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FREEDOM BOARD



CHRISTOPHER GREEN/THE BEACON

NO TO ABORTION: Diana Samitier looks at the free speech board outside of the Graham Center on Oct. 29. Students wrote their opinions after hearing an anti-abortion demonstration from the Center for Bio-ethical Reform, which featured graphic pictures of babies that died as a result of abortions.

Freedom of expression constrained

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

A couple of Sen. Barack Obama stickers, placed on studio windows in the Paul Cejas Architecture building, have prompted the Office of General Counsel to start its own campaign.

Deputy General Counsel Isis Carbajal de Garcia sent an e-mail two weeks ago to Vice President of Academic Affairs Douglas Wartzok in response to the Obama stickers, asking him to remind deans about removing political material on public buildings.

Carbajal de Garcia's message launched a chain of e-mails that showed administration quickly conforming to the orders from the Provost's and General Counsel's offices.

But the lack of University policy on political activity has set the stage for the violation of freedom of expression by administration.

On Oct. 14, College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Joyce Peterson forwarded Wartzok's e-mail to faculty with a message of her own.

"I have removed campaign materials as I find them around in our offices, but if you don't want a message from the provost, take note. It's a no-no," it said.

According to Media Relations, Florida law states that "political expression on campus is not prohibited, but the use of state facilities for political campaigning and using work time to engage in such activities is prohibited."

However, other than the State statute, the University has no policy that differentiates between political expression and political campaigning, according to Media Relations.

General Counsel would only respond through Media Relations.

Within the University community, different and sometimes conflicting definitions have risen.

Wartzok's e-mail defines political campaigning as "posters and other political propaganda" and states that "University resources, e.g., e-mail" cannot be used "to campaign for or against any ballot item or individual."

Peterson, who said she only removed political flyers from a table in the dean's office, believes faculty's academic expression is protected in the classroom "as long as they are not insisting that students think a certain way" but it is not once they step out of that academic sphere.

"[Academic freedom] does not extend to posting political material, say, on the outside of their office door," Peterson said. "Political material is a particular message with specific endorsement of a political candidate."

For Will Creeley, director of legal and public advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, Wartzok's e-mail and the events that unfolded from it are just another example of a "spike of censorship seen across public and private campuses around the

Adult video shot in fraternity house

FIJI investigated for possible role in porno

CHRIS LAZAGA
Staff Writer

BangBros Network, an entertainment company, filmed a pornographic video at the on-campus Phi Gamma Delta, also known as FIJI, fraternity house.

According to a caption under the video trailer posted Oct. 24 on *Bangbros.com*, "Manny... a Frat Boy" invited the company to come to the house for "some fun with his fellow brothers."

Among the graphic sexual images presented in the trailer video were occasional appearances of the white-star-in-black-dia-

mond FIJI insignia: one appearing on a door and another appearing on the back of an unidentified person's T-shirt.

Interfraternity Council President Alex Ruiz acknowledges the video was shot at the FIJI fraternity house.

"You can definitely see the doors. I only saw the video trailer," Ruiz said.

A link to the video has been circulating around Facebook and was also sent to several University officials.

Ruiz would not confirm any FIJI brothers or FIU students participated or were present in the making of the video.

"It's only been four days. The investigation is ongoing," Ruiz said.

Eric Arneson, director of Campus Life, said his organization was informed of the incident on Oct. 24. Since then, Campus Life has been working in cooperation with

the fraternity and the fraternity's national organization, according to Arneson.

"Obviously, the University would never condone this kind of action," Arneson said. "If this is true, it's very disappointing and the University will respond accordingly."

FIU's FIJI Chapter President Marcio Souza has yet to release a statement.

According to Bill Martin, executive director of Phi Gamma Delta International, the FIU chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has been placed on a "graduate trusteeship." This means alumni of the fraternity have been appointed to supervise the chapter, investigate the incident and discipline members.

"It is completely contrary to the values of our fraternity," Martin said.

Associate Director of Campus Life for

FIJI, page 2

Free festivities for those with fright in mind

JAMELLE TUCKER
Contributing Writer

Candy, revealing costumes or the scare of your life: Halloween can be any of these things.

Many adults have taken this once children-only holiday and turned it into more of an adult-friendly night once the kids are off to sleep.

When the clubs don't close until the next day, and there are several options for a good night, how are college students

drawn to one particular party? Simple, make it free.

The offices of Campus Life and Housing and Residential Life at both the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses are offering an array of entertainment for the scariest night of the year.

This year's festivities will start a day earlier than normal at UP.

On Oct. 30, Panther Hall and The Residents Hall Association will team up for a "Halloween Extravaganza,"

where local kids and children of faculty can participate in a safe trick-or-treating experience.

The event is open to all students, who are also encouraged to bring younger siblings or relatives.

Panther Hall plans to leave this party open for students starting at 5 p.m. and going on until 10 p.m.

Just like an infant's birthday party where the adults takeover toward the end, an after party will be held in the

Panther Hall Lounge right after the "Halloween Extravaganza" is over and all of the kids are far gone.

On Oct. 31 a costume party and potluck are also scheduled.

It will take place in GC 243 from 7 p.m. until that last student has left the building.

The event is free, and costumes are encouraged but not mandatory.

"Students are encouraged

HALLOWEEN, page 3

EXPRESSION, page 2

Senate meeting approves minor degrees, raises

NATALEE GIL-DELRIO
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate held a meeting at the Wertheim Conservatory on Tuesday, Oct. 28 to summarize departmental issues, vote on several amendments and continue discussions from the previous meeting.

Provost Ronald M. Berkman took his turn on the floor first, recapping a number of issues discussed in the last forum such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools review and the United Faculty of Florida and Student Government Association's election bus.

"It's getting sharper. It's getting closer, and I feel more confident," Berkman said when speaking about how well the University is preparing for the SACS review coming up in 2010.

Each committee has been working together in workshop-like environments, trying to put together a curriculum in their department that will improve both the department and the University.

Berkman also touched upon the subject of freshmen admissions once more and, although his last statement was misquoted, he offered a correction and emphasized that he meant that students are less likely to apply to private universities due to financial constraints these days and are more likely to apply to public universities.

The number of applicants has already been predicted as well.

At the rate applications are being sent to the University, the provost assumes that approximately 21,000 fresh-

man applications will be submitted.

Only 3,800 of the applicants will be accepted into the University, a 16 percent entry rate.

The reason for such a low acceptance rate is the fact that the University's "teacher to student ratio is being stretched to the limit," according to Berkman.

After the provost finished speaking, the committee went into a block of voting and approved several amendments, such as instituting a minor in communication studies and in foreign educated physicians track for the bachelor's degree in nursing.

After an extensive 20-minute debate pertaining to a certain amendment directed toward the new medical school, the committee voted on a close on the debate and the UFF chapter president, Leslie Frazier, took the floor.

After last meeting's debate concerning teacher salaries at FIU, the UFF has agreed upon a 3.5 percent raise on all salaries with conditions.

There will be a 2 percent retention raise effective Dec. 28 based on eligibility, and a 1.5 percent one-time department bonus based upon department criteria and policies.

Also, for the first time at FIU the UFF has approved promotions for both instructors and lecturers, allowing them opportunities to grow within the department or University.

The funds being used for the increases are not coming from the State, but rather from the school budget.

The contract is tentative from 2008-2011 until voted to permanently change.

WALL-TO-WALL



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SLAP: Ronald Cortina (ar left) and friends take advantage of the great weather on Oct. 28 by playing wall ball outside of Everglades Hall.

Faculty Senate pushes for limit on campus political campaigning

EXPRESSIONS, page 1

country."

Other incidents include: the University of Texas at Austin ban of political signs from dorm room windows, the University of Oklahoma ban on the use of university e-mails for political expression and the University of Illinois faculty and staff ban from wearing partisan buttons and displaying partisan bumper tickers on vehicles. All bans were eventually overturned.

Removing the Obama stickers is a close call because the studios might not be considered a student's personal space, explained Creeley, but forbidding faculty and staff from displaying anything endorsing a certain candidate is unconstitutional.

"University offices, faculty offices and office doors

The University wants to be a neutral big tent for all ideas that come in our society and again, we wouldn't want that partisanship.

Tom Breslin, *Chairman*
Faculty Senate

are that faculty's individual space," Creeley said. "That doesn't mean they have the right to post anything inappropriate but [endorsing a candidate in their personal space] is more like putting a bumper sticker on your car."

In its policy statement on political activities on campuses, FIRE uses the Internal Revenue Service's definition of political campaigning which includes fundraising and hosting a candidate's event or rally.

"Faculty members are free to participate in political rallies on-campus, express partisan messages outside of

the classroom (for instance, by wearing political buttons), disseminate political speech via e-mail, post political humor and commentary on their office doors, and much more," the policy states.

Faculty Senate Chairman Tom Breslin insists the University does have a right to set policies that ensures it would not seem like it is endorsing a particular candidate.

"The University wants to be a neutral big tent for all ideas that come in our society and again we wouldn't want that partisanship," he said. "We do receive support

from the State, which is also supposed to be a big, open tent for ideas."

Because of that very principle, however, faculty has the right to be "active citizens" and to wear "little buttons and campaign do-das in [their] offices," Breslin said.

Political Science Chair Richard Olson adds another factor to political expression on-campus stating it is sometimes necessary for educational purposes.

"The idea of being completely objective and impartial the whole time [is unreasonable]," he said, explaining that sometimes a student needs to know where their professor stands to analyze discussion. "I get very nervous about using classrooms for overtly partisan purposes. At the same time, I'm never comfortable with restricting rights."

No final decision in BangBros video

FIJI, page 1

Sorority & Fraternity Life J.D. Louk was unavailable for comment.

Ruiz said for all he knows, some pieces of the video could have been shot at the house and others off-site.

"We really don't know all the facts yet," he said.

However, Interfraternity Council Chief Justice Omar Regalado said no FIJI or FIU students participated in the sexual acts depicted in the video.

"Those depicted in sexual acts are not related to FIU or FIJI," Regalado said.

According to Regalado, a course of action has yet to be decided. That decision will land upon the Student Conflict and Resolution Council.

The Student Conflict and

... As a Greek alumni, I am appalled that such

behavior is happening on campus and stereotyping the Greek system.

Herman Fernandez, *Greek alumni*

Resolution Council declined a request for a statement.

The video, in which the rows of trees lining the 16th St. entrance to University Park and parts of the front exterior of the FIJI house are clearly shown, involves three girls who come to the fraternity house and participate in sexual activity with what the video claims are college students. Many scenes include a group of more than 15 males watching the sexual activity taking place in the FIJI common room.

Herman Fernandez, a Greek alumni, sent an e-mail on Oct. 28 to Louk and Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Karen Dlhosh, hoping to bring the video to their attention.

"You can confirm that it is the FIJI house because of the symbol of their membership badge displayed on one of the doors in the video. As a Greek alumni, I am appalled that such behavior is happening on campus and stereotyping the Greek system," he wrote.

FIJI members refused to comment.



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On-campus Halloween party offers DJs, candy buffet for attendees

HALLOWEEN, page 1

to bring in food items to help make this event a success," said Steven Aragon, a freshman with undeclared major, and student assistant in the Panther Hall.

Panthers at BBC will also have a Halloween event- BBC's 3rd annual "Monster Bash," taking place Oct. 31. The

event, which is organized by the Student Programming Council at BBC, will also include a "Battle of the DJ's," coinciding with the Halloween party to increase attendance, according to Petra Haven, SPC-BBC vice-president and senior in marketing.

"Much planning and preparation went in to make this a successful event," Haven said. "I hope everyone comes out and enjoys themselves."

The "Monster Bash" is scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. and will last until 2 a.m. DJ Push Play and DJ Skip were selected as the two DJ's to face off at the Halloween party.

With DJ Push Play being more commonly known for UP events, and DJ Skip for BBC events, SPC-BBC has set up a battle of North Campus versus South Campus.

"I believe students will love

it," said Ryan Little, SPC-BBC President. "It's a friendly rivalry between UP and BBC."

Both DJ's will be given a certain genre to perform, ranging from Hip-Hop and Old School, to Reggae, to see who can come up with the best mix in the same amount of time without repeating a record the other has spun, according to Haven.

DJ Push Play was not available for comment, but according to DJ Skip: "Everyone will experience something they never experienced before."

DJ Skip also said he urges DJ Push Play to "strive for greatness."

The Bay Vista Hall Council will be having a candy buffet in conjunction with the "Monster Bash."

Students will be able to travel over to the Bay Vista Hall during the day and fill empty bags with their candy of choice.

Plan to have a good day and night, whether you're eating lots of candy, or doing sweat drenched dance moves on the floor with your favorite guy or ghou.

Halloween stuck on campus is an option. Make it a beautiful nightmare.

I believe students will love it. It's a friendly rivalry between UP and BBC.

Ryan Lytle, president,
SPC-BBC

Speaker educates students about presidential candidates

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Staff Writer

As the election day inches closer, the Biscayne Bay Campus has seen its share of political campaigning.

Students got a chance to interact with different advocacy groups and learn what's on each side of the aisle at the "BBC Rocks the Vote."

The event took place in the Wolfe University Center on Oct. 29 and included special guests such as North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns, representatives from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Chip Arndt, the president of Freedom Democrats.

BBC student organizations such as Stonewall at BBC, College Democrats, Black Democrats, LGBT and FIU College Republicans were also present.

Chip Arndt, who is also a former winner of "The Amazing Race 4," executive director of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus, was stumping at the fair for presidential nominee Sen. Barack Obama, and said he has contributed more than \$200,000 to the campaign.

He also spoke about fear of imminent voter fraud.

"Both sides pay people to register, and it's expensive," said Arndt, referring to the system of paying volunteers per registered voter. "I'm all for incentives." He then added that creating incentive structures leads to voter fraud. Arndt later said that in this economy, people are out of work and they are looking for anything that might help them avoid foreclosure.

Voter registration jobs pay \$8-10 per person registered, according to him.

Arndt granted the system was im-

perfect but said: "If you have half a brain, you have to know about the registration guidelines."

In reference to the much-criticized McCain campaign attack, blasting

Obama for his pledge to meet with Iranian

President

Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad

without preconditions,

Arndt equated

unequivocal op-

position to gay

rights with criti-

cisms of Obama

for favoring open

diplomacy.

"Richard

Nixon, a

Republican,

went to China, a

Communist coun-

try that funded

the Vietnam War

against the United

States, to open up

relations. Now China is more of a free

market economy. The idea not to sit

down and talk is absurd," said Arndt.

"It's how you talk."

Among the different tables at the

voting fair, only one Republican ad-

vocate, FIU College Republicans,

was present. The rest were advocat-

ing for Obama. Luis Tobar, an FIU

College Republicans member, said

the organization had contributed \$300

to the McCain campaign.

He also said that they weren't

worried about voter fraud because the

voting machines had a paper trail and

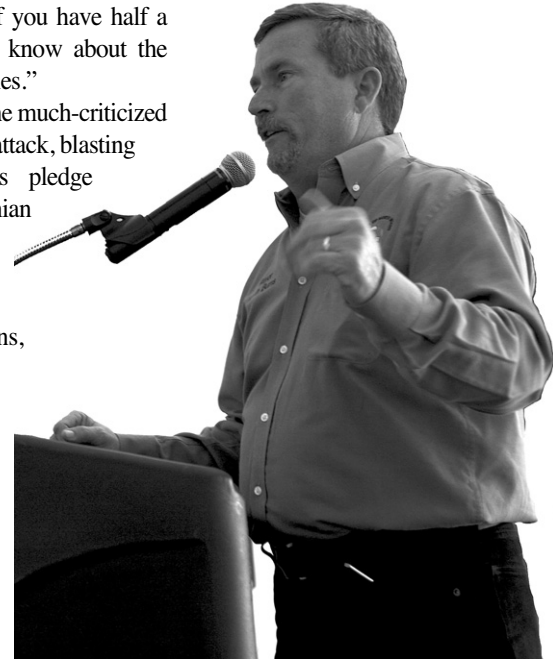
most voting precincts are using bub-

ble-in ballots.

"I don't think they did [the complicated

ballot lexicon] on purpose, but I

do think there should be a summary



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

GO VOTE: North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns speaks at the "BBC Rocks the Vote."

at the bottom of each amendment to make them more understandable," Tobar said.

As a special guest, the Student Government Association at BBC brought in North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns, who is a Republican.

"I support Barack Obama, but I was a previous supporter of Hillary," Burns said.

The mayor also said he is against Amendment 2, which revokes all the benefits that domestic partnerships currently have. However, he supports the new voting infrastructure.

He said the fears of voter fraud are "unfounded, since the system is much better on check and balances. You have the right to exercise your vote."

The fair ended with free food for all attendees.

Rocky Horror delivers alternative Halloween experience

There are no rules when it comes to clothing on Halloween. Sexy high heel shoes, overly-done makeup and tight clothes are a must have, for girls and boys, in the showing of "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Every Saturday at midnight, Flippers Cinema and Arcade at 7001 Taft St. in Hollywood, hosts a showing of this cult classic Halloween movie, with a twist.

I had seen the movie at home a dozen times, but according to those who run the show, that doesn't count. The way they see it, we are virgins until we see the movie in theaters.

I watched it with three friends. I was the only virgin in the group, so I had to go through a ritual that all virgins go through. I refuse to give away details about this ritual and ruin the surprises, but make sure to let the person at the entrance know that it is your first time watching the movie. Trust me, you'll be in for a treat!

"Rocky Horror" is the perfect Halloween

movie and it is anything but ordinary. Despite its name, it is more sexy and fun, than scary.

The plot revolves around Janet (played by Susan Sarandon) and Brad (played by Barry Bostwick.) Their car breaks down, and they end up at Dr. Frank-N-Futer's castle. Little do they know that Dr. Frank-N-Futer, (Tim Curry's character) "who is a sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania," according to one of the movie's song, is far from normal. He guides the couple through an odd night of signing, dancing and unexpected sexual exploration.

Before the movie starts, Sunshine Marmalade, the host of the show, comes out in his extravagant dress and over-the-top makeup, and describes the "rules" for the night, while welcoming everyone. When the movie begins, a giant pair of lips recount the plot of the movie.

As the movie plays on the big screen, a shadow cast acts out the entire film in front of the theater. This can get a bit confusing at first, but think of it as a live show and a movie playing at once.

Don't think the actors are the only ones who get into the magic of "Rocky Horror;" get ready for a lot of audience participation. At one point, the audience goes into the aisles and does the

"Time Warp" dance along with the actors on screen.

Doing the dance had to be my favorite part of the whole movie-watching experience.

Although the show is only \$6.50, bring extra dollars and buy a "throw" bag. It is full of random items to toss up in the air during the show.

I was always a step behind, so try to keep up because the clues to when to throw the items are easy to miss. For example, when there is a marriage scene in the movie, throw the rice that is in your bag, and when Dr. Frank-N-Futer sings the line "cards for sorrow, cards for pain," throw a card.

Since its release in 1975, the movie has made itself into one of the country's biggest cult classics. The playful spirit of Halloween lives on in the theater every Saturday night.

On Halloween, the show starts at 11 p.m. and Flippers has a costume contest, and cash prizes are given away to those with the best "Rocky Horror" theme outfit.

So forget about trick-or-treating this Halloween and watch one of the wildest movies you will ever see. Watching "Rocky Horror" is an experience of its own.

It may seem that I have dished out a lot of

details about the show, but there are no words to describe the madness that occurs; you have to go and experience it first hand.

Get dressed up with your friends, watch "Rocky Horror" and then go out to celebrate the holiday. The show ends around 12:30 a.m. so you will have plenty of time to party after the credits begin to roll.

I recommend going to Daisy Dukes Saloon at 10060 Pines Blvd. located a few minutes from the theater. This country bar is a great place to hang out and have a few drinks with friends. Plus, the country theme goes along with the "make believe" notions of Halloween.

Halloween is not about the candy to me; it is about getting lost in a different reality.

You can pretend to be whatever you want on this day, so why not go somewhere that allows you to experience a movie in a unique way, and then to a bar that takes you to the deep South? Just make sure to come back to the real world come Nov. 1.

Weekends with Paradise is a biweekly column about North Miami night life. If you have any suggestions for places I could visit, e-mail me at paradise.afshar@fiusm.com.



PARADISE AFSHAR



TURN ON THE *Red Light*

Pimps rejoice: Proposition K might make it okay

MATT RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Next month San Francisco will vote on a landmark ballot. Proposition K will decriminalize prostitution, forbidding local authorities from investigating, arresting or prosecuting anyone for selling sex.

About damn time.

This is long overdue; it's a wonder why San Francisco is the first city to vote on this, and take it serious.

Prostitution has been around forever. Ever since the Paleolithic era, when caveman figured out what went where, there has been prostitution. Ever since Neandathals gave that shiny rock to Mrs. Caveman and smiled expectantly, there has been prostitution. There will always be prostitution, as long as the supply of "respectable" women does not meet the demands of horny men.

So the idea that the financially motivated woman who is heels-over-head rather than head-over-

heels for a man is a crime is, to state bluntly - absurd. They're merely letting loose the release valve, easing the burden on the less-sexually inclined. Being the Pretty Woman to the less handsome Richard Geres out there.

It also becomes a bit of a human rights issue. Streetwalkers have long lived in the literal and metaphorical back alleys of the country, operating under the radar of police protection, and bereft of health benefits.

This is in large part due to the illegal nature of their chosen profession and the subsequent inability to approach legitimate establishments for aid. When they catch a venereal disease, adequate medical care isn't always available on the street. For example, when a pimp hits his employee, she can't exactly go to the police, or collect Workman's Comp.

It's no secret prostitutes are preyed upon by those most malevolent. They attract a naturally seedy camp that includes rapists and serial killers in their ranks.

Not the kindest of people. After all, you don't get a name like Jack The Ripper because you open a door for a lady.

Decriminalization, with eventual legalization, would bring about reforms and zoning laws to help police know where these women are performing their various jobs, enabling better surveillance and superior protection from these evildoers.

This would also serve the purpose of centralizing prostitution to a suitable part of town. So instead, in the city of Monopoly, of having sex on Park Place, they would ply their trade closer to Reading Railroad or Baltic Avenue i.e., the unkempt parts of town.

The next issue is the sheer hypocrisy of prostitution being illegal, while next door pornography is perfectly accepted, if not celebrated. This difference seems to state that it's permissible to pay two people to have sex, but only if other people watch. Maybe Americans, or rather those who support the sole legalization of

pornography, are simply just big voyeurs.

What legal pornography provides is context to how absurd anti-prostitution laws are. It illuminates the point that making prostitution illegal doesn't make the very basic human need for sex go away, it only drives it somewhere else, underground, into the dark alleys where criminality lies.

There are other more dogmatic reasons prostitution is illegal. One is the opinion that prostitutes are "homewreckers" stealing a husband's honor and breaking apart families. This seems illogical. If it follows that you can't rape the willing, then how can you steal from the beneficent? These charitable husbands want this, how then can a prostitute wreck that which is already destroyed? It may just be that prostitutes are in far greater supply than faithful, or satisfied husbands.

For the chaste women it seems be that good men are hard to find. For the prostitute,

it's mixed around; hard men are good to find.

So San Francisco's step toward decriminalizing prostitution, and maybe eventual legalization, is one in the right direction and better for everyone involved. The prostitutes will be safer from predators, the men safer from the Clap, and every person from an invasion by government. I don't think the State should ever police sexual relations between consenting adults. It's a private matter if Joe Blow and Trixie want to ... well, I'll just leave that alone. Maybe the government should follow step.

Turned on by this article?

Post your thoughts on fiusm.com/opinion or send them to opinion@fiusm.com

Powell's endorsement sends poignant message

NEDA GHOMESHI
Contributing Writer

It was on Oct. 19 - a "Meet the Press" interview with former Secretary of State Colin Powell became a prominent news story, and in my book he's one of the most respectable Republicans when he announced, and more importantly explained his decision to vote for Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election.

Powell is a distinguished American with amazing credentials and experience both in the government and the military. He served as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest military position in the Department of Defense.

President George W. Bush who has similar views as the current Republican nominee John McCain, appointed Colin Powell as his Secretary of State in 2000. However, today Powell is supporting Barack Obama.

Powell's decision has further proved that this country needs Obama as the next president.

Clearly, Powell is aware, as most democrats are, of Obama's brilliance along with his leadership, oratory and embracing qualities as well as his plans to renovate the United States' government. During "Meet the Press," Powell stated, "I think we need a transformational figure. I think we need a president who

is a generational change and that's why I'm supporting Obama, not out of any lack of respect or admiration for McCain."

Obama's plans for taxes and healthcare will benefit the United States and help revitalize our nation, which has suffered over the past eight years at the hands of our current

“Powell's choice to wait until just about two weeks before the election to announce his choice goes more to his credibility as an unbiased politician.”

agenda-driven president.

Powell is a longtime friend of McCain and even donated to his campaign, but Powell put aside his friendship with McCain for the betterment of the United States, and away his partisanship for the revitalization of our image abroad.

"I am beyond honored and deeply humbled to have the support of Gen. Colin Powell. He knows, as we do, that this is a moment where we all need to come together as one nation - young and old, rich and poor, black and white. Republican and Democrat." Obama

said at a rally in North Carolina.

Listening to political talk shows, some have suggested that Powell's decision may be based on race. I believe that Powell's decision to support Obama is less about race than it is about Obama's competence and ability to lead. I think that at this time in our his-

tory, Americans need to get over the fact that Obama is an African American, and appreciate the qualities and ideas he brings to the table.

"If Powell were supporting Obama because of race, he would have made his announcement months before the election, not weeks before," said Kenny Gelok, an FIU student.

Powell's choice to wait until just about two weeks before the election to announce his choice goes more to his credibility as an unbiased politician.

When explaining his decision to support Sen. Obama, Powell referred back to the mentality of the Republican party, of which some voters have falsely accused Obama of being a Muslim as justification for not voting for him.

"Is there something wrong with being a Muslim in this country? The answer is no, that's not America," Powell said. He added, "John McCain is as nondiscriminatory as anyone I know. But I'm troubled about the fact that, within the Republican party we have these kinds of expressions."

It saddens me, a Democrat, who will be voting for Obama to know that the reasoning behind many lost votes will be because of Obama's religion.

Clearly, Powell is a superbly qualified politician and credible public figure. His role in the military, his status as Secretary of State and his active participation in numerous non-profit organizations all go to prove his credibility and knowledge of the American society as a whole.

Whoever Powell decides to support in the next presidential election should matter to the American people. It absolutely matters to me. Americans deserve to hear an honest opinion and if a strong respectable republican supports a democrat, Americans should chose to support that Democrat.

COSTUME TIPS

A guide to the best and worst of the season

SUSANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Ah, Halloween - a day for running around in costumes and make up in the noble pursuit of free candy and house parties. But what will you be dressing up as for All Hallows Eve?

We can't answer that for you, but we can tell you what not to wear - because everyone else will. From pranksters to dazzling vampires, we've got some Halloween costume don'ts that will help you stand out from the crowd.

DON'T

I don't care how long it took or how much it cost you to make that Glasgow smile prosthesis - no Jokers. Period.

This costume was over killed by every last fanboy and girl who put on their whitest mime makeup to recite the why-so-serious monologue for unwitting movie goers lined up for Heath Ledger's performance in "The Dark Knight" last summer.

You may have a semester or two of drama classes under your belt, but you are most definitely not an Australian Oscar nominee.

Resist the urge to dress up as Sarah Palin. In fact, just say no to Obama and McCain masks too.

Unless of course you've received a personal letter from Lorne Michaels inviting you to intern at Saturday Night Live, or you're starring in Point Break 2, then I stand corrected.

Otherwise, leave the parodies to the professionals - Tina Fey and company have those costumes nailed.

Save your political satires for the polling booths on Nov. 4 and try some real mavericks on for size.

Twilight's star crossed couple may be the perfect costume idea for you and your own sparkling Adonis, but stop yourself - every last high schooler this side of the galaxy is thinking the same thing.

Girls, do you want to spend the night purposely tripping over everything as Bella, human-girlfriend and nauseating adora-klutz?

Plus, guys will need some convincing before they agree to be spackled head-to-toe in pancake makeup and glitter to pose as Edward, vampire-boyfriend and chivalric control freak.

Think of the clean up time.

The battle for superiority between pirates and ninjas has been waged onscreen and online for ages. But it's been at a stalemate since the last Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Pirates of the Caribbean installment went head to head in 2007.

It's pointless dressing up as either party, not to mention that Disney has the market cornered for Johnny Depp look-a-likes.

No matter what you decide to wear this Halloween, don't forget to just have fun with the costume. We'll judge you later.

The Dark Naught



Sarah Naylin



Bella and Edward: Twi-neither



No Pirates, No Ninjas



DO

Consider Harvey Dent instead. The charismatic poster-boy for catastrophic falls from grace may have had his story cut short in Chris Nolan's juggernaut, but you can help Two-Face's campaign live on.

Just grab a blue two-piece suit, white button-up dress shirt and liberate a red-tie from your dad's executive collection. Then let an artsy friend with an interest in anatomy go to town mapping out muscles on the left half of your face.

Blackout one half of a fifty-cent coin and you're set to bring your own flavor of luck-charmed justice to Gotham. I believe in you.

Girls can grab a picket sign and a bustle dress to become suffragette Susan B. Anthony.

Guys will want a khaki military uniform and a slouch hat to change into Rough Rider Teddy Roosevelt.

But since this year's campaign buzzword is "change," why not switch things up?

Go out as John F. Kennedy and Jackie O. for the night - in drag.

She can wear a three-piece suit with lipstick kissed collar and he can top his kitten heels, kid gloves and mini-dress with a little pink pillbox hat.

Oversized, white framed glasses required.

Dazzle everyone by dressing up as the original obsessive lovebirds, Romeo and Juliet. Thanks to Baz Luhrman's 1995 reinterpretation, all you'll need are a Hawaiian shirt and dress pants for him, a black shift dress and beret for her, and toy water guns for both.

You can go with the lover's costume party outfits too. She'll only need a white night dress and angel wings to become the fair Juliet, but he'll need to sharpie a scallop design onto a grey t-shirt to make cheap chainmail to go under faux armor shoulder pads before he's Romeo.

You'll have more joy than woe as Juliet and her Romeo than the thousand emotastic Bellas and Edwards ever could.

After you've picked out your least favorite clothes for ripping, paint your skin a rotting gray shade and accessorize with scratches, bruises, and under eye bags that scream 1,001 sleepless nights.

Lurch on over to your neighbor's and demand your bounty lest you convert them to your army of the living dead.

Everglades retreat hones leadership capability

The University offers many programs and opportunities for students to grow, both as young adults and as leaders in their communities. Most of us freshmen are used to sitting down and staring off into space while our teacher goes on and on about whatever meaningless subject is at hand at that moment.

In the real world, you do not sit and stare. We are expected to know how to properly present ourselves to others, how to make formal speeches in front of large crowds and how to take charge in certain situations that require one to step up and take a position of leadership.

I do not remember anyone teaching me any of this back in high school. Having attended Panther Camp, I was told about one of the many opportunities the University offers students in order to help them grow as successful, confident leaders. Academy of Leaders, a program held by the Center of Leadership and Service, does just that.

I decided to check it out. I walked into their office one day and said that I was interested in seeing what it was all about. I was taken in and introduced to the program coordinator, Angel Garcia. He sat me down and we spoke a little about the program, which consists of a three-day retreat in the middle of the Everglades. At this retreat, students would be exposed to several leadership sessions and "team builders" that would, ultimately, improve their ability to take the lead in any situation. After the retreat, there would be several follow-up sessions every other Wednesday to further develop students' acquired skills.

All of this costs only \$50. I was sold.

The weekend of the retreat came along and I was excited to go. I packed my bags quickly that morning (I had not been able to pack the night before because I have learned to effectively procrastinate in college). I had a paper due the night before and had stayed up all night writing it.

We all met up in the piano room in Graham Center and by noon, the bus had arrived. Of the 50 people who were going, I knew about three or four. The bus ride was pretty quiet until the members of the Lead Team, a group of students who help carry out the "team builders" throughout the weekend, had us do several icebreakers on the bus. One of them was a sort of sing-a-long. They broke us up into groups and picked a topic, such as "animals." We were then told to pick a song as a group with the topic and sing it. For example, there was "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," or "Who Let the Dogs Out?"

We soon arrived to the middle of nowhere. I, sadly, had no service on my phone - that's how far we were, but that was not a concern for me. With all the icebreakers we had on the bus, I was already having fun.

REAL FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE



JASON CACERES

Freshman recounts journey

FRESHMAN, page 5

I thought the weekend would fly by quickly if this was a preview of how it would be. On the first day there, we were already engaging in fun activities. We played the "name game," which involves going around the room with everybody saying their name. However, you must repeat the name of all the people who went before you. We also had a campfire, where we roasted marshmallows and told ghost stories.

The days began to fly by. The most fun I had was the obstacle course we went through. It was literally in the middle of the woods. We were put through several situations that tested how well we learned certain leadership skills.

For example, there was this one obstacle where we all had to stand on a slippery log and arrange ourselves in age order without falling off.

This tested our ability to step up and take charge when needed, but also our ability to step back and let others take charge when they had the better idea - a very important quality in being a leader.

The last day rolled around and no one wanted to leave. I can tell you that the bus ride back was much different than the bus ride to the campsite. Everyone was screaming, singing and laughing. We had all gotten to know each other. Any student can benefit from the Academy of Leaders, not just freshmen.

HALLOWEEN FLICKS

Have your fill of fright indoors

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Don't have a costume? Staying in for the night and have nothing else to do? Here is a slew of horror movies that may be fun to watch on All Hallow's Eve.

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Before the Wayans brothers spoofed the horror genre with the "Scary Movie" franchise, comedic actor/writer/director Mel Brooks became the first person to do so with one of the funniest films of all time. The grandson (Gene Wilder) of Victor Frankenstein learns that he has inherited his grandfather's estate. While going through his grandfather's research on his experiments, he realized they would work if he carried them out. Aiding him is his hunchbacked assistant Igor (Marty Feldman), a beautiful woman (Teri Garr) and a creepy caretaker (Cloris Leachman).

Did you know? "Young Frankenstein" was shot with many of the same props and lab equipment as the original 1931 Frankenstein movie.

DAWN OF THE DEAD

I am not mentioning the Zack Snyder directed 2004 remake of the movie that featured accelerated, rage-filled zombies. The movie I am talking about is George A. Romero's sequel to his previous movie, "Night of the Living Dead." In "Dawn of the Dead," a group of peo-

ple take residence in a local shopping mall following the fall of civilization due to zombies running amok. The message Romero expresses in this movie is that society is enslaved by consumerism, since the zombies' last memory is of going to the mall and that is why they are attracted to it.

Did you know? Extras who appeared in this film were reportedly given \$20 in cash, a boxed lunch and a "Dawn of the Dead" T-shirt.

THE EVIL DEAD

This movie happens to be director Sam Raimi's (the "Spider-Man" trilogy) first film. Five friends go on vacation to an isolated cabin in the woods. Ash (Bruce Campbell) happens to find the Necronomicon, the Book of the Dead. When the group plays a recording that translates a passage from the book, they unleash an evil force from the woods. One by one, the friends are possessed by this evil force and the only way to kill the possessed person is to hack them to death with an axe.

Did you know? Raimi and Campbell were friends in high school, where they made many super-8 films together.

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS

Based on the novel by Thomas Harris, this is the first film to focus on the character that

'A census taker once tried to test me. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti.'

would become the American Film Institute's number one villain, Dr. Hannibal Lecter. In this film, FBI agent Clarice Starling (Jodie Foster) is assigned to interview Dr. Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) to get insight on how to find a serial killer (Ted Levine) that has been skinning his victims. Using the method known as "prid quo pro", Starling trades information to Lecter about her past in exchange for hints to who the killer might be.

Did you know? "The Silence of the Lambs" is one of only three films ("It Happened One Night" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") to win Oscars for Best Picture, Best Actor (in a leading role), Best Actress (in a leading role), Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay.

DEAD ALIVE

Known as "Braindead" in New Zealand, Oscar-winning director Peter Jackson's ("The Lord of the Rings" trilogy) hilarious and over-the-top violent third film is about Lionel, a mama's boy who finds himself in a predicament when his evil overbearing mother is bitten by a rare rat monkey that turns her into a zombie. She starts to infect other residents and soon Lionel's house becomes the feeding ground to the incoming army of dead.

Did you know? 300 liters of fake blood were used in the final scene of "Dead Alive."

WEEKEND CALENDAR

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 10

- WHAT: Presidential Candidate John McCain at FIU
WHERE: FIU Arenal
WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with pre-obtained Ticket.
- WHAT: Art of Surviving Benefit Dinner
WHERE: FIU GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
- WHAT: DLP 3rd Annual Diva
WHERE: Discotekka Nightclub 900 NE 2nd Ave
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
- WHAT: New West Electronic Arts and Music Organization (NWEAMO) Festival
WHERE: FIU WPAC Concert Hall
- WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
- WHAT: Francis 7 at PS14
WHERE: PS 14 28 NE 14th St
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$7
- WHAT: SPC Karaoke
WHERE: Gracies Grill
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
- WHAT: Career Fair featuring Japanese Companies
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 11

- WHAT: Race for the Cure-FIU
WHERE: Bayfront Park 301 Biscayne Blvd.
WHEN: 8 a.m.
HOW MUCH: TBA
- WHAT: Vicente Fernandez
WHERE: American Airlines Arena 601 Biscayne Blvd.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Varies
- WHAT: Jack's Mannequin
WHERE: City Limits, 19 N.E. 3rd Ave. Delray Beach
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$30
- WHAT: Coltoberfest 305
WHERE: Churchill's 5501 NE 2nd Ave Miami, FL
WHEN: 7 p.m.
- HOW MUCH: \$5 donation
- WHAT: Nightmare: Ghost Stories
WHERE: SoHo Studios 2136 NW 1st Ave.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$45
- WHAT: Sunny Isles Beach JazzFest
WHERE: Sunny Isles Beach City Hall 17070 Collins Ave. Sunny Isles Beach, FL
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 12

- WHAT: Hawthorne Heights
WHERE: Culture room, 3045 N Federal Hwy, Ft Lauderdale, FL
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$20
- WHAT: Miami Dolphins vs. Baltimore Ravens
WHERE: Dolphin Stadium 2267 Dan Marino Blvd Miami Gardens
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$41
- WHAT: Music Map of the World Afternoon Tea Concerts
WHERE: Arsh Center for the Performing Arts 1300 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami
WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$27
- WHAT: Spa Week
- WHERE: Brownes & Co. 841 Lincoln Road Miami Beach, FL
WHEN: Noon
HOW MUCH: Varies
- WHAT: Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival
WHERE: Cinema Paradiso 503 SE 6th St. Fort Lauderdale, FL
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$9

Compiled by: Rosalyn Delgado

diversions

Ciao readers,

Divisions is a little smaller this week. Halloween got priority this time around. We'll be back full swing next week.

—Jonathan Davila, Life! Editor



My Cousin Tony by Alex Ferrer

Scariest Video Ever!!!!

2



Scrutinized receiver finally breathes air into organization

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Wire

DAVIE — Ted Ginn Jr. cracked a rare Monday morning smile, getting to savor a breakout game with something usually reserved for winners: a day off.

It was a long time coming for Ginn and the Miami Dolphins.

In a short professional career filled with disappointments, Ginn had plenty of reasons to be in good spirits. He shed some of that "draft bust" stamp that has plagued his stay with the Dolphins, catching seven passes for a career-high 175 yards in Miami's 25-16 win against Buffalo on Sunday.

"It was different," Ginn said. "It was more of an enjoyment."

Most days with Miami have been otherwise.

Ginn's career with the Dolphins began with boos on draft day, and Miami's much-mocked decision to take him ninth overall made him the face of last year's 1-15 mess. A day after his first 100-yard game in the NFL, Ginn is now the shining example of the sud-

denly rejuvenated Dolphins.

Miami (3-4) already has tripled its win total from last season under the new Bill Parcells regime, and if only for a day, Ginn looked like the go-to receiver who deserved that high pick.

"He just keeps getting better and better," Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington said after the game. "You can just tell in his eyes when we're talking about routes that he's just very hungry. He wants to be the guy."

Ginn set the tone on the game's first play from scrimmage, beating the Bills deep for a 46-yard gain.

"I think he seized the moment," Dolphins coach Tony Sparano said Monday.

The thrill of a breakout game was long overdue for Ginn. But it was just one game in 1 1/2 mediocre seasons.

It was a game where the cornerback covering him, Terrence McGee, was playing with a sore knee. And a game where the opponent's defensive scheme stacked the line of the circumstances, Miami is pleased Ginn finally arrived.

"A lot of people were saying, 'Where's Ted? Where's

Ted?'" Pennington said. "But with young receivers it just takes a while. You have to be patient."

Ginn's time in Miami has been anything but.

Dolphin fans even booed then-coach Cam Cameron when he emerged to make the announcement that Ginn was set to be his pick.

Ginn, who has been often criticized for his inability to create separation, ended last season with 34 catches for 420 yards.

He managed only one punt return for a touchdown.

"Just getting up every day was hard, knowing you got to get up every day and you got to do this again and not get any outcome out of it," Ginn said. "To where now, you know you got a chance."

Those around him are realizing that, too.

Ginn often speaks with friends and family after games, sometimes struggling to get a hold of them by phone.

After his big game against Buffalo, things were different. And he's hoping to keep it that way.

"Sunday," Ginn said, "I heard from everybody."

HOMESTAND



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

CAN I KICK IT: Sophomore midfielder Marcos Balladares evades a defender during a game this season. FIU ends the season on a four game homestand.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

ROUTINE: Natalia Vergun makes a play for the Golden Panthers, who have won 20 games in 24 attempts this season.

Volleyball gets ranking in RPI

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

The volleyball team continues their impressive season playing five straight conference games at FIU Arena beginning with New Orleans (14-8) tonight at 7 p.m. FIU (20-4) leads the Sun-belt Conference East Division with a 10-1 record and has won eight straight games.

The upcoming stretch of home games is important because FIU's seeding for the conference tournament and the NCAA tournament will reflect heavily on the stretch run of the season.

"We understand we hold our destiny in our own hands, we're not depending on other teams... we're in first place," head coach Danijela Tomic said. "If we take care of business here at home than we will accomplish what we set out to do at the beginning of the season. We approach every game like it's the most important game of the season and our record shows that."

FIU will look to preserve their undefeated record at home on Saturday at 7 p.m. facing University of Louisiana-Monroe (1-24) and continue on Sunday at 7 p.m. facing

Louisiana-Lafayette (6-16) at 7 p.m. Even though FIU's record is much better than ULM and Louisiana-Lafayette, Coach Tomic isn't taking them lightly.

"We accomplished a lot but we understand that we are one loss away from being a third seed in the conference tournament as opposed to a one or two seed. Our goal is to be the number one seed and have the best record in the conference," she said.

FIU's schedule gets tougher as they look to avenge a loss earlier in the season when Middle-Tennessee (19-4) visits FIU arena on Friday Nov. 7 at 7 p.m. FIU and MTSU have been battling for the top spot in the Sun Belt Eastern Division all season.

As of today, FIU is holding on to a one game lead over MTSU.

Trailing close behind in the Sun Belt Eastern Division is Western Kentucky (17-9), who visits FIU on Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. FIU wraps up conference play hosting FAU on Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. at FIU Arena, and in between travel to Fort Myers to take on Florida Gulf Coast on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

RANKED

Helping FIU's bid for a high conference and NCAA tournament seed,

FIU was ranked 18th in this week's RPI.

The Golden Panthers have the highest Ratings percentage index ranking in the Sun Belt Conference, which boasts five teams ranked in the top 61. This is the third RPI ranking this season; the next one comes out Nov. 11. The RPI is used by the NCAA selection committee to help seed teams in the NCAA tournament.

"I'm happy with the RPI ranking but I think we deserve to be in the [American Volleyball Coaches Association] Top 25," Tomic said. "We deserve it because the way we've played, we scheduled a tough preseason. The teams we beat are doing pretty well. I think our team has gotten better and better every week, look at the statistics. We deserve to be there."

With their recent found success, Coach Tomic is doing her best to make sure the team does not lose focus.

"I spoke to the team this morning, and I told them the worst thing we can do is become complacent," she said. "The success has to motivate us to work even harder and get better and our team understands that This is our time."



JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.

DEFENSIVE TEST

Golden Panthers' defense face nation's best rushing attack

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (3-4, 2-1 Sun Belt Conference) are coming off a bye week where the focus was on two things; healing up, and stopping the run.

The Golden Panthers last game came against Troy on Oct. 18, when they fell to the Trojans 33-23. FIU committed 10 penalties and three turnovers in the contest, which snapped their three game winning streak.

This will be a difficult match-up for FIU, visiting the Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (4-3, 3-0), which leads the nation in rushing yards per game at 311.7. ULL also ranks seventh in total offense nationally, and leads the Sun Belt in that category.

The rushing attack is led by a two headed monster in the backfield of senior running back Tyrell Fenroy, and the nation's leading rushing quarterback Mickael Desormeaux. Fenroy averages 138.5 yards per game, making him fourth in the country. Desormeaux is the only quarterback in the country averaging over 100 yards rushing per game, and he leads the Sun Belt in completion percentage, 62.6 percent, and ranks second in the league in passer efficiency.

It's no secret that the Ragin' Cajuns are going to try to establish the run, and if any team in the Sun Belt is equipped to load up the box and play three-deep against ULL trying to stop the run, it's FIU.

The Golden Panthers have the personnel to defend the spread option attack of ULL, and will have the opportunity to send several contenders for post-season league honors to try to stop the rushing attack.

Scott Bryant leads the charge up front. The junior linebacker leads FIU with 59 tackles, and playing on the outside, is going to be one of the players called upon to try to control the option on the edge.

Because FIU has such a strong secondary, they'll have the opportunity to present eight-man fronts to ULL, to try to slow down the running

attack.

The corner play has been outstanding, and Anthony Gaitor leads the Sun Belt in passes defended with 10, and Robert Mitchell is one of the top tackling defensive backs in the Sun Belt with 48 stops.

For FIU to be successful in this game, the offense must be able to move the ball and that all begins with Paul McCall.

The junior quarterback has continued to improve, and with a week off between games he will have opportunity to build on what was perhaps the best performance of his college career. McCall was 22-of-33 for 266 yards and two touchdowns and one interception.

The FIU running game will have to get on track too. As Julian Reams continues to nurse an injured calf, Daunte Owens and A'mod Ned will have to continue to shoulder the load.

At Troy, Owens carried 14 times for 69 yards, and caught two passes for an additional 21 yards.

The Golden Panthers must get their major playmakers involved, particularly T.Y. Hilton and Greg Ellingson on the outside. These have been the most consistent receivers this year for FIU, and will have plenty of opportunity to do so, as will the running backs.

Louisiana-Lafayette ranks near the bottom of the Sun Belt defensively, and FIU will have the opportunity to move the ball. ULL ranks seventh out of eight teams in the SBC defending the run, allowing 222 yards per game. The Ragin' Cajun pass defense is allowing 218 yards per game, sixth in the Sun Belt, and has a minus 5 turnover margin for the season.

BEACON PREDICTION

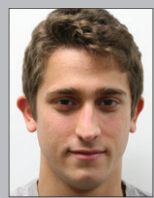
FIU and ULL will start slowly, with the FIU defense slowing ULL down early, coming out with a high energy level, and FIU has started slowly on the road this season. Both teams will trade big plays throughout what will be a high scoring contest. ULL's playing at home will ultimately be the difference in a close contest that will feature lots of fireworks. Final score: ULL 33, FIU 31.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Young pass catchers have potential to hit big this weekend

COMMENTARY



JONATHAN ALPERT

O! First round pick where art thou? Tom Brady, Joseph Addai, Randy Moss, Terrell Owens; All didn't pan out. Luckily, your teams not in the duldrums hovering around .500.

Week 9 of the NFL season is the beginning of the last fourth of the fantasy football season. Most of

the solid waiver wire pickups are gone, and the players I told you to pick up last week are probably gone too.

The hard part is trusting them enough to start those high risk players and bench your top pick. Sometimes, it's worth taking the chance, because starting these guys can propel your team to victory.

Donnie Avery- Wide Receiver, St. Louis Rams: I preached about Avery last week, and I was right on point. He is the number one receiver on the Rams with a quarterback who has found new life in Marc Bulger and a healthy running back in Steven Jackson.

Coming off two monster weeks, Donnie Avery is being snatched up in leagues, but he is still available in most leagues. The Rams take on Arizona, the Jets, and 49ers over the next three weeks and they are in the bottom half of fantasy points surrendered to wide receivers. The rookie wide receiver proves his worth as the first wide receiver taken in this years draft out of the university of Houston.

Nate Washignton- Wide Receiver, Pittsburgh Steelers: With a touchdown his last three weeks, Washignton has become the premiere deep threat for Ben Roethlisberger and

the Steelers offense. Pittsburgh has thrown the ball deep to Washington at least three times a game, and usually convert on at least one play of over 40 yards. Washington has been praised by head coach Mike Tomlin and his speed will continue to be utilized successfully.

Lance Moore- Wide Receiver, New Orleans Saints: Moore might have been dropped in your league with number one receiver Marques Colston returning from injury; big mistake. Moore has earned the trust of QB Drew Brees, who loves spreading the ball around to different receivers.

Everybody on the Saints offense is a viable start, and Moore is a guy that is probably available, as opposed to Devery Henderson, whose big play ability has had owners salivating over his status all year.

Tyler Thigpen- Quarterback, Kasas City

Chiefs: If you need an emergency start at quarterback, don't be scared to start Thigpen.

Even though he is on a bad team, he has a pair of viable weapons in tight end Tony Gonzalez and Wide Receiver Dwayne Bowe.

He might not win your team a title, but he is good if your stuck with an injury or bye week.

Ted Ginn Jr.- Wide Receiver, Miami Dolphins: Will the real Ted Ginn Jr. please stand up?

Dolfans are hoping last week's 175 yard performance was not an anomaly, and Ginn might have turned the corner.

Chad Pennington dosent play to Ginn's strengths as a receiver, the long ball, but he will be more involved in the offense after proving himself a viable threat. Miami plays Denver and Seattle, both weak defensively, and Ginn should find his way into the end zone.