

POLITIFACT FLORIDA

Did rules of debate say there would be no fan?

BY AMY SHERMAN
PolitiFact Florida

It was the most bizarre beginning to a gubernatorial debate Florida had ever seen: With TV cameras rolling, Gov. Rick Scott didn't take the stage because his rival Charlie Crist had a fan.

While two empty podiums stood on the stage at Broward College, CBS4 anchor Elliott Rodriguez, told the audience that Scott wouldn't be participating.

"The rules of the debate that I was shown by the Scott campaign say that there should be no fan. Somehow there is a fan there. And for that reason, ladies and gentlemen, I am being told that Gov. Scott will not join us for this debate."

Rosemary Goudreau, a debate moderator and *Sun-Sentinel* editorial page editor, asked: "Gov. Crist, do the rules of the debate say that there should be no fan?" Crist: "Not that I'm aware of."

About seven minutes after the debate started, Scott

took the stage.

We won't put Crist's statement on the Truth-O-Meter, since we can't really say what he personally knew about the debate rules. But we did want to know the answer to Goudreau's question: Did the rules of the debate say there should be no fan?

Planning for the debate started in July when the debate hosts sent the campaigns information about stage layout with no specific mention of the word 'fan.'

Dan Gelber, a former federal prosecutor and a close Crist adviser, handled debate details for the Crist campaign. Gelber talked with debate organizers about the issue of the fan at least a couple of weeks before the debate.

"We had numerous discussions, and at all times they knew I objected to any rule excluding a fan," Gelber said, noting it was particularly important because the Crist campaign knew the venue had been remodeled and was worried about the

air conditioning.

The debate's organizers — Leadership Florida and the Florida Press Association — sent the campaigns separate letters dated Oct. 6 containing the debate rules, which stated:

"Candidates may not bring electronic devices (including fans), visual aids or notes to the debate, but will be provided with a pad and pen."

Scott campaign manager Melissa Sellers signed the agreement on Oct. 9, the Thursday before the debate. Gelber, however, did not sign it that day, saying he wanted to see how a Friday night event at the venue with CNN's Candy Crowley went.

On Monday, Gelber spoke with Dean Ridings, president of the Florida Press Association, who was the debate sponsors' point person to Crist's campaign. (Wendy Walker, president of Leadership Florida, was the point person to the Scott campaign.)

Gelber told Ridings that

the Crist campaign wasn't sure that the venue, Broward College's Bailey Hall, would be cool enough. Ridings told PolitiFact Florida that the air conditioning hadn't been set low enough Friday, but he told Gelber the venue should be able to make it cooler for the Wednesday night debate.

On Monday night, Gelber sent back the debate agreement adding a handwritten asterisk about abiding by the debate format: "with understanding that the debate hosts will address any temperature issues with a fan if necessary."

So by Monday night, there were two separate signed agreements: one by the Scott campaign that excluded fans and one by the Crist campaign that had a handwritten addition allowing the fan. There was no follow-up, either written or in conversation, about who would get to decide if a fan was necessary.

The Scott campaign didn't see Gelber's version at the time, said Walker.

After the debate, the Scott campaign denied that Scott refused to come out because of the fan.

"So, let's get one thing clear: Rick Scott never refused to take the stage and debate," Sellers wrote. "In fact, our campaign was not notified Charlie had even taken the stage because the last we heard, Crist was in an 'emergency meeting' with debate organizers pleading for his precious fan."

On Thursday morning, we asked Ridings if he believed that Crist violated the agreement: "Yes. We told them, I personally said, there is not to be a fan, no need to have a fan."

This is not the first time that Crist faced a dust-up over his use of the fan, which he often uses when he speaks.

There were behind the scenes negotiations for Crist to use a fan at the first debate, held at Telemundo Oct. 10.

OUR CONCLUSION

Did the rules of the de-

bate say there should be no fan? Yes, they did.

The rules stated that candidates could not bring electronic devices and even specified fans. The Scott campaign signed that agreement, while a lawyer for Crist wrote an addition to the agreement that it was "with understanding that the debate hosts will address any temperature issues with a fan if necessary."

There was no agreement on who would decide if that fan was necessary or the criteria.

While the Crist campaign repeatedly asked for fans and was told they could have them if needed, the event's organizers said the night of the debate that a fan wasn't necessary. The Crist campaign put the fan out anyway.

Editor's Note: Visit PolitiFactFlorida.com for the full version of this story.

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CLASSICAL MUSIC

UM Frost faculty members give program a jolt

BY LAWRENCE BUDMEN
SouthFloridaClassicalReview.com

An international focus infused the concert by Pulse Chamber Music on Wednesday night at Festival Miami. Yet the two most intriguing scores on the program were by two composition faculty members at the UM Frost School of Music, who happen to be married.

In projected program notes, Charles Norman Mason stated that *Stagger*, which here received its Florida premiere, was inspired by his experiences as a creative artist whose progress and successes were interrupted by distractions and setbacks. "Jolt" may be a better description of the score's musical content, with driving phrases broken up by irregular rhythmic patterns. Suggestions of jazz and minimalism wind their way through this energetic brew, the few moments of calm almost folklike in spirit. Margaret Donaghue Flavin's focus and articulation were dynamic in the rapid high phrases of the clarinet part.

Heroic Measures by Dorothy Hindman (Mason's wife) received its world premiere Wednesday. The score is conceived as an elegy and tribute to individuals who have died from catastrophic illness despite continuing medical treatment. The subject matter is not the favored media tale of people triumphing over a killer disease nor is Hindman's score sentimental ear candy for the audience — rather, her music is intense and rewarding.

Heroic Measures begins with piercing writing for violin and clarinet against a jagged piano line. After a more agitated section, the music becomes increasingly dark and desolate. At times the violin is played close to the bridge, producing harsh sounds. Short melodic cells and figurations lead to a series of single chords with the clarinetist breathing into the instrument. One final slow breath concludes this emotional journey without any catharsis.

Demanding for performers and audience alike, Hindman's score is powerful and skillfully conceived. She could not have wished for a more riveting, committed performance, as given by violinist Scott Flavin, clarinetist Donaghue Flavin and pianist Marina Radiushina.

The accompanying video, also created by Hindman, however, distracted rather than enhanced the music. Consisting of newspaper headlines and medical definitions of the work's title, the visuals were unneces-

sary; Hindman's compelling score can stand effectively on its own.

The remainder of the works on this sparsely attended program at Gusman Concert Hall were somewhat anticlimactic, none more so than Alexander Arutiunian's Suite for Trio. A listener once described Arutiunian's work as music from a smoke-filled Armenian nightclub, and his suite certainly fills that bill.

The work's best moments come in the austere "Dialog" for violin and clarinet, but the final dance movement is too obvious, the melodies downright corny. The work does effectively exploit the range of the three instruments. Donaghue displayed warmly colored tone, leaping through klezmer fireworks to brilliant effect. Radiushina's fleet pianism and fine dynamic shading and Flavin's sweetened rubato made the best case for this trite potboiler.

Derek Bermel's *Mulatash Stomp*, a 1991 student work, is a party piece and great fun. The composer's score includes such indications as "meaner" and "grotesque." Bermel combines an electric pulse with harsh and violent sounds played at the instruments' most extreme range.

Works by Bright Sheng and Victoria Bond were repeated from previous Pulse concerts. Sheng's *Tibetan Dance* portrays Tibet's high mountains and endless plains. Non-Western musical modes, often devoid of melody or harmony, and lean textures pervade this well-crafted piece.

Victoria Bond's populist suite *Bridges* mixes Appalachian bluegrass, Chinese folk melodies, 1960s folk pop and even Gershwin quotes in an accessible and entertaining manner.

Two of Flavin's transcriptions of vignettes by Cuban composers were particularly delightful. René Touzet's *Nostalgica* is a haunting Latin melody treated with salon intimacy and Flavin added a touch of gypsy violin fire to the oft-played *Malaguena* of Lecuona.

Festival Miami continues with soprano Dawn Upshaw and students from the Frost Opera Theater performing works by Maria Schneider with the composer conducting the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra 8 p.m. Oct. 25 at UM Gusman Concert Hall. festivalmiami.com; 305-284-4940.

For complete coverage of classical music, go to SouthFloridaClassicalReview.com

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DEATH NOTICES



BIALOLENKI, HELEN, of Miami Beach passed away October 14 at 95. She was the loving wife of Andre Bialolenki, who passed several years before. Together, they were philanthropic and notable in both the SoFla and Jewish communities. She is survived by her three daughters Claudia, Elandra, and Pamela; and by several grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren living in the states of FL, TX, NJ, and GA — among others. A long-time educator in the SoFla school system, Helen participated in undergrad studies at FSU and her graduate work was completed at UM. Loved ones will be gathered at Mt. Sinai Memorial Park Cemetery (1125 N.W. 137 St., Miami) this Sun, Oct. 19 at 11 a.m.

LEUCHTER, MAGDA

Magda Shenberg Leuchter, 85, of Key Biscayne, died peacefully at home Oct. 14, 2014, after a short illness. She and her late husband, Ben Z. Leuchter, former editor of the *Vineland* (New Jersey) Times Journal, were widely recognized throughout the country for their dedication to and support of education, civil rights, justice, conflict resolution and community betterment. He predeceased her in 2001.

Magda grew up in Wildwood, New Jersey, and received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1949. She was involved in numerous local and national organizations, including Hadassah and the Jewish Federation of Cumberland County, NJ.

She also chaired the board of the local hospital, Newcomb Medical Center; was president of the board of trustees of the Vineland Public Library; and chaired the board of trustees of Stockton State College (now known as Richard Stockton College of New Jersey). After the birth of her grandchildren, Magda and Ben moved to Key Biscayne in the late 1980's, where they continued their legacy of community activism, civic leadership and philanthropy locally and nationally.

Magda's wisdom, courage, vision, leadership, spirit and warmth will be greatly missed by her four daughters, Janet Leuchter (Hal Glicksman), Lisa Treister (husband Charles), Sara Leuchter Wilkins (Lionel Secor), and Miriam Leuchter (Lucio Sorre); and her two granddaughters, Emily Treister Henson (husband Russell) and Rebecca Treister; foster daughter, Dana Garcia (husband Ephraim Bukhs and daughter Jane Bukhs); and loving nieces and nephews.

Magda was buried Thursday at Alliance Cemetery. Shiva will be observed Sunday at the Treister residence. Donations in Magda's memory may be made to the A.L.S. Recovery Fund or the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

GRUDER, FRANCINE, 73 of Hallandale Beach, FL passed away October 15, 2014. Loving daughter of the late Max & Anna Gruder; dear sister of Marilyn Gruder. Chapel service 12 pm Sunday, October 19 at Levitt Weinstein/Beth David Chapel, 3201 NW 72 Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33024 (305) 932-2700. Donations may be made to Hadassah www.hadassah.org.

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OLIVER, MANUEL E. (Junior), 85, passed away peacefully October 13, 2014. Manuel was born May 21, 1929 in Havana, Cuba. He and his family moved to Central Florida in 1973. Manuel was a civil attorney in Cuba and resumed practicing law after attending the University of Florida Law Program retiring in 1999 from the Florida Attorney General Office. He is survived by his children, Manuel (Kim) Oliver of Deland, Ana (Doug) Stevenson, Mario (Karen) Oliver, Eduardo (Dee) Oliver, and Jorge (Robin) Oliver, all of Deltona; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren. Arrangements are in the care and trust of Baldauff Family Funeral Home, 1233 Saxon Blvd. Orange City, FL. Visitation for family and friends will be Saturday, October 18, 2014 from 1-2pm with a service immediately following at 2pm. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.



BYRNE, JAMES BRENNEN, M.D.

07/24/23 - 10/14/14
Born in Scottsdale, PA, & raised during the difficult times of the Great Depression, Jim was influenced by the kindness & compassion shown by his

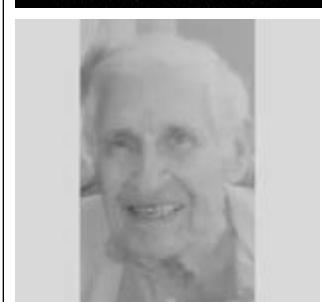
parents to both neighbors and strangers. He carried that with him throughout his life as demonstrated by his generous nature & by the numerous times he opened his home to others. Married to the love of his life, Kay, for 59 years, he taught his children what it means to be in a committed relationship and the importance of "Family". He set the bar high and led by example. A proud American, Jim spent WWII in medical school as a Naval officer & joined the Air Force during the Korean War, where he served as a Flight Surgeon. He was awarded the "Soldier's Medal" for heroism. Jim will be remembered as a kind, generous and wise soul. He died surrounded by those he loved. He is survived by his wife, three children, nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and loving caretaker, Vilma. A memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Church of the Epiphany on Saturday 10/18/14 at 10:30 a.m.

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JAMES, ARTHUR LEE, passed away on October 7th 2014. He was a Certified Zone Mechanic for Miami Dade County Schools. Survived by his son Danny. Viewing at Caballero Rivero Kendall on Oct 17th 2014, 5pm to midnight followed by a service on Saturday 18th at 11am at Miracle Deliverance Healing Revival Center in Perrine.

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DEATH NOTICES



PARKER, AUSTIN SMITH ("Ace") age 88 of Coral Gables and Lantana, born in Greenville SC passed away peacefully with family by his side Oct. 11, 2014. A great story teller, he lived an adventurous life. He was a decorated veteran of the Korean War and was awarded the Purple Heart and Silver Star. He went on to a career in advertising in Mexico before returning to Coral Gables. He was a loving husband to wife Betty Ann for 56 years. He is survived by his wife Betty Ann Harding Parker, sons and daughters in law Austin and Denny Parker of Lake Worth FL, Jack and Anne Parker of Ponte Vedra FL, Tim and Stephanie Parker of Dallas TX, and Michael and Lilia Parker of Lake Worth FL; grandchildren Stone Parker, Matthew and Chris Parker, Gregory, Colin and Claire Parker and Cole Davidson. A visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m. Saturday Oct. 18 with a mass following at 3:00 at Del Lago Chapel, 131 S. Lakeside Dr. Lantana, FL 33460 in lieu of flowers donations can be made to Wounded Warriors Project

IN MEMORIAM



HAZRA ZORINA LAMOREAL

1/8/50 - 10/17/2001
Survived by husband Victor Gittens Lamoreal and children Charlene, Victor D., and Roger. Thirteen years ago, our lives were changed forever. You taught us that God has a plan for all of us and to put our trust in him. We are comforted, knowing that you are in Heaven with the Lord. And we strive every day to make you proud of us. You are our inspiration, and so much more. You were, are, and always will be our guiding light.

WE LOVE YOU. WE MISS YOU.



MAGDA VIDAL FONSECA

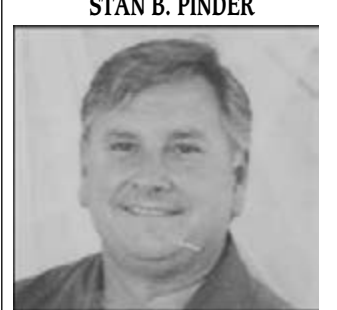
"Pita"
January 17, 1918 -
October 17, 2001

Ay mom! How we miss your touch, your guidance, your wit. It has been a tough year... We have lost the one that you loved deeply... Show him the light as we need the direction as well. Send the "children" peace and knowledge that there is brightness no matter how dark it seems at times! Thanks for your protection, we feel your presence always!!! As we welcome the newest addition embrace us with wisdom from your teachings. Your long fingers are a constant for us, caressing with strokes of love and colors... Have we told you lately that we love you? Of course we have... we love you so!! Your daughters, grandchildren, and great grandchildren now three!

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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory
STAN B. PINDER



2/12/59 - 10/17/06
Co-Owner of Stan's Auto Glass & a long-time respected realtor

8 years today my son, my best friend, my confidant, my brother. You are so missed.

All of the above.

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I love you son...

I love you,
DAD

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