

OKTOBERFEST

Club offers beer, food tasting

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Cafeteria events draw attention

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Porter Davis offers recreational fun

MIDTERMS

FIU football midseason grades

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UNLEASH YOUR INNER SHELL



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

UP IN THE SKY: Junior Christopher Pardo watches senior Mimy Young flying a kite on Oct. 20 at Tamiami Park.

MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY

Speaker discusses candidates' possible strategies, policies

ANDREW CALIENES
Staff Writer

Former Ambassador and current President of the United Nations Association of the United States William H. Norris presented his view on how the presidential candidates would deal with Middle Eastern policy in a speech to students in Graham Center 243 on Oct. 23.

Norris gave an unbiased view on how Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama would deal with the current issues in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran. These issues, according to the Gallup polls, are second to the economy in the minds of voters.

When speaking about the candidates' experience in regard to foreign policy Norris described them as "empty vessels" stating that traditionally many presidents have no

foreign policy experience and rely heavily on their advisers.

"The advisers that Obama can refer to are basically Clinton's former team," Norris said.

He went on to speculate that the Illinois Senator is more pensive and would be more likely to take advice if an issue of national security would arise. When explaining

MIDDLE EAST, page 2

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CENTER

Candidates' foreign policy aides meet to persuade late voters

ELIZABETH NICKERSON
Staff Writer

Both presidential candidates' Latin American policy advisers gathered to convince last minute voters on Oct. 22 at the Latin American and Caribbean Center.

Sen. John McCain's Latin American Chairperson Fabio Arias and Sen. Barack Obama's Western Hemisphere Senior Policy Adviser Dan Restrepo attempted to sell their respective candidates positions on Latin American policies.

Cristina Eguizabal, director of the LACC, was the moderator, who welcomed both by reading the first question, "What are both candidate standpoint on immigration?"

Obama's vision was clear, according to Restrepo, when he pushed for immigration reform alongside Sen. Mel Martinez in 2006 and 2007.

In addition, Restrepo said, Obama is a strong supporter of amnesty and the construction of a wall border in the U.S-Mexico border.

"Protecting our security within our borders and going after those employers who are exploiting immigrant labor in the U.S is crucial to Obama's commitment during first year in office," Restrepo said.

Arias has worked closely with McCain for eight years to ensure security within borders.

"There are three pillars for immigration reform in a McCain-Palin administration: security, undocumented immigrant's alteration and illegality," Arias said.

McCain believes, according to Arias, that crossing party lines to support comprehensive immigration reform is a crucial component on reformation.

In addition, both candidates support continuing aid for Plan Colombia to fight drugs and violence, as well as a similar program for Mexico known as the Mérida Initiative. Both campaigns also support sweeping immigration reform.

Both stressed their candidates attempts to build stronger ties with Latin American countries.

Arias hopes that U.S. relations with Colombia, Mexico and Chile would improve, while Restrepo alluded to Obama's May 2008 speech at the Cuban American National Foundations luncheon where he emphasized promoting economic opportunity through trade.

The debate later shifted to Cuba.

Restrepo clearly stated that his candidate's position on Cuba is to allow Cuban Americans unlimited family travel and allow remittances sent to Cuba.

Obama believes that the "empower[ment] of the Cuban people" should be prioritized in order to reduce their dependence upon the regime. Yet, Restrepo said, Obama does not support an end to the U.S. embargo on Cuba, which he believes should remain in place to act as leverage in encouraging "positive democratic change" on the island.

On the other hand, McCain will

LATIN AMERICA, page 2

Football adds non-conference teams to future schedule

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. News Director

After the Golden Panthers football team plays top tier opponent the University of Florida in 2009, they will have three new non-conference teams to play against from 2010-2014.

FIU and the University of Central Florida Knights have agreed to a four-year contract to play four games over five years starting in 2010, according to fuisports.com.

Athletic Director Pete Garcia also agreed to home-and-home games against Bowl Series Championship teams like Texas A&M, Duke and

Louisville. Two games will be played at UCF and two at FIU.

"We're not doing two-for-ones anymore," Garcia told The Miami Herald, about playing two road games and one home game against out of conference teams in the past. "All we're doing are home-and-home. This is due to opening up our new stadium, to give our fans and students an opportunity to have an average of six home games each year and in fairness to our football team."

The Golden Panthers will travel to Bright House Networks Stadium in 2010, but in 2011 the Knights will make the trip down south for their

first visit to FIU Stadium. By 2011, the FIU football stadium is set to have 45,000-seat capacity compared to the current 18,000-seat limit.

In 2011, they will also travel to Louisville Sept. 24 for the first of a four-game series, and then host Duke on Oct. 1

FIU concludes the two-game deal with Duke in Durham, on Sept. 1, 2012 and hosts Louisville on Sept. 22.

Home games against Texas A&M on August 31 and UCF Sept. 7 are part of the 2013 non-conference schedule and Louisville Sept. 2 makes its FIU Stadium debut on Sept. 20, 2014.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

FUTURE GAMES: Golden Panther fans can expect playing UCF, Texas A&M, Louisville and Duke from 2010-2014.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Provost separates research and graduate positions

Professor George Walker was both the vice president for research and dean of the University Graduate School two years ago, but Provost Ronald Berkman is now separating both positions. Former Associate Vice President for Research Development Andres Gil will now be the vice president for sponsored research and will report to Walker.

In an e-mail to the FIU community, Berkman said he hopes the restructuring will keep the connection between graduate education and sponsored research. The University's research growth will require more development of those two departments, according to Berkman.

The Research department consists of the vice president for sponsored research and associate vice presidents for budgets & finance, research integrity and compliance and sponsored research and technology development.

FIU Cares hosts Halloween activities for adults with developmental disabilities

The Association for the Development of the Exceptional, a private, non-profit agency, is planning a series of Halloween activities servicing adults with developmental disabilities.

The ADE is creating a haunted house, organizing a costume contest and showing a horror movie. Festivities run at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 31. ADE is trying to organize a carpool system that would take students from FIU to the event located on 2801 North Miami Avenue.

The Organization is asking for volunteers to help build the haunted house. It will be built on Oct. 30 beginning at 10 a.m. and a maximum of 24 volunteers are needed.

– Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

POLICE NOTES

Oct. 18: Police were called at 12:50 a.m., in reference to the theft of a bicycle. The victim, an FIU student, said that at 11:30 p.m. he placed his bicycle on a bicycle rack on the south side of the Engineering Computer Science building and secured it with a lock. Upon returning, the bike was gone. The lock had been cut.

Oct. 19: An FIU visitor had a seizure while in the library. The victim was unresponsive but breathing normally when police responded to the scene. Soon after, he was sitting upright in a chair and conscious. Fire Rescue was called to the scene though the victim denied treatment and walked out of the library and campus on foot. The victim has had two past seizures in the library.

Oct. 22: An FIU student complained of light headedness and stated she felt like fainting. She advised to police that she had given blood two hours earlier and had not eaten since. Miami Dade Fire Rescue responded to the scene treating and releasing the student.

– Compiled by David A. Barrios

GATHER 'ROUND



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

THINKING CAPS: Freshmen from a First year Experience course (SLS 1501) work on a group assignment for developing a budget.

Battling corruption is paramount

LATIN AMERICA, page 1

not sit down with the Castro brothers, according to Arias, until political prisoners are released and other civil liberties are granted to the Cuban people.

Earlier in his campaign, Obama received criticism for stating that he would like to “pursue direct diplomacy, with friend and foe alike, without preconditions.”

The debate moved forward, with representa-

tives speaking about Haiti's food crisis reformation and both Colombian American Speakers agreeing in the development of assistance on Haiti's Food crisis.

Corruption was indeed the highlight of the evening, Arias said, “fighting to end corruption in both parties” is key to ensure independent leadership by cutting America ahead of politics and self-interest.

Obama's adviser mentioned the importance of corruption, by stating that

in an Obama administration will “shine the light on [corruption.]”

During the questions and answer session, an audience member wanted a thorough explanation on the Obama campaign's commitment to “shining the light on corruption.”

Restrepo referenced Obama's May 2008 speech.

While students found the debate insightful, senior Daniella Pinero said the public discussion did not influ-

ence her opinion on the candidate she was going to elect.

“I enjoyed some aspects of both candidates on their standards in Cuba,” Pinero said.

Overall, from the standards reiterated by McCain's representative she was “sold” by McCain's policies.

The public forum was a continuation of a debate at the America's Conference held two weeks ago, where both representative spoke on topics regarding Latin American policies.

Speech impacts voters in attendance

MIDDLE EAST, page 1

on how Sen. Obama would deal with an extreme issue of national security he said:

“The problem with any democratic president and particularly Obama, is there will be so much skepticism about his alleged liberal wimpiness that will be very touchy feely with dealing with the

pentagon.”

About McCain the ambassador said: “I think McCain is spontaneous, he is a maverick and as we know from his campaign he comes up with a new idea everyday.”

Several students in attendance were influenced by Norris' speech.

“Personally as an FIU student I'm very glad to have the

ambassador here, his opinions are very well taken and the information he gave us is very good,” said Raphael DeVarona, a junior.

However, DeVarona felt that Norris was biased toward Obama.

“But at the end of the day you have to look beyond not only the words that they say but look at who they are. It is

obvious to me he's voting for Obama,” he said.

Senior Afroza Kashar summed up what she felt students should have taken from the presentation.

“I think this [event] will have an impact on how I vote because the War on Terror is a huge deal in this election,” Kashar said.



NonViolence In Business

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SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Dr. Dipak C. Jain
(Dean of the Kellogg School of Management)

Samani Charitra Prajna
(Jain Nun)

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Graham Center (GC) Ballrooms * FIU University Park

RSVP by Oct. 21 to prajna108@gmail.com Contact number 305-220-5339. Jain Vegetarian Dinner will be served

Sponsors: Jain Center of South Florida, FIU Religious Studies Department, Center for the Study of Spirituality, Preksha Meditation Club, The Eugenio Pino & Family Global Entrepreneurship Center

THE BEACON



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INFORMATION

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CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Oct. 22, 2008, the News article titled “Greek's new payment policy affects credit” identified Beta Theta Pi fraternity as Beta Omicron Pi. The same article stated Beta Theta Pi members pay \$450 a month. Members pay \$450 a semester.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

Students enjoy homemade beer at Oktoberfest

BRITON ALONSO
Contributing Writer

The Friends of Wine club took a break from its usual drink of choice as they hosted "Oktoberfest - Beers of the World."

The beer tasting was held in the Hospitality Management Building dining room at the Biscayne Bay Campus to celebrate Oktoberfest, and was open to anyone over the age of 21.

While this was the club's third tasting of the semester, it was the first to showcase beer.

Samantha Newton, a senior hospitality management major and Friends of Wine president, said the variation was due to requests from members.

"We asked people what they wanted, and they wanted a beer tasting," Newton said. "So we gave it to them."

Participants were offered a variety of beers and foods to taste. There were 17 beers representing six countries, with four from Germany and nine home-brewed variations.

Dennis Gebken, a senior finance and international business major, presented three beers he

brewed. He used a home brewing kit called "Mr. Beer," which can be purchased online at *MrBeer.com*.

"[The kits] make it so easy. All the ingredients and tools are there. Anyone can do it," Gebken said.

This time around, he brewed a lager, a pilsner and a stout.

Lagers are one of the most common beers in America and have a light flavor. Pilsners have a bitter taste, while stouts, such as Guinness, are thick and nutty.

Gebken said that Weihenstephaner, a German brew, comes from a brewery that began in 1040 and is the oldest functioning brewery in the world.

Arthur "A.J." Mindermann, a senior hospitality management major, also donated his home-brewed beer. One was a Kaffir lime pilsner, which is flavored with Kaffir lime leaves, a common ingredient in Southeast Asian cuisine.

"Kaffir lime is usually an ingredient in curry dishes," Mindermann said. "It is a very experimental flavor for beer."

Mindermann is the Friends of Wine secretary, but his main priority is the food.

"Yes, I'm the secretary, but what I really do is make sure the food is

great. I'm the chef," Mindermann said.

In full celebration of Oktoberfest, Mindermann prepared sauerkraut and bratwurst, staples of German cuisine.

Cellars Wine and Spirits in Aventura and Republic National Distributing also donated some of the beers.

All sat at one long table with the beers placed in the middle. With Allman Brothers classics playing in the background, the tasters learned more about each other and the beers they were sampling.

"This is exactly what I want the club to be: people getting together, sitting around a table and having fun," Newton said. "This is the best turnout we've had this semester."

The 22 tasters spanned a wide range of ages. Jake Campbell, 26, does not attend FIU, but heard about the tasting through his stepbrother, who is a club member.

"I really appreciate that FIU offers these things to the public," Campbell said.

He also made it a family affair by bringing his father, John Campbell, 58, to the tasting.

"I can see me and my dad buy-



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

NO LEDERHOSEN: Arthur Mindermann pours beer for the samplers at the beer tasting on Oct. 22.

ing a case of 'Mr. Beer,'" Campbell said. "I think we just found our new weekend hobby."

The club will host two more tastings in October. For the first tasting, Friends of Wine will team up with Club Africa on Oct. 27 at 5:30 p.m. for a South African wine and spirits tasting. South African regional food will be served, and the cost will be \$5.

The second tasting, on Oct. 29, will be free, and co-hosted by the South Beach Wine and Food

Festival Club at 5 p.m.

Beer lovers will have to wait until next semester for another beer tasting.

"We are already thinking about what to do for the next beer tasting, but the rest of the semester is already booked up with wines, so it will have to wait," Newton said.

Both tastings will take place in the Hospitality Management Building dining room at BBC.

For more information, contact fufriendsofwine@gmail.com or

Paper bags a more eco-friendly option than plastic

On a recent trip to Savannah, Georgia I noticed something unexpected: a green-driven innovation.

An everyday garbage can is lined with one or two heavy duty plastic bags, but the garbage cans in Savannah were lined with one heavy duty plastic bag on the outside, and a large brown paper bag on the inside.

If you're collecting garbage outdoors in Florida, paper liners might not be an option due to the humidity and rainfall, but indoors it is acceptable.

"We found that we were going through plastic bags so often that the biodegradable brown bags were more cost effective," said Jesse Watkins, sanitation supervisor for the city of Savannah's sanitation department.

The paper bag in the garbage can serves as the receptacle for the garbage, while the plastic stays fixed inside the bin, as a barrier, only to be removed if the paper bag breaks.

This inspired me to make small changes in my shopping habits and how I dispose of trash.

Paper grocery bags are as easy to obtain as plastic ones,



GO GREEN

NATHAN VALENTINE

the difference is you have to request them when checking out at a grocery store.

Whole Foods Market banned plastic bags at checkout earlier this year, so the only bag offered is made from paper.

"Paper bags are made from trees, which are a renewable resource. Most plastic bags are made from polyethylene, which is made from crude oil and natural gas - nonrenewable resources," according to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site. In ideal conditions, "plastic bags can take 1,000 years to decompose, whereas paper bags take about a month," according to the site.

Katie Bennett, a junior television production major, said she uses her leftover plastic grocery bags for her lunch bags, cat litter box liners and garbage bags.

Switching to paper bags for trash liners and lunch bags would benefit decomposition in landfills because fibrous brown paper break down easily.

On the other hand, "2,000 plastic bags weigh 30 pounds, [while] 2,000 paper bags

weigh 280 pounds. The latter takes up a lot more landfill space," according to the EPA's Web site.

Weighing the benefits between the two poses a dilemma. If you want to help out but can't make up your mind, there are other alternatives that can benefit the community as well.

Consider shopping with a reusable bag in your pocket or purse and when checking out, ask the bagger to use this bag for groceries instead of standard plastic bags.

"It's one of the simplest ways to help the environment, as citizens of the world; I don't see why we cannot or should not use reusable bags," said Zahra Arbabi-Aski, a freshman psychology major.

Some stores, such as Publix, Target and Whole Foods, sell reusable bags ranging from 99 cents to \$1.50, and Whole Foods will even take a "nickel-per-bag" off your purchase, according to their Web site.

This incentive is a good tactic to reward those with reusable bags, but some may find it cumbersome carrying around several empty bags in addition to other personal belongings.

"I wouldn't be opposed to

GOING CLUBBING



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

CLUB FAIR: Hali Neal, a junior public relations major (right) speaks to Mauricio Diocus I, a freshman journalism/creative writing major, and Maria Pacheco, freshman journalism major, about the Keep the Music Rolling Jam, which promotes local bands and donates proceeds to organizations such as the Humane Society.

using it for smaller purchases, but for bigger grocery outings it's impractical," Bennett said.

Keeping a few of the recyclable bags in my car's trunk, I find them convenient because each one holds around three plastic bags worth of groceries. This lessens the load my hands carry, compared to the thinner plastic bags that cut off blood circulation to my fingers.

If you forget your reusable bag or are too shy to ask for paper, take the plastic bags and use them to carry your groceries home. When finished, bring

them back next time to be recycled in a designated plastic bag recycling bin. Publix, for example, has these bins in many of their stores.

When I backpacked Europe, I noticed that if you didn't bring your own bag for groceries, you were charged around 3 cents for each plastic bag you took. The USA could be headed this way, so it would be beneficial to both you and the environment to start making these small lifestyle changes.

Next time you visit the

grocery store, use your reusable bag and promote greener practices.

According to the EPA's Web site, "In New York City alone, one less grocery bag per person per year would reduce waste by five million pounds, and save \$250,000 in disposal costs."

Make a change.

Go Green is a monthly column about green initiatives.

If you have any suggestions please e-mail us at atthebay@fiusm.com

THE BEACON | Editorial

Vote 'yes' on Amendment 8 to help fund community colleges – but be wary

The Beacon believes in focusing on issues that directly affect higher education. As such, of all of the amendments on Florida's ballot this general election, the one that we found most relevant to college students and the state of higher education is Amendment 8 to the state constitution.

Amendment 8 would authorize counties to levy temporary sales tax increase for the purpose of giving supplemental funding to community colleges in that county.

The approval of this amendment itself does not create a tax, but it does have the potential for greatly affecting Miami-Dade County's fiscal relationship with Miami-Dade College.

The Beacon recommends a vote of "Yes" on Amendment 8.

First and foremost, we, as benefactors of publicly funded education, strongly believe in its importance on the primary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

A "yes" vote on Amendment 8 is an affirmation of the important roles that community colleges play in our state.

There are a number of reasons that community colleges, and specifically Miami-Dade College and Broward College – the two institutions most closely related with our own university – could use an extra couple of bucks.

The recent cuts to degree programs deemed less profitable to the University – such as the College of Education – have FIU seeing a decline in new students for the first time since 1992. We have nothing to lose by a complementary institution being a mechanism of producing teachers for the community, among other qualified professionals.

This is a perfect time to increase the roles of community colleges in our county government system, since both Miami-Dade College and Broward College both now offer some four-year degrees.

To clarify: yes, both of

these institutions are still considered part of Florida's community college system despite the dropping of the designation from their name.

Now that we have covered why community colleges could benefit from this, it is imperative to consider some of the consequences, and worse, ulterior motives, behind this amendment.

Most ominously, if the amendment becomes law, we believe that the legislature might feel that it can get away with reducing funding for community colleges, now that counties are providing some of their own dough.

We've seen this before in our state with the Florida Lotto, which promised additional money for public schools, but the state ended up using money that was originally for education for other purposes.

If the state saw that monies raised by county sales taxes went to Miami-Dade College, it might be compelled to cut its own funding to the College, citing the need to pay for other expenditures.

The success of this Amendment is contingent upon our trust in our county governments.

Since every county would be responsible for writing the wording of the referendum that would actually put the sales tax into place, they should word it in a way that stipulates without a doubt that all of the money collected would go to community colleges – and promise oversight.

Then they have to actually do it.

Miami-Dade residents are rightfully weary of increased taxes after approving a 2002 penny tax to fund bus in rail project, only to have the county later admitted in 2005 that it could not live up to the promises of the Peoples' Transportation Plan that the tax was supposed to support.

Vote yes on 8, but with caution.

GET FRESH

UP's all-you-can-eatery offers greater variety with theme days

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

Many of you are lifeless zombies, shuffling about in starvation – that is, until you enter Fresh Food Company in the Graham Center. As many of you know, Fresh Food Co. is FIU's most affordable food option for the highest quantity of food.

All restaurants, regardless of location, have their pros and cons; Fresh Food Co. is no exception. For the price of a Subway combo, which is not infinite, you are given access to a limitless amount of a wide selection of food choices, all of which are prepared and cooked in front of you. That is the pro.

The con would be that the Fresh Food Co. menu can sometimes feel monotonous and boring to regular customers, especially students with meal plans.

"Probably about 85 percent, the majority of students that we feed are on a meal plan," said Henry Ward, director of Residential Dining.

Luckily for us, Fresh Food Co. has found an ingenious way "to give students a break from the cycle itself," according to Ward. The answer is themed meals.

"They are a monotony breaker that is not on our regular menu," Ward said.

Between Sept. 24 and Oct. 15, Fresh Food Co. hosted weekly themed events.

I attended these theme events and I can tell you that the quality of the food was both superior and more enjoyable than that of a regular day.

Amazingly, there is no extra cost, according to Ward, in hosting the themed events.

We need theme events to occur much more frequently than they have in the past and they have planned.

Bringing multiple themes per week would not cost the students more.

"If we did multiple specials it would not be a situation that it would raise prices," Ward said.

If there is no extra cost and the menu is greatly im-

proved, then why don't we have at least two themes per week?

Most likely, Fresh Food Co. is awaiting the results from the themed events that have been planned for the remainder of the semester. So far, "the counts are the same every week," Ward said when asked if the themed

Secondly, if a higher number of students attend, then Fresh Food Co. might have sufficient incentive to further increase the amount of themed meal events.

If there would be an increase in the number of themed meals, then both the enjoyment of the meal would increase and the monotonous

In order to draw more students to the cafeteria, including those who do not have meal plans, Fresh Food would need a very active marketing team.

events brought in additional students.

Why hasn't Fresh Food Co. received more customers? Simple: their marketing is lethargic. Placing a couple of signs in front of Fresh Food Co. is not promotion.

In order to draw more students to the cafeteria, including those who are not on meal plans – which would bring more revenue and then would enable more investment in events – Fresh Food would need a very active marketing team, which seems to be lacking.

Fresh Food Co. will be hosting seven more themed events during this semester. Any student who dines at FIU should attend for two reasons.

First, the overall quality and variety of food is superior to that of an ordinary Fresh Food Co. day and it outshines any other food establishment's menu.

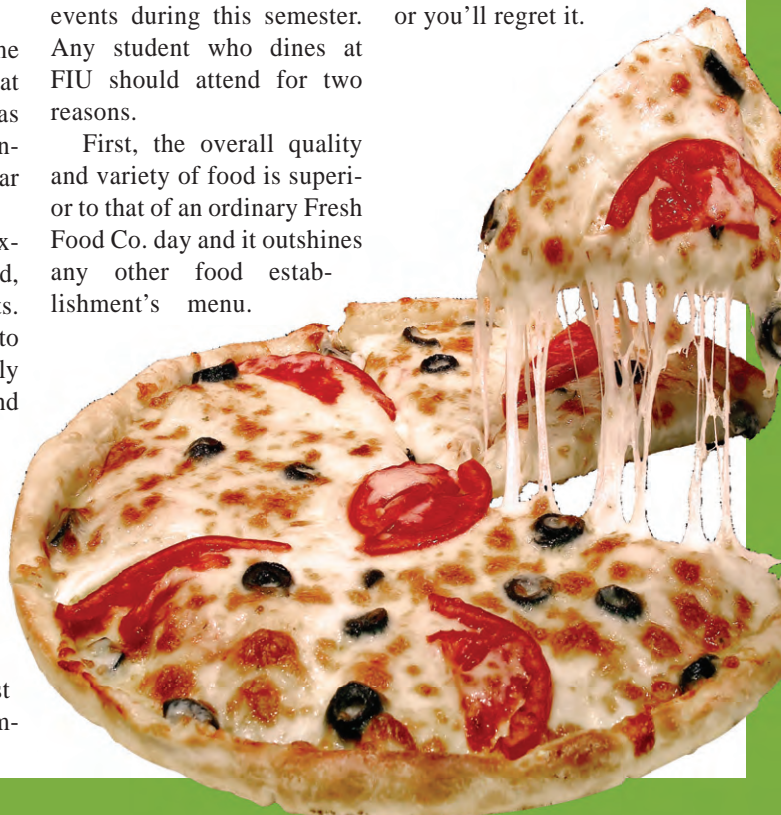
sensation we feel would lessen or end.

"Next week, [on the 31st], we have a Halloween themed meal," Ward said.

And in November there will be a float day, a cheese-cake lover's bar, and of course, a Thanksgiving feast. There are three other events in December as well.

Support FIU's main dining establishment by attending the themed events, thus not only eating better quality food but also saving money; as the other dining options are not as carefree with their pricing.

So go eat at Fresh Food, or you'll regret it.



SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor can be sent to opinion@fiusm.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words and include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.

PORTER DAVIS GOT GAME

Game room offers variety of activities for students

RODOLFO MARTINEZ
Contributing Writer

Strolling through the halls of the University Graham Center, you may have seen posters or easels inviting you to visit the Porter Davis Game Room.

Located directly before the en-

trance to Gracie's Grill in GC 155, the game room is a quaint place where individuals of all kinds can gather to escape the daily grind of life. Within, you'll find people playing the popular card game "Magic: the Gathering" or contemporary video games like "Super Smash Bros. Brawl."

One may even find some students enjoying a game of table tennis or chess.

"I enjoy the wide variety of available games," said sophomore and chemistry major Khalid Dubey.

At reasonably inexpensive prices, students with a Panther ID or a drivers' license, wheth-

er they attend the university or not, can partake in any game of their choice. Seven billiard tables are available to rent for a student hourly rate of \$5 and a \$7 rate for non-FIU students.

Table Tennis is also available for a student hourly rate of \$3 an hour and a \$4 rate for non-FIU students.

Special deals are also available to recurring customers. By signing up for a loyal customer card, after the seventh game of pool you are granted a free eighth game.

Every Friday from noon to 2 p.m., a free game of billiards is available to anyone that comes in. For fans of online gaming, a Panther ID will allow you to create an account to play a variety online games such as "Halo," "Counter Strike," "Day of Defeat,"

and "World of Warcraft," for \$2.50 an hour. Board games such as Backgammon and Chess are available for free. Arcade games range from 50 to 75 cents a pop.

Employing a chess club, billiard club and table tennis club, the Game Room sponsors campus tournaments where winners can then represent the University at the Association of College Unions International, which has produced first place winners in these games.

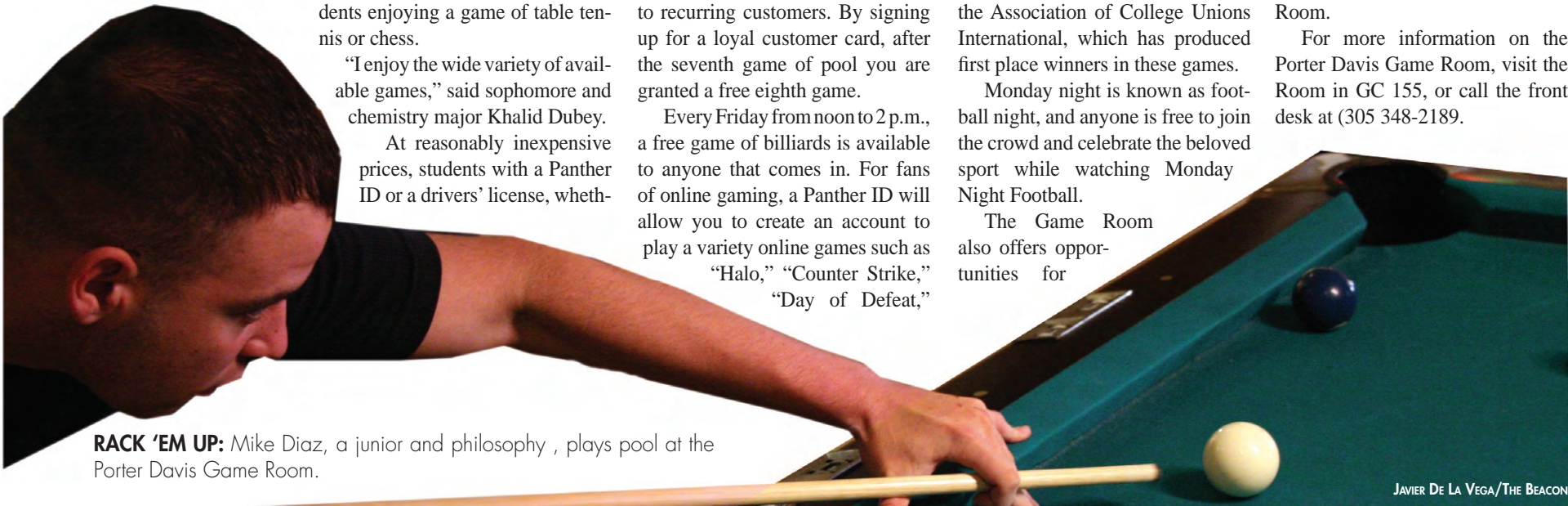
Monday night is known as football night, and anyone is free to join the crowd and celebrate the beloved sport while watching Monday Night Football.

The Game Room also offers opportunities for

students to receive hands-on training in customer service and budget management through one of their numerous clubs.

"I've learned lots about accounting and customer service by interacting with people of all ages and races," said junior and interior design major Adriana Ares, who is in charge of marketing for the Game Room.

For more information on the Porter Davis Game Room, visit the Room in GC 155, or call the front desk at (305) 348-2189.



RACK 'EM UP: Mike Diaz, a junior and philosophy , plays pool at the Porter Davis Game Room.

JAVIER DE LA VEGA/THE BEACON

UM MBA

READY TO LEAD

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Attend an on-campus question and answer session **November 21, 2008**, or visit us online. Now is the time to learn what a UM MBA can do for your future. Reserve your place today.

Q&A
SESSION

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Singer spreads the Fred after Culture Room gig

ROSALYN DELGADO

Calendar Editor

Lead singer of The Color Fred, Fred Mascherino, sat down with *The Beacon* for a Q & A session after the band's show at the Culture Room in Ft. Lauderdale on Oct. 19.

The Beacon: Thank you for taking the time to talk to us today. The crowd was really good to the band tonight.

Fred Mascherino: One of the best shows we've ever played, I honestly think. It's awesome to be here in Ft. Lauderdale.

TB: How has the fan response been, and how have Taking Back Sunday fans responded?

FM: There [were] always things that I wanted to do that I wasn't being able to do when I was in [Taking Back Sunday]. One of those things was to be singing more, delivering my own lyrics and I just felt that it was something that I wanted to do before I die. The overall fan response has been great, both old and new, as I was able to see tonight.

TB: The band's most recent album is "Bend to Break." Did I get the title right?

FM: Oh yeah! Yes, it's called "Bend to Break." It's available everywhere and anywhere, and if you can't find it, just give me a call and I'll personally mail you a copy.

TB: What was the recording process like?

FM: Well, that was probably the most different part about it because I'm normally in the studio with a band and everyone is chipping in their ten cents, and basically getting in the way.

No, I'm kidding. But this was my chance to do it exactly how I wanted it. The flip side, of course, is that if it didn't go well, then it's my fault. But luckily, I'm happy with what we've made. Originally, my intention was to

make this record and stay with [Taking Back Sunday], but I enjoyed it so much that I had to put all my attention to it.

TB: Did you enjoy having full creative control and at the same time the responsibility of carrying on a record on your own?

FM: As far as creative control, I still took in a lot of input from friends. I was sending out all these e-mails to friends who are also musicians, and I asked what they thought of the music and how I could possibly make it better, and trust me, they sounded horrible. [Laughs]. I'm no engineer. So I still took input, but when I went to record, I got to pick the best of what I heard and put it on the album and I'm happy and proud with the result.

TB: Warped Tour 2008. It was your first time. How was it for you?

FM: It was the first time, and it was the most tiring, longest summer I've ever had. [Laughs]. But obviously it was amazing. I mean, I got to know so many new bands, and I got to see many awesome bands and the crowds were just like none other. I loved it, but honestly, it took me about six weeks to get over it.

The days were very long. We would get up at 8 a.m. to set up our [merchandise], then got set up the gear for the set. Next was the performance. At the end of the day, all you can do is collapse. It kills your soul. It's a magical tour, but it's definitely hard.

TB: What was the coolest moment for you while on the Warped Tour?

FM: Well, it wasn't cool for them. [Laughs]. But Say Anything is actually one of my favorite bands and I actually got to sing on their record, "Is a Real Boy."

One day on the tour, Max, their singer, was totally sick, so they asked a few bands to sing their songs and I was asked to sing "Belt," and that was the biggest thrill. It was one of



TYFANNY GARCIA/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON

RIGHT SCREAMED FRED: Fred Mascherino, lead singer for The Color Fred, performed in Ft. Lauderdale on Oct. 19 at the Culture Room.

the first times I got to be on the Warped Tour main stage in a long time. It was so much fun, I jumped into the crowd.

TB: Our University just finished midterms this past week. Students were pretty much on edge with stress. How do you deal with stress on tour?

FM: Well, I was in college myself a while back. I dealt with the college stress. Now, whenever I'm stressed on tour, all I have to do is just think how hard that was and everything compared is just not stressful at all. I'd like to say that the quality of my complaints and problems have been getting a bit better. Instead of complaining about pulling an all-nighter to write a paper, I complain about Taco Bell not being open at two in the morn-

ing: "Oh, my life is so hard, I'll have to go to Denny's instead."

TB: With the upcoming elections, politics has become a huge part of pop culture. Musicians have started backing certain candidates and encouraging their fans to vote. Are you voting in this year's elections?

FM: I am. I'm doing the absentee ballot. That's how I'll be voting.

I think I got all my paperwork straight. At least, I hope so. I won't say [whom] I'm voting for. I mean, I don't hate either of the presidential candidates, but I definitely don't like one of the vice presidential candidates.

TB: I'm sure we can take a small guess.

FM: Yeah, I'll just leave it at that.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • OCTOBER 27

WHAT: FIU MUSIC PRESENTS: Wind Ensemble
WHERE: FIU Wertheim Performing Arts Center-Concert Hall
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Invisible Children Documentary Screening
WHERE: FIU GC Faculty Club
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Agape Women's Clothing Drive
WHERE: FIU GC 243
WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Non Violence in Business lecture: Dr. Dipak C. Jain
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: TBA

WHAT: Students WRITE Organization Meeting
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 3 p.m.

WHAT: Democracy for America Campus Corp
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Asian Movie Club Movie Night
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Panther Rage Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

TUESDAY • OCTOBER 28

WHAT: National Kidney Foundation Day
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 9 a.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5.00

WHAT: National Organization for Women (NOW) Meeting
WHERE: FGC 241
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: Counseling & Psychological Services Center Meditation Workshop
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHAT: SPC General Meeting
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: Nicaraguan Student Association Meeting
WHERE: GC 1235
WHEN: 5 p.m.

WHAT: Dance Marathon General Meeting
WHERE: GC 286
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Center for Islamic Studies Lecture
WHERE: GC 243
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: CSO general Meeting
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.

WHAT: Yoga Club Meeting
WHERE: GC 1223
WHEN: 8 p.m.

Compiled By: Rosalyn Delgado

Phi Mu gives back to soldiers

NIKKI PEREZ
Staff Writer

Phi Mu Sorority is contributing to a different cause this year.

The philanthropy, the Child's Miracle Network, is still priority, but this year, they found the inspiration to bring the efforts of committed individuals together to form, Mission Marine, an event dedicated to collecting unique care packages for American soldiers fighting overseas in the war right now.

Mission Marine kicked off on the third Monday of this month, traditionally Phi Mu's National Philanthropy Day, Oct. 20, in the Graham Center. Their goal was to collect as many items as possible for our soldiers and to raise awareness of what's going on in the Middle East.

Stacey Russell, sister of Phi Mu and coordinator of Mission Marine, came up with it all to commemorate her uncle and his unit of 300 men and women out at the war.

"It's one thing to see war through media, but it's another to see my six-year-old cousin Blakely crying because he hasn't seen his father in more than a year," she said.

After paying a visit to her uncle, she took the incentive to find ways on how to make our soldiers feel a little closer to home.

Although they are fighting in the war, soldiers still have to pay for small, necessary items that are not provided.

This is where the idea for what to send came from. Many packages consisted of razors, soap, toiletries and other items contributors found essential.

There was a list available for those who were not sure what to donate. When people asked the

sisters of Phi Mu what they should give, they were told to bring anything they would find useful if they were away from home.

"The funniest thing that happened was one of the fraternity men asking if alcohol was allowed for care packages because he said that if there was one thing he would want more than anything in the world, it would be a sports illustrated magazine and a bottle of Jack Daniels," Russell said.

Many donators were enthused about the items they donated, and or wanted to donate, but those actually involved with the event made sure to not only donate items, but to also demonstrate their enthusiasm to others to support our troops and their efforts in fighting for our country.

"I felt this was a great thing to do because we cannot forget those fighting over there, especially when a majority of them are our age," said Charlene Collazo, president of Phi Mu. "I personally know a marine and they go through a lot everyday for our freedom. We should definitely give back to them."

This chain of giving does not end here. Mission Marine had such a great impact that donations are still being collected all through the end of this month.

As of Monday, Oct. 27, there will be a box in GC 2247 with the words "Mission Marine" on it for individuals who are still interested in thanking our soldiers with special gifts.

Those interested in supporting and donating care packages can send an e-mail to Phimustacey@gmail.com. All care packages will be delivered by Nov. 2.

Phi Mu wanted to offer its service as part of National Philanthropy Day, but also want to pass on the motivation to others to continue caring for the soldiers who are fighting right now.

FIU FOOTBALL: OFFENSE

Health along offensive line has been big issue

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tors nightmares for the next three off-seasons, but for now, he's already in the heads of the conference defenders where he leads the nation with 28.4 yards per catch average.

Greg Ellingson had a slow start, but has really worked himself into the offense over the past couple of weeks. Junior Mertile has displayed a veteran savvy - as a freshman - leading the team in receptions all season.

If the group can cut down on dropped passes, the FIU receivers could bring plenty of excitement for the home fans, especially with Jeremy Dickens becoming more consistent.

OFFENSIVE LINE: C+

It's hard to rate an injured group. The FIU O-line, when

healthy and with a few games to develop continuity has only allowed two sacks in those two wins. The offensive line when exposed without two starting guards allowed seven sacks against Troy.

Now, Troy does have the best defensive line in the Sun Belt, and on the road that would be a tough matchup for anyone in the Sun Belt. But Coach Cristobal felt like FIU did some good things on the offensive line in that game.

"There were moments where we were blocking pressure from the team with the best offensive line really well," Cristobal said.

If FIU can find some continuity through the injuries this year, it'll be able to build a base for next season, and if it can keep McCall's jersey clean, it could mean a top-three finish in the Sun Belt.

FIU FOOTBALL: DEFENSE

Excellent special teams likley to be key for team down the stretch

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Three of FIU's five remaining games are at home. One of the road games is at Louisiana-Lafayette, who ranks second from the bottom in the Sun Belt in passing offense. Cornerback Anthony Gaitor and safety Marshall McDuffie are tied for third in the conference with three interceptions each.

SPECIAL TEAMS

KICKING: B*

Dustin Rivest has yet to miss an extra point, but has made just two of four field goal attempts. FIU has done a good job scoring touchdowns in the red zone, so Rivest's services have only been needed sparingly, and the sample size is very small, thus the asterisk.

PUNTING: A

If the season ended today, Carlos Munera might be a

first-team all-conference selection. 69% of Munera's punts, 34-of-49, have started FIU's opponent at or inside the 20 - or have been unreturnable.

RETURNS: A+

There really is no discussion about who would be named to the first team all Sun Belt as a return man. T.Y. Hilton leads the conference in kick-off and punt return yardage and average.

COACHING: A-

This has been one of the most unheralded great coaching jobs in college football this season, when you consider that FIU had serious opportunities in the fourth quarter to beat both South Florida and Troy. Mario Cristobal will get the bulk of the credit, and deservedly so, but a god portion of the accolades deserve to go the strength and conditioning coach Roderick Moore, who



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

GO TEAM: A student cheers on the defense during FIU's first home game against USF, Sept. 20.

has really pushed the team and gotten good results - to the point where FIU is just holding up better down the stretch.

OVERALL GRADE: B+

Better than expected, with an opportunity to make a fairly serious run at a bowl game. If this is a bowl team though, it will have to win a tough road game (@ Louisiana-Lafayette), be able to beat up-

per-tier conference opponents at home (Arkansas State), and survive the emotion of a rivalry game (FAU). 3-2 the rest of the way will make FIU bowl eligible, but it might take four wins to get the kind of necessary consideration, not to mention jump ULL and ASU for the extra bid if it becomes available. With four more wins, FIU may still be able to find it's way to the top of the league with a little help.

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BASEBALL

Back on the diamond: New faces on display in exhibition vs. Ontario

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Contributing Writer

FIU's baseball team played an exhibition game against the Ontario Blue Jays on Oct. 22 at University Park Stadium and with a dominating one-hit performance from the Golden Panthers' pitching staff, FIU defeated the Blue Jays with the score of 1-0.

The starter Scott Rembisz tossed three innings, retiring all nine batters that the Blue Jays sent to the plate. Rembisz got the first batter on three straight called strikes and the next two grounded out.

One of the groundouts was the result of a solid defensive play by FIU third baseman Raiko Alfonzo. He bared handed a bunt and sailed it over to first, beating the runner to the bag.

"To win a baseball game you always have to have a good starting performance from your pitcher and our guy went nine up, nine down; nine lead off hitters of innings we got out, and you can win a baseball game when you do that," said head coach Turtle Thomas.

Justin Leith, the left-handed freshman, came into

the third inning on relief of Rembisz.

Although Leith walked a batter and had an error on a pickoff attempt, which put a man on third, he was able to strike out the following batter and then end the downside of the game with a groundout to third.

FIU's R.J. Fondon, a left-handed freshman, and Eric Berkowitz, the right-handed junior, finished off the Blue Jays by pitching a combination of two scoreless innings with four strikeouts, while Fondon allowed the lone hit for Ontario.

"One of the things we tried to do in recruiting was to shore up what we felt was a little bit of a weakness last year," said Thomas.

"We didn't have much depth in our pitching staff, so we went out and signed about 15 pitchers.

We lost a couple in the draft and things like that, but I think we came up with 12 pitchers, and probably three of them are two-way guys, meaning they pitch and play a position."

FIU's offense was able to generate only two hits throughout the game. Greg Waddel scored the only FIU run of the night in the first in-

ning on an RBI groundout by the senior, Ryan Mollica.

Waddel had been anticipating his first score as a Golden Panther, after smacking a double down the left field line and moving over on a passed ball. Mollica's grounder between first and second was just enough to plate the winning run.

"We've just got to work on the offensive side of things. We do have very capable hitters. We just have to put it together, find the right spots in the batting order, the right guys in the positions, and I think sooner or later we'll be ok offensively," Thomas said.

As for the regular season, the Golden Panthers have several months ahead of them to continue building on what Coach Thomas has created in the past year.

The team will look to improve last season's record, 20-36 overall and 12-18 in the Sun Belt.

FIU is scheduled to face Jacksonville for their first three game series of the regular season. It will take place from Feb. 20-22, at University Park stadium, with all games scheduled for a 7 p.m. first pitch.

FORTUNE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2008

IDEAL

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FIU FOOTBALL
MIDSEASON
REPORT

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

At the beginning of the season, it would have been a stretch to say that FIU might find itself in the thick of the Sun Belt conference race after seven games, but that's where the Golden Panthers stand, despite being under .500 for the season. There's still a chance, with a couple of Troy losses,

that FIU could win the conference, but the best chance for a winning record and a possible, bowl berth, rests solely on the shoulders of a team still learning how to win at the college level.

The Sun Belt has tie-ins to the St. Petersburg, Independence, and PapaJohns.com bowls, as an alternate to the Big XII, Big East, Conference USA, and SEC in addition to its champion getting an automatic

invite to the New Orleans Bowl.

At the moment it appears as though all but one of those spots will be filled by bowl eligible teams, with the exception being the C-USA spot in the St. Petersburg Bowl. Now, all FIU has to do to get there is win four of its last five, and hope Memphis can't come up with three more wins, and FIU could sneak in to the college football post-season.

OFFENSE

Improved quarterback play drives offense, speed at receiver helps too

QUARTERBACK: B-

This is a wait and see grade. Coming into the year, FIU was projected to be among the nation's worst under center, but a funny thing happened on the way to Toledo: Paul McCall found *it*. The junior quarterback, who spent the summer embroiled in a competition with Wayne Younger, pushed himself to the head of the FIU offense all alone. And with his play over the past four games, 53% completions, 821 yards, eight touchdowns, he has led FIU to three wins and put them in the best possible position he could for another.

Younger has seen limited duty, but has been efficient. The progression of the quarterbacking has been good, but it needs to be seen over a full season. It is a sign of improved quarterback play that FIU has improved on third down, converting at a rate of 32%, compared to 24% a year ago.

RUNNING BACKS: B-

The biggest issue concerning the FIU running backs is that the offensive line has continued to have injury issues. A'mod Ned, Julian Reams, and suddenly Daunte Owens have, between the three of them, speed and some breakaway ability. But they aren't home run hitters. What they are, however, is a competent stable, and that means depth. Each of the three backs has had a solid game or two this season, and on the day that more than one of the Golden Panther backs can find some space, FIU will have an opportunity to control the offensive tempo on the ground.

While depth has been a boon for FIU in its backfield, it's had trouble finding consistency, and that'll have to change if FIU wants to make a run at finishing at or above 6-6.

WIDE RECEIVERS: B

T.Y. Hilton is having the type of season that will give Sun Belt defensive coordina-

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DEFENSE

Stellar play from the back seven creating scoring opportunities

LINE: C+

At times, there has been pressure from the front four, but not enough to control games when necessary. The biggest issue is one that can't be totally fixed this season: size. FIU, because of the lack of beef that can be rotated in up front, will have some issues consistently stopping the run. The Golden Panther's lack of size, however, translates to good quickness, and that's where all the tackles for a loss come from.

It'll be a battle that gets a little easier as the year continues, as FIU has faced the best offensive lines that it will see all season, so the potential for more consistent impact from the defensive front is there.

LINEBACKERS: B-

It has been said that consistency is victory, and this unit has been one of the more consistent all season. That has plenty to do with the fact that there are no first year players in the top

six linebackers in the FIU rotation. There have been some issues controlling spread option-type offenses, but for the most part, the linebacker corps has been even all year, and pretty solid at that.

It was a total team defensive effort that kept Troy 0-for-11 on third downs in the contest on Oct. 13. But much of that had to do with the linebackers being sure tacklers in the open field, something that has improved, but still needs to get better.

DEFENSIVE BACKS: A-

FIU has a +3 turnover differential for the season, and +8 ratio in its three wins. Simply put, if FIU is going to be successful, it needs takeaways, and it's gotten them from its secondary. The pass defense held Todd Reesing of Kansas to his lowest output of the season (and I was there, he played the whole game), and has been almost impossible to throw on at home.

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