

ELECTION RESULTS
SGC-BBC seats filled

DISTRACTIONS
Election's non-issues steal spotlight

RADIATED
University DJ rocks airwaves

CHEAP SHOT
Student slugged by blue shirt

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

OPINION PAGE 5

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APPETIZING ARRIVAL

Cafeteria offers additional food options at the Bay

JULIA CARDENUTO
BBC Managing Editor

Eight years and more than a million dollars later, the new cafeteria at the Biscayne Bay Campus finally opened its doors on Oct. 9.

A VIP-only and soft openings took place at the cafeteria's new location between the Wolfe University Center and Academic One on Oct. 9 and Oct. 10, respectively.

The grand opening is scheduled for Oct. 13.

"[The cafeteria] is spectacular. It has created a new place to be on campus," said Carlos Aspillaga, senior project manager of Facilities Management. "I think it will shift the focus to a side of the campus that was forgotten."

The final price tag for the dining project exceeded a million dollars, according to Martha Eva, food service director for Dining Services. Exact figures were not available at press time.

"The [project] funds came from auxiliary dollars," said Gregory Olson, senior director of Student Affairs.

Grille Works, which offered breakfast, lunch and dinner options in its former location, joined two additional franchises in the new cafeteria.

The latest menu items include homemade biscuits, wraps, omelets, a fish sandwich and a six-ounce burger.

"We will also have a Cuban burger, which is a twist of the sandwich into a burger," said



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

MENU MEDLEY: Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC President, and Kanasha Paul, SGC-BBC vice president, weigh their lunch options at Moe's Southwest Grill in the new Biscayne Bay campus cafeteria on the soft opening. For full story, see page 4.

Abidai Manso, BBC executive chef of Dining Services.

Moe's Southwest Grill, a Mexican restaurant, is new to BBC. Some of the food samples Moe's gave out at the VIP opening were burritos and chips, which are part of its permanent menu.

Bleecker St. is also new to campus. It will serve fresh-baked goods, sandwiches, smoothies and coffee.

Another new feature of the cafeteria is that each station has its own register.

"People don't have to wait in line to get their food, and wait in line to pay for their food," said Roger Clegg, director of operations. "It is designed to be more convenient."

Customers can also order coffee and

CAFETERIA, page 4

Entrepreneur discusses money saving tips

DAVID BARRIOS
Staff Writer

With the national economic crisis over their heads, almost 100 students attended a money management workshop led by entrepreneur Pascale Michel on Oct. 7.

Michel, whose successful embroidery business is based out of South Florida, spoke for almost an hour discussing several major financial issues many college students face during enrollment and just after graduation from school.

Topics included the proper use of credit, protection from identity theft, taking control of student loan debt and making investments, among other issues.

Many of those who sat in the packed room were student-athletes in the University.

"It's teaching kids how to manage their money, how to make sure that they don't get into debt, or if they do, how to get out of it," David Trujillo, president of the Student Alumni Association. "A lot of the athletes showed up. I know a lot of them have some financial issues between coming into college and leaving. Any help they can get from somebody older and with experience and life lessons is beneficial for them."

Michel spoke for 20 minutes on establishing solid credit for college students. She gave several important statistics.

"It all comes down to simple, everyday management of your money," Michel said. "On average, college students are graduating with \$2,864 in credit card debt, not even student loans. And the average interest rate on these cards is around 15 to 16 percent."

The audience was engaged by the speech, responding to questions made by Michel, while some students were called to the front of the conference room to interact with the speaker although there was no question and answer session.

Michel chose two students from the audience to illustrate a key point. She said that two people could buy the same car with the same exact options installed into it but one student could pay more money for the vehicle because of their credit rating.

She then went into detail on how credit ratings are determined and what they signify.

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Congressman speaks with Student Media

NATALEE GIL-DELRIO
Contributing writer

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart made an appearance on campus last Thursday, Oct. 9 to speak with Radiate FM about his position in government, his views about lifting the Cuban embargo, and his campaign for re-election.

"Communication is key ... you have to understand the community you try to represent," he said.

During his 14 years as state legislator, Diaz-Balart has been a key player in providing the University funding for various projects.

He was a key contributor in funding the College of Law, College of Engineering, the Green Library expansion and the National Hurricane Research Center.

"I always felt that if there was a legacy that I wanted to leave in my public service it was to make sure that I could do whatever I could, in my very limited way, to make sure that [FIU] is the best higher learning institution that we could possibly have," Diaz-Balart said.

Because of the many contributions, FIU awarded him The Pillar Award, the highest award given to a person that has contributed to the University's growth.

In 2002, Diaz-Balart was elected into the House of Representatives for the 25th Congressional District of Florida, which includes part of Miami-Dade, Collier and Monroe Counties.

He has recently completed his third term in office. In those years, he has cut 89 federal programs he considered "inefficient



JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

ON AIR: Congressman Mario Diaz Balart (center) speaks to Paulo O'Swath (right) and Monique White (left) on Panther News Show.

or just wasteful," which according to him saved Floridians six billion dollars in taxes.

He also spent \$2 billion on Everglades restoration projects and another \$2.2 billion

on transportation projects in his district.

Diaz-Balart has also been controversial on a number of

BALART, page 2

YES TO OBAMA



JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

VOTE: New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez speaks at the Graham Center Ballrooms on Friday, Oct. 10 while campaigning for Barack Obama.

Lecture brings European, Cuban relations to light

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

The Honorable Seven Kuhn Von Burgsdorff, former head of the European Commission Delegation to Cuba, spoke about European Union policies toward Cuba on Wednesday, Oct. 8.

The Cuban Research Institute hosted the luncheon and lecture that concentrated on the historical evolution of EU-Cuban relations.

Sitting around a table, the small lecture and luncheon also allowed political science and international relations students insight into the sometimes conflicting inner workings of the EU when they attempt to form common policies for all 27 member countries.

The European Union and Cuba did not have any political, trade or development cooperation treaty prior to 1996, when the EU decided to adopt a common policy towards Cuba.

“Our policy is one of constructive engagement with Cuba,” Burgsdorff said. “We give full development aid cooperation, but it is contingent on the human rights situation.”

Our policy is one of constructive engagement with Cuba... We give full development aid co-operation, but it is contingent on the human rights situation.

Kuhn Von Burgsdorff, Former head European Commission Delegation to Cuba

By Feb. 2003, Cuba was receiving an overall annual aid of 20 million euros, but by March of that year, the EU had to impose mild diplomatic sanctions against the Cuban government after it arrested and sentenced 75 human rights activists and executed three hijackers.

The Cuban government responded by freezing all diplomatic relations.

“They saw [the sanctions] as an interference with their internal affairs, [to Cuba] we were helping dissidents that were mercenaries hired by the U.S.,” Burgsdorff said.

Burgsdorff noted that the EU remained largely divided over whether it should lift the sanctions as member states had diverging opinions and interests on Cuba.

“Seven new member states, which were former communist countries, thought the only way to deal with a communist regime was to be tough with

them,” Von Burgsdorff said.

Spain, he said, would not be held hostage because of the EU’s inability to move forward as it took initiative to pursue direct bilateral talks with Havana.

As a result, the diplomatic sanctions were suspended in 2005, and lifted in June 2008.

Currently, there are 17 diplomatic missions from EU member states, and the EU remains one of Cuba’s most important trading partners.

“The European Union adopted a two-track engagement policy. We needed a diplomatic level playing field with the government, but we also wanted to engage more forcefully with the dissidents and civil society,” Burgsdorff said.

The EU hoped it would bring about agricultural development, raise the basic nominal salaries of workers, health,

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Diaz-Balart talks about views on Cuba, bailout

BALART, page 1

issues including the lifting of the Cuban embargo and the \$700 billion federal bailout package.

Diaz-Balart explains he is completely in favor of the Cuban embargo but against it without conditions.

Some of those conditions include beginning democratization of the Cuban government by freeing political prisoners, implementing basic freedoms and starting elections.

“The law allows unlimited humanitarian aid to the Cuban people,” he said.

Although he said the “United States sends more humanitarian aid than the rest of the world combined” that could benefit

the Cuban people, he still believes these pre-conditions must be made before the U.S. can provide “boat loads and flight-fuels” of aid.

His main objections lie in the Castro brothers, whom he believes set up a totalitarian situation in Cuba that does not allow negotiations with the U.S.

“Tyrants don’t just become good guys,” Diaz-Balart said.

He also explained his position on the bailout plan and how he was criticized for opposing it.

“It all goes to Wall Street, not the tax payer,” he said.

“I don’t work for the president, I don’t work

for the Republicans and the Democrats, I work for my county and my district,” Diaz-Balart said.

I don’t work for the president, I don’t work for the Republicans and the Democrats, I work for my county and my district.

Mario Diaz-Balart, Congressman

THE BEACON

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NEWS FLASH

FIU

College of Law Dean resigns

Leonard Stickman announced that he will be stepping down as the dean of the College of Law at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year, according to a press release sent by Provost Ronald Berkman.

According to Berkman, Stickman has “accomplished a great deal since coming to FIU in 2001.” Stickman was the founding dean of the college which opened in 2000.

John Rock, dean of the College of Medicine, will chair the committee in charge of finding a replacement for Strickman.

College of Business Dean resigns

Joyce Elam announced that she will be stepping down as dean at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year.

Elam began her career as dean in 1998. Under her leadership, the college has grown and was named the third best business undergraduate program at a public university by Business Week.

She will remain at the University and will work as a business professor as well as remain the vice provost for FIU Online.

Joseph West, School of Hospitality Management, will spearhead the search committee for her replacement.

College of Business Administration receives prestigious award

The College of Business Administration has been awarded the National Society of Hispanic MBA's 2008 Brilliante Award for Excellence, according to a press release on Oct. 9.

The award, NSHMBA's most prestigious and highest honor, is presented to the Hispanic community's most outstanding leaders and corporations whose contributions reflect its mission to foster Hispanic leadership through graduate management education and professional development.

The college was presented with the award at the Brilliante Awards Gala during the NSHMBA 2008 Conference and Career Expo in Atlanta on Saturday, Oct. 11.

Board of Governors award grant to commercialize research

The Florida Board of Governors has awarded a grant to help the Office of Intellectual Property Management find commercial applications for biomedical research at the university.

The OIPM is primarily responsible for the management of disclosures, inventing and patenting for FIU projects.

With this grant, it will help the OIPM in enhancing the infrastructure of technology transfer services, finding consumer-oriented applications for technology developed at FIU, and moving those products into the marketplace through the development of stronger relationships with investors, serial entrepreneurs, and research organizations.

– Compiled by Paulo O'Swath

CRACKING DOWN ON EQUATIONS



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

STAYING SHARP: Freshman Sebastian Mesa, an international business major, gets tutored for college algebra in Lakeview South by sophomore Pablo Martinez on Oct. 8.

Seminar teaches students how to save, spend money wisely

MONEY, page 1

“I think with the credit crisis that we're encountering is a really important topic. When trying to build wealth, it's not about how much money you have. It's about where you start,” Michel said.

Michel spoke to the crowd personally about her past experiences as a student with financial problems, urging students to be conservative in their spending, to start saving their money as soon as possible and to be cautious when selecting credit cards and building credit.

“I'm a business owner but I really like this message. I've been coming here for five years now and keep coming back sev-

eral times a year with the same or related presentations. It's something important,” she said.

Diane Cordova, advisor to SAA, agrees.

“The advantages of holding a session like this is that it is one of the more practical sessions we'll have. So many college students graduate with debt. The topic is relevant for these times,” Cordova said.

Food and drinks were served to the audience at the end of the program. The program, entitled Ultimate Money Skills, was arranged by the SAA and brought to the University for free, sponsored by Bank of America and *Monster.com*.

Money Saving Tips

1. Track your money/ balance your check book
2. Make a budget
3. Put your “fun” time money spending in your budget
4. Pace yourself in spending
5. Go easy with the credit cards

Topics touch upon embargo, human rights on Cuban island

CUBA, page 2

education and environmental sustainability on the island.

“Havana was willing to explore cooperation with the European Union, but with those member states that would allow them to recommence commercial, trade, and cultural relations [with the EU] while sustaining socialism,” Burgsdorff said.

However, some are less than enthusiastic about the EU's position.

“The question is not one of right

or left, anti-communist or communist. It is, do you respect human rights or not?” said John Suarez, member of the Free Cuba Foundation. “The argument of trade has to do with the prospect of profits trumping inalienable human rights.”

Burgsdorff also covered the importance of Venezuela influencing Latin American attitudes toward Cuba, and touched upon the U.S. embargo against the country.

Despite the sanctions imposed by the U.S., the country is still one of the leading providers of hard currency

and trade on the island, according to Burgsdorff.

The approximately 15 students and Burgsdorff traded ideas about the pros and cons on lifting the embargo on a country like Cuba that does not offer the human rights freedoms of other countries.

“I believe lifting the embargo will have positive effects,” said Jocelyn Bolanos, an economics and political science major. “Whenever you open up relations it exposes the human rights situations and the dissidents benefit.”

POLICE NOTES

Oct. 5 through Oct. 6

- Oct. 5: An FIU student reported to Public Safety that he parked his vehicle in Lot 4 during the night of Oct. 5, to discover the next morning that unknown person(s) used unknown tool(s) to cut away and remove the catalytic converter from his vehicle.
- Oct. 6: A student stated that upon connecting her laptop's charger to a power outlet on the fourth floor of the Deuxieme Maison building, the outlet sparked, melting the charger. Electricians were called to check the damage. The Fire Marshall was advised but has not responded to the report.
- Oct. 6: Police were called and informed that a female's iPhone was stolen, after she placed it on a table and turned away from it for a moment while she sat in the Ziff Education Building.
- Oct 6: Police responded to Academic II, room 200 in reference to a female student who was disoriented and confused. She stated that she has taken doctor prescribed medication for depression early in the day.

–Compiled by David Barrios



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Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

SATISFIED: Alejandra Salgado, SGC-BBC Chief of Staff, and Natalie Vera, President of Panther Power BBC, pay for their lunches at Grille Works in BBC's new cafeteria.

Bigger burgers, fresh biscuits, quesadillas part of food offering

CAFETERIA, page 1

smoothies at any franchise. However, once they pay for it, they will have to pick it up at the Bleecker St. station, according to Manso.

"It was a project that took a long time to tap into, working together with construction and the operation side of it. Also, Aramark helped with the design, equipment, supplies and installation," Aspillaga said. "It was an amazing operation."

The group in charge of landscaping at the University will soon work on the area around the cafeteria, according to Aspillaga, who said the location could use more trees.

The construction contractor for

this project was Stobs Brothers Construction.

"They have worked for us for a long time, in big and small projects, providing construction services in the best possible way," Aspillaga said.

The fitness center and cafeteria were originally one project, but the fitness center opened October 2007.

"The delay had to do with the budget, which was overpriced. So we had to wait for more funding from the University and from Aramark," Olson said.

The franchises' hours will vary. Grille Works will be open for breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and for lunch and dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and will close

at 3 p.m. on Fridays.

Moe's will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. It will close at 4 p.m. on Fridays.

Bleecker St. will open at 8 a.m.

The side that sells sandwiches will close at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and at 2 p.m. on Fridays.

The smoothie and coffee area will close at 4 p.m. on Fridays, and 8 p.m. the rest of the week.

The previous location of the cafeteria will be a multipurpose room, and a recreation center or lounge, according to Cathy Akens, assistant vice president of Student Affairs.

Julia Cardenuto can be contacted at julia.cardenuto@fiusm.com.

New SGC-BBC council members announced

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

Results of the Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus special election were announced Oct. 9.

BBC students cast a total of 347 votes in this midterm election.

Winners for the contested senator positions included: Sholom Neistein for Arts and Sciences with nine votes; Tonie Williams, Business Administration, with nine votes; Emmanuel Osemota for the General Undergraduate position with 145 votes; Canela Una Eatman for graduate senator with one vote; Ernisha Anderson, Hospitality Management, with five votes; Jessica Senorin for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication

with 19 votes, competing with Andrea Nones who lost by 11 votes; Barbara Hawkins for Honors College representative with nine votes; and the winner for the vice presidential position, Kenasha Paul cast a total of 142 votes.

The Nursing and Health Services senator position is still open because Ronicha Azard had no electoral votes, having to win by at least one vote, either by herself or another fellow student taking classes in that department.

Even though the School of Nursing and Health Services has been moved to University Park, "classes for Nursing and Health Services can still be taken here at BBC, general ones more than likely," according to Vicky Owles, as-

sociate director of Campus Life and Orientation.

Senorin, the newly-elected senator for SJMC, is also currently the vice president of the Student Organization Council, serving as the governing body for student clubs and organizations, according to its Web site, but she will only be getting paid for one position, according to Owles.

Since senators vote on the allocation of money toward organizations and clubs, Senorin's dual positions could result in a conflict of interest.

"[Senorin] has been advised to abstain the vote in reference to the ap-

propriation of money toward SOC," said Rafael Zapata, assistant director of Campus Life and Orientation.

In last year's elections, over 500 votes were cast, according to Jose Toscano, Student Government Council advisor for UP.

This year's election fell short; counting both UP and BBC, a total of 353 votes were cast.

"Students who were running didn't campaign at UP," Toscano said.

Last year's votes at BBC were around the same, having a range of 120 voters, according to Owles.

On voting day, which took place Oct. 8, free pizza and stickers were given to encourage students to vote.

"The more students [running] for a particular position, the more encouragement students will have to actually vote," Owles said.

For more information regarding the elections and the winners of the senator positions, go to the Campus Life office at the Wolfe University Center or call (305) 348-5804.

The more students [running] for a particular position, the more encouragement students will have to vote.

Vicky Owles, associate director
Campus Life

SJMC held political debate concerning current events

ANDREA CRUZ
Contributing Writer

Students got an inside look at differing political views during the presidential debate, sponsored by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The debate, on Oct. 9, took place at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater and was broadcast live on WQBA 1140 AM and *Univision.com*, as well as Univision radio stations nationwide.

Speakers from both the Democratic and Republican parties were present and discussed current issues in preparation for the upcoming presidential election.

The Democratic party was represented by Maurice Ferre, former mayor of Miami, and Luis Lauredo, ambassador to the Organization of American States.

On the Republican side were Marco Rubio, former speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, and Helen

Aguirre Ferre, host of a political commentary TV program on WLRN and opinion page editor of "Diario Las Americas," a Miami Spanish-language newspaper.

The debate was moderated by Roberto Rodriguez Tejera, host of the WQBA radio show, Prohibido Callarse, and former director of Radio Marti.

"This was a great opportunity for students to hear about the different positions that the two campaigns are going to be presenting," said Fernando Figueredo, chair and associate professor of advertising and public relations. "Having it take place at the school of journalism here—the only debate of this type anywhere in the country—I thought it was very positive for us at FIU."

The topics covered during the two-hour event included foreign policy, health care and education at the local and national level.

A signal bell rang after the two minutes allotted to the panelists to answer questions.

The speakers kept talking after the bell on several occasions.

"If they got a third bell, then, me too," said Rubio, as the bell rang a second time during one of his answers.

The discussions gave way to several inquiries from the audience members, who went up to the microphone to ask their questions during the broadcast.

"I thought the questions were fantastic because each one was very different; from the economy to what is going on with immigration to the image of the country overseas," said Figueredo. "I think it also shows that our students have a real feeling for what is going on in the world and not just in the Miami community."

Even though the debate was broadcast in Spanish, the language barrier did not stop students who are not fluent in Spanish and wanted to become better informed from attending the event.

"I want to get the Hispanic perspective, which I haven't had before, because I think the Hispanic population is

growing rapidly and is a major political force," said Paul Ashe, a junior majoring in advertising.

"This really is one of those elections that will change the future of our nation," Aguirre said. "I think it's very important for young people to participate and to be part of it because you are not only our future, you are our present."

In 2007, Aguirre became the first community college trustee appointed to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

"It is no mistake that the presidential and vice presidential debates happen in universities, because they are the lungs of the intellectual world," Aguirre said.

Ferre believes the nation's youth has responded in a positive way.

"Here in Florida, I see an extraordinary level of enthusiasm among the young people, much more than among their parents and grandparents," he said. "The youth of the United States will decide this election."

THE BEACON | Editorial

New VP pivotal for University finances

It might not yet be the Great Depression: Part Two, but there's no doubt that our federal government is trying hard to keep our economy afloat. And while it has just gotten dramatic on a national scale with plunging stock markets, Florida, and by extension our state-funded University, have felt the effects of a failing economy for some time.

It is a relief that University President Modesto A. Maidique recently announced the appointment of Robert Conrad as the vice president of advancement. As the University endures repeated budget cuts, the administration plans to move from FIU 2.0 to FIU 3.0 – a University that will be state-assisted rather than state-funded.

The job of vice president of advancement is crucial to the success of this endeavor since the University will now rely on its own efforts to increase our withering budgets, keep the school running and, most importantly, growing.

For fifteen months the University has been unable to fill this position during our worst budget crisis in history. Over the summer, the University has endured 23 degree program closures. During that time, former Interim Vice President of Advancement Sandra Gonzalez-Levy took control.

Through team effort, according to Gonzalez-Levy, she was able to raise \$50 million in cash, commitments and state-matches by the end of the July 2007-June 2008 fiscal year. The amount was well over the University's \$30 million fund-raising goal.

However, Gonzalez-Levy did not only lead the charge in fund-raising as interim vice president. She is currently the executive director of the FIU Foundation and vice president of University and

Community Relations.

Wearing multiple administration hats at this University is not uncommon: Interim Dean of the College of Education Kingsley Banya is also the Department of Curriculum and Instruction chair; Interim Vice Provost for Biscayne Bay Campus, Joseph J. West is also the current School of Hospitality and Tourism Management Dean and chair of the BBC Vice Provost search committee.

While Gonzalez-Levy has shown that administration can be successful juggling multiple and sometimes conflicting responsibilities, some would still argue that concentrating on one position at a time would be the most effective and efficient.

If an interim vice president raised \$50 million, how much could an actual vice president have raised, and could it have alleviated some of the budget cut strains from last year? Conrad comes with two decades of experience in university fundraising and as vice president of central development services at the Florida State University Foundation he worked to secure FSU's largest donation of \$50 million.

The University spent 15 months looking for Conrad, so he must have the credentials. But as Gonzalez-Levy puts it herself, the position is "key especially because of the budget cuts."

As of Oct. 3, the University has already raised \$11 million for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. This year's goal is \$35 million. Gonzalez-Levy has helped Conrad get a running start but he'll need much more than \$35 million to accomplish that state-assisted status we're looking for.

The University is counting on him – let's hope he can handle the pressure.

SGC-UP's forum efforts laudable

They say the third time is a charm, and hopefully this will be the case for the third and final installment of SGC-UP's student forums.

The most recent forum was held in Graham Center room 243 on Oct. 8 but was almost cancelled due to lack of attendance until 15 students showed up.

The purpose of the forums is to allow students to hear updates from and ask questions to SGA leaders as well as Chief of Police Bill King and Director of Parking and Transportation Bill Foster.

First and foremost, SGC-UP is to be commended for hosting these forums. Despite the diminutive number of students which have actually benefited from them so far, something is to be said for SGC-UP making an effort to reach out and

find out what really matters to the students whose money they control.

More can be done to advertise these forums, however.

It is likely that student apathy is a large factor in the low turnout of these forums, but SGC-UP officials are putting too much blame on the student body for the results.

Athletics has been inundating the entire student e-mail list with announcements about sporting events, but arguably more important SGA events do not receive the same attention.

The second forum was also held during an impromptu football pep rally.

The next forum will be held in the GC Pit, a wise move by SGC-UP, which should really garner more involvement by students at this important event.

DEBATE & SWITCH



IRIS A. FEBRES / THE BEACON

Touchy topics divert attention

ERIC FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

The stereotypical presidential debate has quite a few sentimental moments, which include well-polished politicians talking about issues that matter to the "real American."

Education, roads, Americans being able to pay their grocery bills and children being able to live in communities without fear of crime.

This general election cycle is certainly catering to these images as much as any other. Both sides are pandering to the lower middle classes by having an "outsider" on their ticket, and by a mixture of chance and craft, transforming the economic woes of the lower classes into Campaign Issue Number One.

While some new entrants into the political foray may, in all of their naiveté, believe that these issues will actually be the focus of the future president's agenda once in office.

But for those who have sat through election after election, we are simply hearing more and more of the same.

Education is one of those things I believe simply shouldn't be brought up during presidential debates. It is a red herring that wastes a portion of time that could be spent on an in-depth

analysis of more pressing issues, such as where the \$700,000,000 from the recent congressional bailout of Wall Street is actually going, and where each candidate believe that separation of powers begin and end.

It's not that education isn't a pressing issue, – it's simply an issue two politicians will never actually disagree on.

You will never hear one politician say no, the quality of our public schools *shouldn't* be improved, or that American children should be *behind* Europe and Asia in math and science.

Besides, while the federal government does obviously exert a deal of influence over public education due to the amount of funding they provide the states, and through misguided and underfunded policies such as No Child Left Behind, the issue of education should really be left up mostly to the individual states.

Americans must realize that foreign policy and the "big picture" of the economy are the main issues facing the nation.

This is not only the case this year, either. The presidency has evolved to a position where Commander in Chief is perhaps the most important job that the president has.

How can he be expected to be involved in the daily operations of boring domestic issues when

we have to be protected from terrorist threats?

I was at a watch party for one of the primary debates where Mike Huckabee tried to tug at the heartstrings of voters by pledging to improve infrastructure by dedicating resources to better highways so that parents wouldn't have to miss their kids' soccer games due to rush-hour gridlock.

An overwhelming sigh and a couple of jeers could be heard from the watchers who neither believed that any president could find a cure for the common rush hour, nor that the issue was more important than others.

Perhaps the most convincing red herring is that of abortion – as if the president actually had any power over deciding the fate of this procedure.

The most any president could do to influence the legalization of abortion, or reverse thereof, is the appointment of Supreme Court justices to the bench who may or may not carry out the wishes of the commander once appointed.

When you take into account that Congress has to confirm justices, the importance of a presidential candidate's stance on abortion is even more diminished than before.

But alas, it seems unlikely that we will be able to escape from these seemingly obligatory but ultimately irrelevant discussions.

STEP ONTO THE SOAPBOX

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Student government member? University
official?

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VOLUME

EXPANDING HORIZONS



Radiate FM's DJ DeeLeeT unearths unconventional music

MONICA PUERTO
Contributing Writer

Peter Castillo is not your average deejay spinning to repeatable tracks and closing himself into top twenty countdowns. Acquiring his name from the abbreviation Digital Linear Tape (DLT) with a play on words with "elite" and "delete" DJ DeeLeeT is the program director at the University's radio station, Radiate FM.

His vast knowledge of music and thirst for new genres allow him to play a diverse mix of music classified as acid, glitch and neo-electro to goth rock.

Majoring in English, he did not know the possibilities that would find him at the radio station until two years ago. He calls Radiate FM his "outlet for expression brought by his self education and musical upbringing."

When Castillo started out as a deejay, he had two to three shows. But now, as program director, he has added four new shows, having a show for every day of the week. The reason behind this was to promote music he felt was not currently - or ever - represented on

the radio.

"These shows are to fill in what I consider to be a void, not only in programming but in radio [within] the general Florida market ... The goal behind these shows is to expand people's perception of what music can sound like and be classified as," DJ DeeLeeT said.

Music played on these shows range from dub and trip hop, lounge music, punk, dance rock to drum and bass genres.

He inherited one show from previous General Manager Brennan Forsyth, which is called Hump Day. This show solely focuses on less recognizable eighties music to a very varied sound from song to song.

Most of the calls received during the show are about what is being played. There are a lot of split reactions from listeners, either interested or confused, about the variety of music.

One of his memorable calls was from a man who called saying the song playing only added to the gloominess of the situation he was in, but as soon as he found out the background story of the song he grew to appreciate it.

"The way one genre spawns into another and is associated with a past one and so forth is what continues to amaze me about music ... I think all music borrows from each other to the point that it is incestuous," Castillo said.

When asked how he prepares for his shows Peter said he uses a lot of sound bites to liven up the transition from song to song that he spends hours on end researching.

The shows Sonic Bedlam and Amnesia are pre-mixed hours before; Saturday and Sunday night's shows, Dreameater and The International Beat are pure playlist songs shows; while Tuesday's 1000 bpm show is mixed live by Castillo.

Handling these shows has created lack of sleep and an addiction to energy drinks for Castillo, but to him, the results are far worth the sacrifice. The reason behind all this ambition is to "constantly try to secure this station's reputation as one of the best college radio [stations] in the

country."

Peter believes modern day radio DJs rely more on their broadcasting personalities, while Castillo likes his employees and himself to have an open mind to the different music styles out there and showcase them to the Miami audience.

DJ DeeLeeT emphasizes the importance of having DJs with a vast knowledge of music so that they won't sound like everyone else, as opposed to having on-air personality.

"We are

representing a product to the better portion of South Florida and worldwide on the Internet," he said.

As program director Castillo has to supervise what is being broadcasted - air promos, PSAs, station tags, show names, DJ names, issuing rotation and specialty shows.

He is second in command at WRGP. Castillo hopes to work for Indie 103.1 in Los Angeles while attending UCLA School of Law in the future.



Gym Class Heroes' bassist discusses making new album

CLAUDIA SANTANA
Staff Writer

Eric Roberts, bassist for the eclectic hip-hop band Gym Class Heroes, recently spoke to *The Beacon* about the band's current album "The Quilt," past tours and his most embarrassing stage moment. Gym Class Heroes performed at The Fillmore Jackie Gleason Theater Wednesday, Oct. 8.

THE BEACON: What city is the band in right now?

ERIC ROBERTS: We're in New York City

doing stuff with VH1. We're doing Hip Honors. It's really cool.

TB: You have performed at Warped Tour for many years now. How was this year different from previous years?

ER: The tour was different in a bunch of ways. When we first started doing Warped Tour and we played on smaller stages, we had to load our equipment and it was pretty taxing. But now we have a whole crew and it was different in that sense.

TB: What was it like working on your new

album with different producers, like [lead singer of Fall Out Boy] Patrick Stump and Dr. Dre?

ER: It was awesome. I feel like with Gym Class Heroes and the fact that we have, you know, our mixed style, I think it was necessary to work with multiple producers. They each helped us to shine through in their own way. It was great. Patrick was in the studio with us sitting on the piano and jamming out with us. It was very hands-on, so it was cool.

TB: How do you feel about people illegally downloading your music?

ER: Well, I mean, it's one of those things that's like, it is what it is. You can't stop time. Sometimes I think with downloading music and people sharing the music, I'm cool with that, I'm totally fine with that. I guess I'm not bothered by it. I guess I would like to see that money [laughs].

At the same time I can't deny the fact that it's a great filter for the exchange. It's so awesome that we can get music that we like and put it in the ears of fans, regardless if it's downloaded for free or paid for by iTunes or if it's a CD they bought in a store. As long as people

GYM CLASS HEROES, page 7

Eric Roberts reveals most embarrassing stage moment

GYM CLASS HEROES, page 6

hear it, I don't think it matters too much, you know?

TB: What has been your best tour experience so far?

ER: We've been on tours with cover bands before [and] with punk rock bands. We've got a hip-hop tour coming up. I'd say that, personally, one of my best experiences was back in the day when we performed with the band I Am the Avalanche [and harder bands like] He is Legend and Emery. The thing about I Am the Avalanche and how we hung out, it was kind of like, you can't really beat that. No matter who we play with it's like, how do we even get along?

TB: What has been one of your worst moments on stage?

ER: It's really funny. A while ago, I farted on stage and it was really bad. And [lead vocalist] Travis [McCoy] stopped the song and called me out basically in front of the whole audience. That would definitely be the worst and most embarrassing moment. It was pretty bad. Put it this way: It stopped our show.

TB: What do you do when you're not touring or recording?

ER: As lame as it sounds, we just like to chill. Over 300 days of the year, we're tour-

ing. When we're home it's kind of like vacation time.

TB: What advice do you have for aspiring musicians and students?

ER: I don't want to sound like it's a cop out, but if you can listen through [our latest] album "The Quilt," I think that aspiring musicians can learn from us because there is so much diversity.

We put together an album that has rock and reggae and hip-hop and everything, and we're not so scared to do that. The whole thing is that if we can put something together like this, I hope it's inspiring to them. They can say, "If they can do that, then I can do this too," or, "I can make music that doesn't really fit." Just have at it.

That's what we try to get out to our fans, our listeners and even our haters. I think we're kind of lucky because we're literally being ourselves.

We don't have to uphold a certain image or have a certain sound.

TB: Do you feel like there is a different vibe when you play in Miami?

ER: I definitely think there is. There is a definite East Coast/West Coast thing. Especially down in Florida, there is an undeniable energy down south, especially in the Miami [area]. We get stoked to play for certain crowds and that's definitely one of the crowds. Miami, that's what's up.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY •
OCTOBER 6

WHAT: FIU College Democrats/FIU Students for Obama Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Panther Promotions CourseLoop Membership Charity Event
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 10 a.m.

WHAT: Haitian Student Organization
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Panther Rage General Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: Sammy Volleyball
WHERE: Rec Center
WHEN: 10 p.m.

WHAT: The Jamaican Cultural Alliance "Dancehall Style"
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: Noon

WHAT: Indian Students Association General Meeting
WHERE: GC 1235
WHEN: 6 p.m.

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

WHAT: Future Business Leaders of America General Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 8 p.m.

TUESDAY •
OCTOBER 7

WHAT: Students for Environmental Action Meeting
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 2:30 p.m.

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

WHAT: Dance Marathon Promotion
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 12 pm

WHAT: SPC Engaged Film Series
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Financial Management Association Meeting
WHERE: GC 314
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Bahamian Student Organization (BSO) Meeting
WHERE: GC 340
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Nicaraguan Student Association
WHERE: GC 1235
WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHAT: National Organization for Women (NOW) Meeting
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Student Occupational Therapy Association
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 1 p.m.

Compiled by -Rosalyn Delgado

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JOSEPH KOSANKE/THE BEACON

HARDCORE GAMERS: Alejandro Cardona (back), a freshman international business major, and Christian Deleveaux (front), a junior Asian studies major, play video games at the Nintendo DS stand at the Latin College Life Tour.

'Choke' director Clark Gregg fights for first film

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

Clark Gregg, director of the recently released film "Choke," recently sat down with *The Beacon* for an interview where he discussed the film, acting and his future plans.

THE BEACON: How did you get started on this project?

CLARK GREGG: I was hired at first to adapt the book into a script. I wanted to do this project because I loved the book and the movie "Fight Club." I made all kinds of stalker-like phone calls to the producers saying that I wanted to direct this movie. They asked if I had ever directed a movie before. I said no but I wanted to do it anyway. Seven years later, I managed to pull it off.

TB: Were there any major deviations from the book?

CG: A million little deviations. The movie is basically a compressed version of the novel. There was a voiceover but it was just distancing in a movie.

The reason is that you are watching someone watching himself as opposed to kind of jumping with them in their dream more or less. There are a bunch of different sex ad-

dicts in the book that hook up with the main character and they all became one character. There are also a couple of scenes that I shot even with our budget or within the physical world of the movie that did not work.

TB: You play the main character's boss in the movie. What are the demands as a director when you have to direct yourself and others in a scene?

CG: I usually did not have to force myself to watch a performance of mine as much as in this movie. I was a jackass for that reason. When I was on the set shooting my scenes, there were some producers I trust would tell me if I needed another take for my scenes in the movie.

TB: Following your first directorial feature, would you want to direct again?

CG: Absolutely. It was really stressful to get there but it was great when I had the actors of that caliber acting with the script and making the scenes work in the steamy and disease-ridden mental asylum. It was as much fun as you can imagine and to the actors, seeing people laughing at a dirty joke that tends to clear a room was a pretty good feeling.

TB: How do you feel about working with Sam Rockwell, not only as an actor but also as a director?

CG: When you are [working] with actors you [have] worked with before, it is a big responsibility. I was lucky because Sam is a great person and from day one, he liked the script so much that he dove headfirst into the project. When everyone else comes on the set and sees the lead actor treating you like you know what you are talking about, they tend to follow suit until they think otherwise.

TB: Do you feel pressured to create a cult classic like Palahniuk's last book, "Fight Club?"

CG: I welcome it because Chuck's fans are really smart and they know this is a different kind of story made in a different way. I also believe that what is so unique and ballsy about Chuck as a writer holds true in both different pieces.

TB: What would you want audiences to take away from this movie?

CG: I would want the audience to walk out of the film feeling the way they would feel after a successful date: a little giddy, confused and dirty.

Stonewall upholds LGBT rights while raising awareness

ADA ALVAREZ
Contributing Writer

Scott Galvin remembered how alone he felt as a social studies major at FIU in 1991.

"[My homosexuality] was something unspoken," said the openly-gay City of North Miami councilman. "The changes that have been done in the University [are amazing]."

National Coming Out Day was celebrated Oct. 9 in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus. The event was organized by the BBC chapter of Stonewall, a club that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights.

National Coming Out Day is an internationally-observed civil day on Oct. 11 for coming out, and as a platform for discussions about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

Founded in 1988 by Dr. Robert Eichberg and Dr. Jean O'Leary, both psychologists, National Coming Out Day events are aimed at raising awareness of the LGBT community among the general population.

During this event, there were handouts with information, as well as videos and lectures about teenage coming-out stories.

"The message is that we are here," said Elise Withers, Stonewall

There are some [students] that are very excited; some are taking the brochures and others are in shock. I guess it has to do with our six-foot rainbow flag, but it's expected. The university is of great help, because we really are supported.

Daniel Gómez,

Stonewall BBC president and a general studies major.

BBC vice president and an advertising major. "We are a group that serves the LGBT community. There is another Stonewall [at University Park], but there was a need to make one here."

The club has organized movie nights, group meetings, topic discussions and now the National Coming Out Day. The name Stonewall is not coincidence either.

The Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations against a police raid that took place in the early morning hours of

June 28, 1969 at the Stonewall Inn, in New York City. The riots are commonly cited as the first instance in American history when gays and lesbians fought back against a government-sponsored system that per-

secuted homosexuals.

Within six months, two gay activist organizations were formed in New York, concentrating on confrontation tactics, and three newspapers were established to promote rights for gays and lesbians. On June 28, 1970, the first Gay Pride marches took place in New York City and Los Angeles, commemorating the anniversary of the riots.

Since then, many Gay Pride marches are done around the world, mostly in June, to commemorate the Stonewall riots.



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

TYING THE KNOT: Elise Withers, a sophomore advertising major and member of Stonewall, makes ribbons for the Stonewall reception Oct. 9.

about education. Last year, I was here for National Coming Out Day, loved the organization and got involved right away," said Daniel Gómez, Stonewall BBC president and a general studies major. "There are some [students] that are very excited; some are taking the brochures and others are in shock. I guess it has to do with our six-foot rainbow flag, but it's expected. The University is of great help, because we really are supported."

The videos shown presented lesbian art through history, attacks to the LGBT community by fundamentalists and an Ellen DeGeneres interview with John McCain on the issue of gay marriage. The event also presented Galvin as a guest speaker.

"I'm very proud to talk to you today, because I'm proud of this group," Galvin said.

Galvin, who "came out" publicly in 2004, explained that when he did, he was shocked by the good response. He said he still receives letters from people saying that he's sinning and will go to hell. He has been re-elected twice.

"This was something unspoken, and you were alone," Galvin said. "The fact that you can [host this event] at the student center was unthinkable for me, but I'm so happy it was done," he said.

"It's all

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Gaitor ties record with two picks; Hilton dazzles once again on offense

FOOTBALL, page 12

up with a touchdown on a 3-yard Phillip Tanner, culminating a 63 yard scoring

All of Hilton's touchdowns this season have come from at least 37 yards out. The catch made the score 31-13, and put the

20 yards on the play, setting MTSU up inside the FIU 30 yard line.

"We're on a good roll, in a good groove right now, we

We're on a good roll, in a good groove right now, we got to continue to press on and realize that you never stay the same, you get better or you get worse and we got to get better

Mario Cristobal, Head Football Coach

drive.

The score was 24-13 when T.Y. Hilton made his seemingly scheduled big play appearance.

"When the ball is in my hands, I just try to score, because I never know if I'll get this chance again"

On a third-and-nine, Paul McCall saw MTSU in man coverage, and hit Hilton on a streak route for a 63-yard touchdown catch.

Golden Panthers in control.

On its final drive, Middle Tennessee finish scored with a second Phillip Tanner 3-yard touchdown run that was set up by a Golden Panther special teams miscue.

On fourth-and-six at FIU's own 47, Carlos Munera appeared to be attempting a fake punt, but fumbled when trying to release the ball.

He recovered it, and lost

got to continue to press on and realize that you never stay the same, you get better or you get worse, and we gotta get better" said coach Mario Cristobal on his team's fourth win as the FIU head coach.

The Golden Panthers travel to Alabama next week, to take on the Troy Trojans, who are tied atop the Sun Belt with FIU at 2-0 in league play.

Despite injuries, men's hoops improving in camp

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

During the 2007-08 season, the Golden Panthers were the only team with a 7'0 foot player on the roster in the Sun-Belt conference. After another 260-pound addition, size figures to once again be the strength for FIU.

Freshman Freddy Asprilla gives the Golden Panthers three players over 6-foot-10 on the scale, which includes 7-foot incumbent center Russell Hicks. And head coach Segio Rouco wants to use them both at the same time.

"We're planning on playing Freddy and Russell together," Rouco said. "As long as they can get up and down the floor."

With the advantage in size, along with the new additions to the team, Rouco likes the versatility his team will have.

"We can either go small, or we can go really big, you know with the addition of Freddy, Russell being a proven player in this league, the progress of Nikola [Gacesa], who I think is going to be a very good player in the Sun Belt, and the maturity of Cedric [Essola].

We would be silly if we do not use our size," he said.

POSITION CHANGE

Though Tremayne Russell played point guard in high school, and was thrust into action during his freshmen season with the Golden Panthers, the sophomore out of South Dade High will be moved to the shooting guard position.

"We're moving Tremayne to the off-guard, I think he's a natural athlete and scorer, and I think he does well when you let him go and not let him run the team," Rouco said.

Russell committed 82 turnovers in 29 games last season and struggled to remain in Rouco's rotation.

"We had to play Tremayne there but I don't think that was his natural position, and god bless him he did the best he could," Rouco said.

The added depth at point guard has allowed Russell to move positions. Transfer Josue Soto and junior College pickup Harley Fuller are newcomers who are expected to handle the point guard spot.

Nick Taylor, who gained valuable experience last season, also will factor in.

"We also have Nick



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

INJURY BITTEN: Sergio Roucco, may need to create depth and find versatility due to multiple injuries.

Taylor, who is the only guy we had on our team with a plus assist to turnover ratio, so he's looking to be one of the three guys," Rouco said.

LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY

The Golden Panthers play their first exhibition contest vs. Nova Southeastern at FIU Arena on Thursday, Nov. 6. The game will be the lone pre-season game this season, and will be broadcasted live on WRGP, FIU student radio.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

SUPER FROSH: T.Y. Hilton caught three passes for 82 yards against MTSU, including a 63-yard touchdown. His five scores this year have come from 74, 37, 65, 73 and 82 yards.

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SUN BELT FOOTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	CONF	OVERALL	PCT	STREAK
Arkansas State	2-0	4-2	.000	W1
Troy	2-0	3-2	.000	W1
FIU	2-0	3-3	.500	W3
Louisiana-Lafayette	2-0	3-3	.000	W2
Middle Tennessee	1-3	2-4	.000	L1
Louisiana-Monroe	0-2	1-5	.000	L3
FAU	0-2	1-5	.000	L4
North Texas	0-2	0-6	.000	L6

*All records up to date as of Oct. 13

INDIVIDUAL SEASON STATISTICS

RUSHING	Att	Net	Avg	TD
A'mod Ned	67	216	3.2	3
Julian Reams	69	206	3.0	4
Paul McCall	40	85	2.1	1
Wayne Younger	16	44	2.8	0
Daunte Owens	5	25	5.0	0
T.Y. Hilton	8	20	2.5	0
Brad Serini	0	3	0.0	0
Jeremy Dickens	2	-11	-5.5	0
TEAM	5	-11	-2.2	0
Carlos Munera	1	-20	-20.0	0
Total	213	557	2.6	8
Opponents	231	937	4.1	8

PASSING	Cmp-Att-Int	Pct	Yds	TD
Paul McCall	56-118-6	47.5	729	6
Wayne Younger	15-30-0	50.0	181	0
Total	71-148-6	48.0	910	6
Opponents	144-222-9	64.9	252	8

RECEIVING	No.	Yds	Avg	TD
T.Y. Hilton	11	366	33.3	4
Greg Ellingson	9	119	13.2	1
Marquis Rolle	8	65	8.1	0
A'mod Ned	8	63	7.9	0
Jeremy Dickens	7	101	14.4	0
Eric Kirchenberg	7	79	11.3	1
Jason Frierson	2	6	3.0	0
Julian Reams	2	2	1.0	0
Alonzo Phillips	1	12	12.0	0
Elliott Dix	1	3	3.0	0
James Rucker	1	3	3.0	0
Total	71	910	12.8	6
Opponents.	144	1252	8.7	8

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Opponent	Date	Time
@ Troy	Oct. 18	7 p.m.
@ Louisiana-Lafayette	Nov. 1	5 p.m.
Arkansas State	Nov. 8	7 p.m.
Louisiana at Monroe	Nov. 22	7 p.m.
@ FAU (Dolphin Stadium)	Nov. 29	4 p.m.
Western Kentucky	Dec. 6	7 p.m.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

BRUISER: Running back Julian Reams rushed for 58 yards in the Golden Panthers win over Middle Tennessee.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

CUFFED: Post-game security at the FIU-Middle Tennessee game had their hands full, as students attempted to flood the field

Cheap shot leaves cheap feeling after first home win of '08 season

TOWERS, page 12

around.

A few were subdued by the officers on duty almost immediately, garnering the predictable jeers from the gathered students, but no real ill will.

But one fan managed to make his way to the east end zone before an FIU Athletic Department employee cold cocked him, and then, as he was dragged to the ground, proceeded to take cheap shots on the student.

There are numerous reasons for the school to want to discourage students going onto the field at any point, but there is absolutely no reason an employee of the school, wearing an FIU Athletic department shirt should decided to take the law into his own hands and attack a student.

There is a reason FIU and Miami-Dade police were standing in front of the student section, hands on tazers.

But rather than allow the police to do their jobs, he landed repeated blows to the student's face, leaving him bruised and bloodied when he was taken into custody.

It could be seen as a one time incident; a lone, vigilante employee who saw an opportunity to get some pent up aggression out on someone he feels deserves a lesson.

But the fact of the matter is he was the lone athletic department employee visible to the students, and as such, represented the public face of the department.

As such, his actions reflect to the university's student population the apparent policy of the Athletic Department.

Maybe I'm being a Debbie Downer. The team won a decisive conference vic-

“He was the lone athletic department employee visible to the students, and as such represented the public face of the department.”

tory and gave fans more to be excited about than they possibly have ever had in the team's history.

The field is also FIU property, after all, and they reserve the legal right to arrest and prosecute anyone who breaks the law regarding making their way onto the field.

But when the students remain the largest supporters of the team and department, both in sheer numbers and in

money (those athletic fees you pay every semester, one of the highest in the state), there is no excuse for the treatment this student received.

At best, it is just an isolated incident, a minor blemish on an otherwise successful night for the university.

But for many of the students in attendance, the display of violence served as a reminder of just how far from legitimacy this school's athletic program is.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

BUSTED: Students who rushed the field after the football game were arrested.

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GOING STREAKING

FIU wins its third straight after defeating Middle Tenn.

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Editor

For the first time since 2002, and the first time as a Division I football program, the Golden Panthers (3-3, 2-0 Sun Belt Conference) are a .500 football team, as the team took down the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders (2-4, 1-3), 31-21 on Oct. 11 at FIU Stadium.

The victory was the first for the Golden Panthers on campus since Dec. 3, 2005, which also came against Middle Tennessee. That 35-31 victory also marked the last time FIU had won three games in a row on the gridiron.

"The attitude is different around here, the attitude from the top down...we've got an abundance of playmakers that I don't think we've really seen before" said junior quarterback Paul McCall, who completed 13-of-29 passes for 223 yards with a touchdown and an interception, about his team turning the corner this season.

McCall, who, although he again completed less than 50 percent of his passes, made several plays with his legs, rushing for a touchdown and converting two other crucial third downs in the first half.

The Golden Panthers rolled up over 30 points for the third consecutive game, but the scoring didn't start early for FIU.

Middle Tennessee opened the scoring with a 36-yard field goal by Alan Gendreau with over 11 minutes remaining in the first half. FIU did not score until a 9-yard Paul McCall run with 4:12 remaining in the first half.

"I took off 4 yards outside, and I saw Greg, JD, and Junior blocking, and my shoe fell off, and I ran and jumped praying that it was a touchdown, because I didn't want to run another play" said McCall.

On the following drive, Middle Tennessee went three-and-out and after a short, 31-yard punt, and



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

HEISMAN RUSH: Quarterback Paul McCall jukes a Blue Raider defender while trying to pick a first down. He rushed for a career high 53 yards.

FIU took over at the 50-yard line.

They advanced the ball to the all the way to the 3-yard line where that were stymied, and had to settle for a 20 yard Dustin Rivest field goal to end the half. FIU could only manage 10 points and started slow offensively, but the defense was, once again, extremely stout.

The Golden Panthers forced three Blue Raider turnovers—all interceptions.

Anthony Gaitor tied a school record with two, returning his second, on the second play of the third quarter, 27 yards for a touchdown, and a 17-3 FIU lead.

Gaitor returned his first interception 71-yards to set up the McCall touchdown run, and it was the third-longest interception return in FIU history.

Joe Craddock started the game under center for MTSU, but was

replaced by Dwight Dasher following the second Gaitor interception, and he promptly led the Blue Raiders on a 14-play 48-yard drive, culminating in a Gendreau 37-yard field goal, cutting the FIU lead to 17-6.

FIU answered with, perhaps, its best drive of the season, taking the ball 76 yards in nine plays, with six of the plays going to the running backs.

A'mod Ned and Julian Reams combined for 57 of the yards on the drive, and Ned finished the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run, on a third and goal.

Dasher, who rushed for 82 yards, despite playing exclusively in the second half, led the Blue Raiders on another answering scoring drive, this time coming

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BOX SCORE

	FIU	MTSU
First Downs	17	15
Rushes-Yards	42-112	41-171
Passing	223	72
Comp-Att-Int	13-29-1	14-27-3
Return Yards	162	130
Punts Avg.	5-33.2	5-41.0
Penalties-Yards	9-68	4-31
Fumbles-Lost	4-2	0-0
Time of Possession	31:59	28:01

RUSHING — FIU: McCall 9-53-1, Reams 17-47, Ned 12-33-1, Hilton 1-4, Munera 1-(minus 20). **MTSU:** Tanner 18-79-2, Dasher 13-78, Gee 5-19, Beyah 1-8, Craddock 3-(minus 12)

PASSING — FIU: McCall 29-13-1-223. **MTSU:** Dasher 15-7-1-47, Craddock 7-12-2-25

RECEIVING — FIU: Mertile 4-41, Hilton 3-82, Ellingson 3-38, Dickens 3-38, Ned 1-24. **MTSU:** Honeycutt 5-20, Beyah 4-16, Gee 2-5, Caldwell 1-28, King 1-6, McDonald 1-(minus 3)

Ugly incident mars Golden Panthers' winning streak

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

This might sound strange, but as a fan of the FIU football, I'm struggling with celebrating this latest victory.

Just about everything went right for the team on the field, taking down the Middle Tennessee State University Blue Raiders 31-21, and yet, as I ex-

ited the stadium, it was hard to celebrate.

Sure, FIU just won their third consecutive football game, and holds a tie for the conference lead going into a showdown next week against Sun Belt powerhouse Troy.

T.Y. Hilton continued his rise as one of the top freshman playmakers in the country, hauling in his fourth touchdown pass of the season on a 63-yard bomb, and Scotty Bryant cemented his place as the heart of a strong, hungry defense with an intense, 10 tackle performance.

FIU avenged a 47-6 loss to the Blue Raiders

last season and is even beginning look like a legitimate conference contender.

And hey, they even managed to out gain their opponent for the first time all season, while continuing to play opportunistic, ball hawk defense and mistake free offense.

And yet with all of this to celebrate, what we are left with at the end of the game is, a lasting image of just how far FIU athletics has to come to be taken seriously, despite recent success on the field.

As the clock wound down and the team be-

gan celebrating its fourth win in seven games and first win on campus since the 2005 season, some exuberant FIU students decided to try to rush the field.

Rushing the field is a college football tradition, and if FIU is priding itself on building a traditional football powerhouse, they have to expect that students are going to want to celebrate big wins the way they've seen fan bases do for as long as college football has been

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