necesidades financieras de MDC que no se están cubriendo. Tengo plena confianza en que nuestros líderes legislativos dejarán a un lado sus diferencias y harán lo correcto para nuestra comunidad. Echemos un vistazo a los hechos.

La utilización de los salones de clase del MDC es la más alta del estado con relación a todos los colegios de la Florida, y el doble del promedio estatal. El porcentaje de necesidades de construcción sin cubrir a nivel de todo el plantel del MDC es la más alta del estado con el doble del promedio estatal. El porcentaje de necesidad de construcción sin cubrir a nivel de todo el plantel del MDC es la más alta del estado con el doble del promedio estatal. El porcentaje de necesidad de construcción sin cubrir a nivel de todo el plantel del MDC es la más alta del estado con el doble del promedio estatal.

El financiamiento anual del MDC por parte del estado ha sido reducido repitiendo varias veces durante los últimos años. MDC ha perdido un 14.2 por ciento de financiación estatal en general por cada estudiante a tiempo completo o su equivalente desde el curso 2006-07, cifra que bajó de $3,643 a $3,127.

Los estudiantes son los que están pagando el precio de la pérdida de fondos estatales: la participación del estado en los fondos operacionales del MDC ha descendido del 75 por ciento a menos del 50 por ciento en los últimos 15 años, lo cual ha llevado a la subida de la matrícula.

Todo esto ha estado ocurriendo a pesar de que el estado recibe más dinero de los contribuyentes del Condado Miami-Dade de lo que devuelve a nuestro condado para cubrir sus necesidades más críticas.

Para remediar este financiamiento insuficiente, el MDC ha tratado de conseguir que se apruebe una ley estatal que permitiría llevar a referéndum ante los votantes del Condado Miami-Dade la aprobación de un aumento de medio centavo del impuesto a la venta que recaudaría aproximadamente $1,000 millones para el MDC. Ese dinero se usaría para financiar las necesidades de capital identificadas por el Patronato de Distrito del MDC, así como para brindar ayuda financiera y becas a los estudiantes.

La mayoría de las personas del Condado Miami-Dade son como yo, y no les gustan los impuestos. Pero reconocemos la importancia de una educación de alta calidad para los residentes de nuestra comunidad, como lo hemos reafirmado una y otra vez con nuestros votos y nuestras billetas.

En el 2008, el 61.2 por ciento de los votantes del Condado Miami-Dade aprobaron una enmienda a la Constitución estatal para permitir un referéndum local el cual consideró una opción de impuesto a la venta local para complementar el financiamiento de los colleges. La enmienda, sin embargo, recibió el respaldo del 43.5 por ciento de los votantes a nivel estatal, menos del 60 por ciento requerido para enmiendar la Constitución estatal. El Condado Miami-Dade fue el único condado que votó a favor, y lo hicimos de manera convincente.

En el 2012, casi el 70 por ciento de los votantes del Condado Miami-Dade aprobaron la emisión de unos Bonos de Obligación General por $1.200 millones para cubrir las críticas necesidades de capital de nuestra educación a los niveles K-12, necesidades que, dicho sea de paso, no habían sido cubiertas por el financiamiento estatal.

No conozco a nadie a quien le gusten los impuestos, pero los votantes del Condado Miami-Dade se dan cuenta de que el gobierno tiene un importante papel que cumplir con respecto a ofrecer servicios esenciales en ciertas áreas, y no hay ningún servicio más importante a nivel estatal tanto como local que la educación de nuestros jóvenes.

Yo respeto a aquellos que no están de acuerdo conmigo en cuanto a este asunto. Si a alguien no le gusta este referéndum, le sugiero que haga campaña en su contra y que vote de la misma manera.

No obstante, nuestros líderes políticos en la Legislatura deberán permitir el referéndum para que los votantes del Condado Miami-Dade tomen sus propias decisiones. Nosotros, los votantes del condado Miami-Dade, sabemos lo que conviene para nosotros, nuestros hijos y nuestra comunidad. La mejor forma de gobierno es la que más se acerca al pueblo y a responder a sus necesidades.


Ex vicepresidente de la Junta Estatal de Educación.
MITIERRA

Récord de visas de EEUU para cubanos

WILFREDO CANCIO ISLA
wcancio@diariolasamericas.com
@wancicisla

Estados Unidos otorgó la cifra récord de 19,500 visas para visitas familiares y viajes profesionales o de negocios durante la primera mitad del año fiscal 2014, según estadísticas del Departamento de Estado.

De acuerdo con un reporte de la Oficina de Intereses de Estados Unidos (USINT) en La Habana, el número de visas de no inmigrante constituye un incremento del 27 % con relación al mismo periodo.

PASE A PÁG. SA
Más visas de visita para los cubanos

VIENE DE PÁG. 1A

del año anterior. El presente ciclo fiscal comenzó el 1ro de octubre de 2013.
La Sección Consular de la USINT también concedió, hasta el 31 de marzo, 11.250 visas de inmigrante a ciudadanos cubanos como parte de los acuerdos migratorios bilaterales, establecidos entre La Habana y Washington en 1994 y 1995.
"Respecto al procesamiento de visas de inmigrantes, estamos muy por encima del ritmo necesario para cumplir con la cifra de 20.000 anuales fijada por los acuerdos migratorios", dijo un portavoz de la USINT a DIARIO LAS AMERICAS.
Las autoridades consulares revelaron además que de las visas otorgadas para visitas, más del 90% recibieron un documento para entradas múltiples a Estados Unidos por cinco años, una categoría que la USINT comenzó a conceder a los cubanos en agosto de 2013.

Varias personas hacen fila en la entrada de la oficina de Inmigración y Extranjería en La Habana buscando pasaporte para poder salir del país. (EFE)
Visas para negocios
La mayoría de las visas de no inmigrante son para visitas familiares (B2), pero una porción significativa (identificadas como B1) se destinan para viajes de negocios o por razones profesionales como exhibiciones artísticas, conferencias y eventos académicos y culturales.

Las cifras de visados en ambas categorías en el 2014 marcan un alza sin precedentes para ciudadanos cubanos en la última década, con más de 30,750 documentos concedidos al término del primer semestre fiscal. Durante 2013, la USINT entregó 32,254 visas de visitantes y 24,727 para inmigrantes.

Flexibilización de EEUU
El otorgamiento de visas estadounidenses a cubanos se ha flexibilizado gradualmente durante la administración de Barack Obama. Desde en 2009, Washington ha concedido más de 133,000 visados de visitantes y ha cumplido estrictamente con la entrega de al menos 20,000 visas para inmigrantes, en cumplimiento de los acuerdos establecidos con Cuba.

Blanco consideró que la política de la administración Obama ha sido acertada en "no perder el tiempo" en la normalización de relaciones con el gobierno cubano, mientras proyecta cada vez más su acercamiento con la población de la isla.

Nuevas regulaciones
Las nuevas regulaciones migratorias cubanas permiten a los viajeros permanecer hasta 24 meses en el extranjero sin perder sus derechos ciudadanos, igual que los permisos de salida a los ciudadanos nacionales.

Ponte continuo
"En la medida que Estados Unidos y Cuba flexibilicen el flujo normal de personas, es lógico que esto abra la opción a quienes visitan Estados Unidos a acogerse a la Ley de Ajuste Cuba y obtener residencia legal antes de retornar a la isla.

Comas cree que la precautoria situación económica de la isla impone la emigración a muchos cubanos en busca de dinero que luego invierten en ayudas familiares e inversiones en negocios privados.

"Las facilidades que ofrece tener una visa múltiple y venir en visita familiar o como artista son superpoderosas para los cubanos", enfatizó
AGENDA de Miami

- **Human Society**: Miami invita a su Mega Pet Adoption Event, 12 horas continuas para adoptar una mascota. Clientes de gatitos y perros en busca de hogar. Habrá entretenimiento en vivo, food trucks, vendedores, diversión para los más pequeños y búsqueda de huevos de Easter. Sábado 19, de 9 a.m. a 9 p.m., en Tropical Park (7900 SW 40 St.) Informes, (305) 749-1825 y www.humanesocietymiami.org.

- **Miami Dade College**: Invita a ver la obra *The Mikado*, basada en el libro de W.S. Gilbert; música, Arthur Sullivan; dirección, Amy Ibberson y Emmanuel Schwartzman; coreografía, Lee Pugh III, Jueves 17, 7 p.m., en MDC, Wolfson Campus, Auditorium (300 NE 2 Ave., Edif. 1, room 1251). www.mdc.edu/wolfson/arts o (305) 237-3201.

- **La Casa del Teatro**: Invita a participar en el I Festival del Bolero de Miami. Informes e inscripciones, festivaldelbole­roLCDT@gmail.com. Fecha límite de inscripciones, sábado 19. Del 9 al 11 de mayo.

- **Miami Dade College**: Está aceptando solicitudes para amplia gama de becas disponibles en el curso académico 2014-2015, que se otorgarán sobre la base de factores como calificaciones y promedio, necesidad financiera y objetivos de profesión, entre otros. Plazo de solicitud vence viernes 18. Informes www.mdc.edu/main/financialaid/scholarships

- **Herencia Cultural Cubana**: Invita a una Peña con el tema: *La contribución de España y sus colonias a la Revolución Norteamericana y a la independencia de los Estados Unidos*. Presentador: Frank de Varona (educador, escritor, historiador y periodista). Viernes 25, 12 m., en el Latin American Restaurant, Salón Prívado (9606 Sunset Drive (97th Ave.) Costo: $20. (Almuerzo cubano: 3 platos para escoger y café.) Reservaciones, (305) 443-1522.

- **La Junta Patriótica Cubana**: Invita a conmemorar el 53 Aniversario de la Invasión a Playa Girón por la Brigada de Asalto 2506. Orador invitado, Jorge Gutiérrez Izaguirre. Jueves 17, a las 8:30 p.m., en el Salón de Actos de la Junta Patriótica Cubana (4600 NW 7 St.)

- **El Centro Cultural CubaOcho, Apogeo y la Fundación de las Américas**: Invitan a la Tertulia de APOGEO de abril, con Yani Martín, quien será entrevistado por Baltasar Santiago Martín. La actriz presentará un monólogo humorístico y se proyectarán fragmentos de sus trabajos en la Televisión Cubana. Viernes 18, 6:30 p.m., en el Centro Cultural CubaOcho (1465 SW 8 St.)
La mirada joven

Rastros de humedad

POR LOS ALUMNOS DEL MIAMI DADE COLLEGE
FOTO: ENZO RIBERO
Yo Soy MDC
Yohei Fujita
Ex alumno del MDC
Entrenador de Judo
Somerset Academy

Yo Soy MDC
Alajina Lara
Ex alumna del MDC
Contadora y Asistente Administrativo
Charles House of Car Stereo, Corp.