

RESTORATION

New and improved library

AT THE BAY

PAGE 3

START TALKING

Televised debates begin Sept. 26

OPINION

PAGE 4

GOLDEN IDOL

Dance Marathon searches for star

LIFE!

PAGE 5

DISTASTEFUL

Fans lack respect vs. USF

SPORTS

PAGE 8

STUDENTS BUSTED

47 charged with underage drinking

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO

News Director

Athletics believes the inauguration of the football stadium marks the start of a new era in FIU football.

Public Safety hopes it won't inaugurate a new era in on-campus underage drinking.

Last Saturday's inaugural game against the University of South Florida saw a previously unprecedented number of FIU students attend an athletic event but also brought over 50 underage drinking charges.

The State of Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco agents gave 56 notices to appear in court for underage drinking on-campus and in Tamiami Park, said Alexis Antonacci, press secretary for ABT's Department of Business and Professional Regulations.

Chief of Police Bill King said underage drinking arrests are not uncommon at FIU football games, although there was an increase in charges because of the larger attendance of about 16,100 participants.

One 21 year old was taken to Miami-Dade County's Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center for providing alcohol to a minor; one citation was given to a juvenile and one to an FIU student-athlete.

By comparison, at the University of Miami's season opener against Charleston Southern University on Aug. 28, ABT gave 67 citations: 60 were given for drinking-age violations and seven for fake identifications or disorderly conduct. Over 48,000 fans attended the game at Dolphin Stadium.

"There was more tailgating, more celebration for being the first stadium game," said King. "We suspect we may not see that number of violations again and I'm really hopeful that there won't be. It's a concern of ours and we will do whatever we need to do to address it."

King said that ABT works with campus police but at Saturday's game all write-ups were made solely by nine ABT officers.

According to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Director Karen A. Dlhosh, as of pre-publication, 47 out of the 57 charges were given to FIU students.

Still, this number is significantly higher than previous games on-campus and at the Orange Bowl, where all of last season's home games were played. Charges at the old FIU stadium and Orange Bowl were no more than 10 per game, according to Dlhosh.

Campus Life gave out free FIU football T-

DRINKING, page 2

Speaker offers student perspective on hazing

ELSIE PUIG

Contributing Writer

Matt Weymouth was excited to spend a weekend in a lake cabin in New Hampshire with his football team. Then came the words that would change his life forever: "What happens here stays here, and if anything gets out I will seriously kill you."

Weymouth went on to become one of the leading advocates against hazing practices in sports teams and Greek organizations.

Weymouth, a Johnson & Wales student, told his story to an arena full of fraternities and sororities Sept. 23 as part of National Hazing Prevention Week hosted by Athletics, Order of Omega, in conjunction with Campus Life and Student Government Association.

"Hazing is anything that a fraternity or sorority does that can deem a pledge unfit

for membership," explained Alex Ruiz, Interfraternity Council President and brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"Hazing has gone to a completely different level. It

humiliating" acts of his life.

At first, with Halloween music playing, he thought his teammates were just trying to scare him, but unfortunately it was not the case.

What happens here stays here, and if anything gets out I will seriously kill you.

Matt Weymouth
Johnson & Wales student

has gone from freshman carrying water jugs across a field and being told to sing in the cafeteria, to sexual abuse and assault," Weymouth said.

Weymouth came from a small rural town in Massachusetts, where as a high school freshman he played football for Kentucky Regional High School. On the weekend retreat to the lake cabins in New Hampshire, he was subjected to "the most

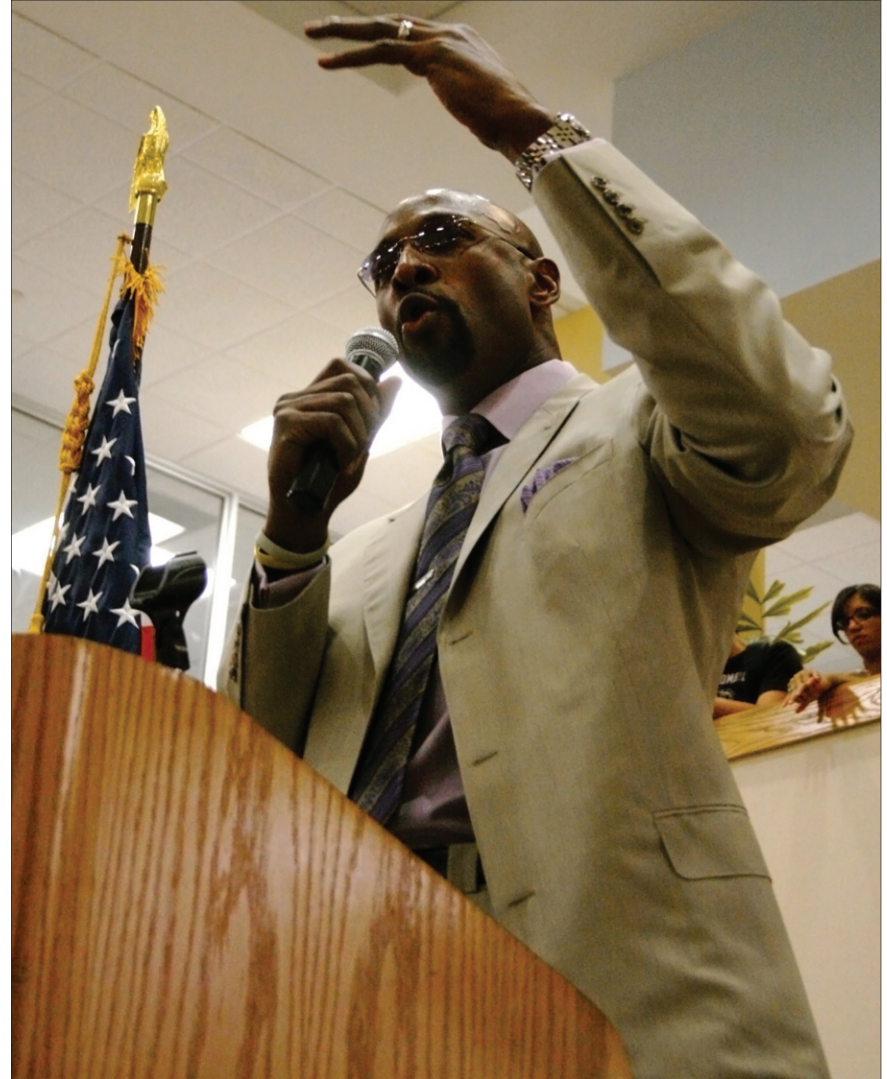
"I was dragged into a room, restrained by four team members, 'teabagged,' they pulled down my pants and tried to insert a banana into my rectum," he said.

In the years that followed he fell to drug addiction, depression and abusive behavior.

"I got death threats, I got thrown bananas at me, people

HAZING, page 2

CENTER FOR CHANGE



RICK MARTINEZ/FIUSM.COM

ZOBAMA: Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning speaks about the importance of voting in Graham Center's Pit on Sept. 24.

Contract clause impacts future student-athletes

CHARLIE GRAU

Editor in Chief

In an effort to build a dominant athletic program, FIU went on an all out blitz to find the best coach to lead its growing football program.

The man picked to lead the charge: Mario Cristobal.

The cost: \$2.2 million over a span of six years, along with some other perks in his contract.

Compared to other coaches like Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, who earns \$6.5 million, Florida's Urban Meyer who earns \$3.4 million and Miami's Randy Shannon who earns \$1.5 million per year, the price tag may not seem so steep.

But it is not coach Cristobal's \$390,000 base salary that has raised some flags about his contract, but rather a clause that says Athletic Director Pete Garcia will have final say for admissions of Cristobal's recruits even if they don't meet the University's standards.

In the contract under a section entitled 'University Duties,' it is stated that the "university shall admit to FIU all student-athletes meeting the NCAA academic eligibility requirement (Division I core GPA and Testing Score Sliding Scale.) provided the student-athlete has been cleared through the NCAA clearing house and

been approved by the Athletic Director."

If this clause is broken, it allows Cristobal to void his leave the football program at any time.

According to a *U.S.A. Today* article published on Dec. 5, 2007, such a clause is not known to exist in any other NCAA Division I-A head coaching contract. Even if a player he recruits does not satisfy FIU's admissions requirements, it allows the player to gain eligibility as long as he meets the NCAA academic eligibility requirement.

"Football coaches want to make sure they don't want to take a job where they can't get NCAA qualifying students into school, because it is promised to them when they take the job," Garcia said. "A lot of coaches want to make sure they are protected."

The NCAA academic eligibility requirement is a sliding scale for freshman athletic eligibility, based on GPAs in 16 core courses (such as math, English and science) and standardized tests. There is a minimum core GPA of 2.0, which would require an SAT of 1,010. There is no minimum SAT score required. But the lowest possible score re-

CONTRACT, page 2

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Board of Trustees ratify new contract for full-time employees

The Board of Trustees ratified a new three-year contract that will allow full-time support employees who were hired before July 1, 2005 to enjoy the same benefits faculty members and administrators have available to them. The agreement, ratified this week by a 480 to 40 vote from members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, guarantees a 4-percent pay increase, more leave time and tuition waivers for members of their immediate family, among other benefits.

NATIONAL

Kinky Friedman under fire for past racial slurs

Comedian, musician and independent gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman defended using a racial slur during a performance at a Houston nightclub 26 years ago after an audio clip of the stand-up routine was posted on the Internet.

Sixty-one-year-old Friedman said he has tried to expose and lampoon racism and was making fun of jokes when he used the n-word twice in a joke.

But state Representative and Former Chairman of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus Garnet Coleman said it's difficult to find the humor in his joke. Friedman also had remarks about Katrina evacuees in Houston in which he referred to them as crackheads and thugs.

WORLD

U.S. soldier killed in helicopter crash

Chief Warrant Officer Timothy R. Breneman, a soldier from Ormond Beach, Fla. was one of two Americans killed when a U.S. helicopter crashed during a routine training in southern Germany, according to Army officials.

Breneman, 36, was the pilot in command of the AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter that crashed Sept. 19 during night gunnery training at the Grafenwoehr Training Area. Co-pilot gunner Chief Warrant Officer Terry M. Thomas, of Baton Rouge, La., was also killed in the crash.

Both men were members of the First Armored Division's 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Military officials said the crash was under investigation.

Gunman goes on killing rampage at Finnish college

Police in Finland have identified ten victims from Tuesday's shooting massacre at a college in Kauhajoki.

The shooter, Matti Juhani Saari, was also identified after he turned the gun on himself.

– Compiled by Julio Menache

Garcia heads Athletics' admissions

CONTRACT, page 1

quires a core GPA higher than 3.55 for eligibility.

"It's basically a three prong process. The student has to meet the NCAA academic eligibility requirements. The coach cannot admit anyone into the school. The student-athlete has to have met the NCAA academic eligibility requirements and then have to be cleared by the NCAA Clearing house and then they have to be cleared by myself," Garcia said.

This is common practice among many college football programs.

"If you are familiar with those requirements, those are the type of student athletes that every major football program recruits. So it's really nothing different any other major schools does," Garcia said.

But such language in any university employee's contract makes some feel a little

uncomfortable. Philip Hughes, associate Athletics director for Student Services and former president of the National Associations of Academic Advisors for Athletics said no individual person should be responsible for admitting students with special talents.

"I do not understand why there would admissibility in a person's contract. Admission standards, procedures, decisions and criteria have to reside in the institution. I don't know why that would be in coach's contract," Hughes said.

Garcia disagrees.

"Some might say, why does it need your approval, Pete? Because there could be the possibility that a student athlete could meet the NCAA academic requirements, could be cleared by the clearing house, but let's say he has a history of getting arrested. Then I'm going to say I don't want that kid," Garcia said.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

CRISTOBAL'S CLAUSE: Cristobal's contract states Athletic Director Pete Garcia has the final say when admitting student athletes into FIU.

47 students arrested at stadium opener

DRINKING, page 1

shirts days before Saturday's game with a Student Conduct pamphlet outlining tailgating information. "Golden Panther Dont's" stated that underage drinking was subject to arrest and prosecution.

Underage drinking, on- or off-campus, violates the FIU Student Code of Conduct.

Students, in addition to appearing in court and complying with issued fines, community service or alcohol education classes, will also appear before the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

The violations will be handled on a case-by-case basis but all students will either accept responsibility and comply with sanctions or appear before administration or a student conduct committee, composed of two students and a faculty or staff member.

Sanctions include a written reprimand, probation period, online alcohol education class or referral to FIU counseling.

The FIU student-athlete will also be called before the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Athletics will handle any additional reprimanding, Dlhosh said.

Senior Associate Athletic Director

Julie Berg and Assistant Athletic Director of Media Relations Richard J. Kelch said there is no tolerance of any drinking from student-athletes.

"We are very strict. Disciplinary action is internal between administration, coaches and student-athletes, but believe me, it's addressed," Berg said.

Both Berg and Kelch explained that

open containers, open bottles. [ABT officers] didn't have to go looking for it," she said.

Noelle, a 20-year old student who was arrested and refused to give her last name, said she saw five to six plain-clothed police officers, some with visible badges, stopping students walking toward the tailgate area.

All students were holding plastic cups, she explained, but none were being disruptive. More effort should have gone toward students who were drinking and driving and students who were "belligerently" drunk.

"I've gone to a lot of football games and I never encountered police arresting students," she said. "If they want to create a football tradition, arresting students walking with alcohol is not the best tactic."

The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution made efforts to inform students of drinking regulations, but Dlhosh said she knows that with the University's increasing football popularity and "college football culture," more outreach will be necessary to make students aware of the risks.

FIU Athletics is in a student "educating" process and while tailgating will always be encouraged, students must learn to tailgate responsibly, Berg and Kelch said.

Students were just walking up with open containers, open bottles. [ABT officers] didn't have to go looking for it

Karen Dlhosh, Director
Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution

Athletics has no obligation to report legal incidents involving student-athletes to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and that this will not affect the department's current four-year probation with the association in any matter.

The NCAA was unavailable for comment.

Some students complained that officers unfairly targeted minors while ignoring other drinkers.

Dlhosh said some ABT officers were in full uniform and that minors were being extremely obvious with their underage drinking.

"Students were just walking up with

UM incident leads to strict hazing law

HAZING, page 1

in my town called me snitch, rat," Weymouth said.

He was able to recover and decided to go public with the hazing incident and e-mailed different media outlets.

He managed to change his school's hazing policies to zero tolerance and bring attention to the issue by speaking out about it.

"Fortunately, under my leadership, I have not heard

of one single hazing incident from the 11 fraternities in FIU," Ruiz said. "However, I have gone to conferences to meet with fraternities from all over the country, and I have heard of hazing incidents from people in other schools."

Hazing is not common at Florida schools due to the state's stringent laws regarding the practices, Ruiz explained.

"One of the reasons Florida

is one of the states with the strictest laws on hazing was because of the incident that happened in [University of Miami]," Ruiz said.

In 2002, Chad Meredith, a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at UM drowned while attempting to swim drunk across the campus lake, Lake Osceola, as part of a fraternity initiation.

The Chad Meredith Act was signed into law by former Governor Jeb Bush in

2005, and stipulates harsh penalties for hazing.

"The fraternities can get kicked out of school, they can get sued, so it's just not worth it," Ruiz declared.

This past week, Greek organizations tabled to get members to sign a pledge against hazing. and among the events held was "Train the Trainer," which described ways to welcome new members without resorting to hazing.

THE BEACON

EDITORIAL BOARD

- | | |
|---|---|
| CHARLIE GRAU
CHRISTOPHER NECUZE | EDITOR IN CHIEF
PRODUCTION MANAGER |
| DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
JULIA CARDENUTO
JONATHAN DAVILA
ERIC FELDMAN
ANDREW JULIAN
VICTORIA LYNCH
LEONCIO ALVAREZ | NEWS DIRECTOR
BBC MANAGING EDITOR
LIFE! EDITOR
OPINION EDITOR
SPORTS DIRECTOR
PHOTO EDITOR
COPY CHIEF |

INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-6994. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Biscayne Bay Campus is 305-919-4722. Office hours are 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. E-mail: Beacon@fiu.edu. Visit us online at www.fiusm.com

Library renovations bring improvement

DANIELLE FREYRE
Contributing Writer

Even with headphones on, Gabriela Stanelis finds it hard to block out the construction noise in the BBC library.

"It's pretty annoying," said the student currently in the master's program for Spanish journalism.

Director of the BBC Library, Antonie Downs, is looking forward to the building's makeover, consisting of new bathrooms, hurricane-resistant windows and new computer software.

The library, which first opened in 1988, is undergoing physical and virtual changes throughout, all with students' best interests in mind, said Downs.

"It's the shrine to all bathrooms," said Downs, referring to the third-floor bathrooms.

The bathrooms meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards for accessible design and were finally opened, according to Downs.

She said that though they still need some finishing touches, such as door handles and specific lighting, the bathrooms are now being used.

Anna Maria Silva, Student Government Council president for the Biscayne Bay Campus, guaranteed that the funds for the bathroom renovation didn't come from the SGC budget.

"The funds, as far as I know,

aren't coming from the SGC," Silva said.

The second-floor bathroom is under heavy construction and will hopefully be ready by the end of September, according to Downs.

"Every single time I try to go to the bathroom, it's closed for cleaning, and that frustrates me," said Joao Ribeiro, who is pursuing his second bachelor's degree in biology.

Downs said rumors that have surfaced about the work on the second-floor bathrooms resuming soon are not far from reality.

The delay has been due to concerns that traffic and noise will disturb the main entrance of the library, according to Downs.

The renovations to the library aim to improve more than just the functionality of the building on the inside, it also includes new precautions designed to strengthen the library's hurricane resistance.

Under previous hurricane preparation plans, in the event of a hurricane, each computer on the first floor was to be carefully removed by the employees and staff members of the library. Downs saw this as a problem.

"If the hurricane never hits, the next morning each computer must be hauled back in and set-up before early morning opening hour," Downs said.

Downs said the original win-



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

WIND PROOF: New hurricane-resistant panels are being installed around the library's main entrance.

dows surrounding the library were just regular glass, but the panels of glass being placed on the first floor are all hurricane-resistant and impact glass.

The funds for these shutters came from \$350,000 in salary savings from unfilled positions in the library.

Shutters are now covering the third floor but getting the funds for the second floor is going

to improve the rest of the library, according to Downs.

Downs said that a system referred to as Lightweight Directory Access Protocol, a web-based access program, is being placed on a select number of computers for a trial run.

All students need is their Panther ID and password to login.

Downs and others are working on new organization systems

to improve the rest of the library. Renovations include relocation of information desks and making the learning center more accessible to aid with students' research needs.

"These changes to the library have been in the books for years but it just so happens we got around to them now," said Downs.

Professor awarded Fellowship for artistic achievement

VALERIE MULL
Contributing Writer

Rewarded with a copious amount of money and recognition for his work, an FIU professor is now able to further international research for his artistic project.

Augusto Soledade, assistant professor of dance at FIU, was awarded the 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship in the Latin American/Caribbean category through the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Program in the spring of 2008.

"I am a choreographer who tries to understand and look at the past, my history and my roots and bring that into the work, but I also feel that it is absolutely essential that I look at who I am and how I live in the present in order to create," said Soledade, who is also the artistic director of the Brazz Dance Theater in Miami.

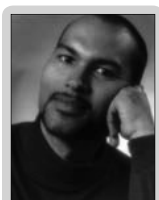
According to the official John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship Web site, Guggenheim Fellowships are grants awarded to those "who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts."

Each year since 1925, the foundation has awarded multiple applicants fellowships ranging from \$32,000 to \$36,000.

"I've been working as a choreographer, dancer and teacher for a little while now, so it's probably a combination of every-

thing I've done from creating work, to my teaching, to research and writing that got me the award," Soledade said. "This is such a major honor and accomplishment."

Part of Soledade's application process for the grant included submitting a proposal for "Dreaming Amazonia," a project he is currently working on.



SOLEDADE

"'Dreaming Amazonia' is my current choreographic project. I started working on it around spring of 2007," Soledade said. "Dreaming Amazonia" is a choreographed dance that, according to Soledade, was inspired

by dances and rituals practiced by the Amazonian people.

Its idea is not to take the dances his ancestors did and bring them on his stage, but to be inspired by them and create his own contemporary rituals.

"[Dreaming Amazonia] will premier in April 2009. The venue it is going to premiere at is not completely set," Soledade said.

The Guggenheim Fellowship will be applied to further "Dreaming Amazonia," according to Soledade. In Nov. 2007, Soledade spent 15 days in Manaus, capital of Amazonas, Brazil, where he did some research for the project.

"I interviewed members of indigenous communities. I visited a couple of them to observe their style and ways of life, and I observed some of their dances and rituals," Soledade said. "With everything going on

globally and the concerns with nature, I see this work as my reaction to all of these pressures."

Gary Lund, lighting designer and stage manager for the Brazz Dance Theater, owned by Soledade, is one of Soledade's supporters.

"He's been working his whole life. Anybody who has been awarded this fellowship is a very deserving person. They've put their blood, sweat and time

into it," Lund said.

Dr. Orlando Garcia, who is composing the music for "Dreaming Amazonia," also acknowledges Soledade's efforts and success.

"The Guggenheim fellowship is one of the most difficult awards to obtain, and is confirmation and validation of the high-level work that Augusto has been creating," Garcia said.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The **BEACON** is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124. For more information, e-mail kassandra.pool@fiusm.com or shervin.bain@fiusm.com



2008 ELECTION UPDATE

Presidential debates essential

IRIS A. FEBRES
Asst. Opinion Editor

Eyes will turn to televisions on Sept. 26 at 9 p.m. EST, as the first presidential debate will unfold at the University of Mississippi.

Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama will take the stage for 90 minutes and discuss, perhaps feverishly, issues concerning foreign policy and national security.

I've always held the televised presidential debates to be extremely important during elections. These debates allow viewers at home opportunities to watch their choices for the head of the Oval Office meet head-to-head and discuss urgent topics.

Granted, these debates aren't for everyone, and I can understand if you'd rather watch some reality TV - but keep in mind most major networks will air the debate instead of their usual primetime lineups.

Many political analysts have noted the power of televised debates and how easily an election can swing to a candidate because of a single flub or comment caught on tape. Observers can easily recall the 1976 Carter/Ford debate, in which Ford said, "There

is no Soviet domination of Eastern Europe."

This comment may have given the '76 election to Carter, for he himself admitted, "If it hadn't been for the debates, I would have lost."

This year, I am positive more eyes will tune in to the presidential debates within the coming weeks than ever before, especially now that we are whittled down to the two main contenders.

Interest in the debates have increased over the past few years; ac-

cording to Nielsen Media Research, 62.4 million viewers watched George Bush and John Kerry at their podiums in 2004, which is almost 20 million more viewers than the Al Gore/Bush debates in 2000.

I am sure both presidential candidates are banking on their performances to sway independent voters who are undecided as to who they'll select on their ballots. With the last two elections ending with extremely close margins, every vote counts this November.

MCCAIN vs. OBAMA

When:
Sept. 26 @ 9 p.m.
EST

Where:
University of
Mississippi

Topic:
Foreign Policy &
National Security

When:
Oct. 7 @ 9 p.m.
EST

Where:
Belmont
University

Topic:
Various Issues
(Town Hall style)

When:
Oct. 15 @ 9 p.m.
EST

Where:
Hofstra
University

Topic:
Domestic &
Economic Issues

Debate times/dates are subject to change.

MCCAIN POSTPONES CAMPAIGN

Sen. John McCain officially suspended his presidential campaign on Sept. 24 in order to work with Washington and address the nation's current financial crisis. McCain called upon his opponent Sen. Barack Obama to do the same after requesting for the first presidential debate to be postponed.

According to the Associated Press, McCain said, "I do not believe that the plan on the table will pass as it currently stands, and we are running out of time." Obama disagreed with McCain and asserted that he would proceed with the debate while consulting with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Obama said, "It's going to be part of the president's job to deal with more than one thing at once."

If suspending his campaign will have tangible results on working on our current pressing economic issues, then McCain is to be commended by committing political suicide for the people. However, he will have to do a lot of explaining regarding what it is that he is actually working on in D.C. and why he couldn't set a day aside to keep the election on track.

- Compiled by Eric Feldman, Opinion Editor

Backin' Barack? Joinin' John?

After watching the televised debates in the coming weeks, let *The Beacon* know which candidate you feel won.

Submit your letters to opinion@fiusm.com. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for space and clarity.

New games, movies have been there, done that

JONATHAN DAVILA
Life! Editor

Video games and movies are two components of the entertainment business that rake in billions of dollars every year. These two forms of entertainment used to be very much about the development of original ideas, but in recent years, it appears games and films have been slowly but surely losing their creative touch; these industries increasingly churn out sequel after sequel of already established intellectual properties, and we've reached a point where things have begun to become stale.

The business minds of America do this for good reason. If a game or movie brings in the big bucks, then logically, a sequel should bring in the big bucks as well. Most of the time.

This "sequelitis" negatively affects new

some very compelling, addictive multiplayer gameplay, yet it only managed to sell 60,000 units in its first month - .6 percent of its installed base. Whenever things like this occur, producers become less inclined to take a shot at investing into a new intellectual property.

It seems they're saying to themselves, "Our last attempt at something original bombed. All right, let's scrap that new idea we were working on and rush out that first-person shooter sequel those teenagers love!"

"People have played like 14 games of 'Final Fantasy.' You know it's going to be good," even if they change the formula said freshman Francois Boucicau, a chemistry major. "But games like 'Infinite Undiscovery,' people hate it because it does something nontraditional. I want something new."

This isn't the case for every new idea that



IRIS A. FEBRES / THE BEACON

Ten years from now, franchises that poke our interests today will not have the same appeal. Even if it is still stellar, will we want to play "Soul Calibur XII" [then]?

games and movies that release without a previous installment.

An example from the game world is "Boom Blox," a stellar puzzle game published by Electronic Arts in collaboration with Steven Spielberg; the game featured

comes out of a studio. Games like "Gears of War" and "Resistance: Fall of Man" or movies like "Burn After Reading" and "Lakeview Terrace" have done well in terms of how much money they made, but these are not representative of the majority of quality

products released that never see success.

"Gears" launched when Xbox 360 gamers were hungry for "Halo 3," and "Resistance" launched when the PlayStation 3 had just hit the shelves and had few games to choose from. "Burn After Reading" and "Lakeview Terrace" have done fairly well at this time of year, when the movie world goes into a kind of overdose after a summer full of blockbuster hits (see: "The Dark Knight," "Spider-Man 3," etc).

Ten years from now, franchises that poke our interests today will not have the same appeal. Even if it is still stellar, will we want to play "Soul Calibur XII" at that point in time? Will we still be spending \$10 on a movie ticket to see "Spider-Man 8"?

Enough is enough. "Gears of War 2" may be entertaining this fall, and I'm sure "Saw V" will still fill up seats at your local theater, but when is the next game or movie experience that completely blows you away with its creativity going to be made? I hope I can play another game as hilarious as "Psychonauts," and I hope I can see another film as creative, thought provoking and symbolic as the original "Matrix."

As consumers of these products, we should be concerned with the direction these industries are going. Support for exceptional, creative games and movies needs to increase, or else we are condemned to a future in which "part twos" will dominate our entertainment markets.

DANCE DANCE

Marathon committee to host annual charity event

DIANA JORDAN
Contributing Writer

Founded on FIU's 25th anniversary, the Dance Marathon is approaching its 11th year of fund raising for the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation. Since its inception in 1997, FIU's Dance Marathon has raised over \$500,000, with 100 percent of the proceeds directly benefitting the hospital and its patients.

The event, which kicked off yesterday, has been a success due to the generosity of the FIU community. A typical Dance Marathon includes 25 hours of non-stop dancing in the Recreation Center. All FIU students can participate and are encouraged to bring friends and relatives for support. Participants are not allowed to sit during the marathon, but are permitted to participate in other activities such as basketball, laser tag, karaoke, rock climbing and line dancing.

In past years, the marathon has attracted various groups - like the Miami Heat dancers, Miami Heat's Junior Jammers and the Florida Marlins Mermaids - that have provided entertainment to those present. Several DJs, such as DJ Irie and DJ Tracy Young, and radio stations like Radio Disney, have kept the crowd on its feet.

Guests included Florida representatives, as well as "miracle children," survivors who have benefited from the fund-raising to thank participants for their support and contribution.

"It's a great opportunity for students to come together as a school and make an impact on the community," said Alina Quintana, Dance Marathon special events co-chair.

This year, the Dance Marathon committee is also hosting its sixth annual singing

competition, Golden Idol: a spin-off of the television show "American Idol" for FIU students. During this event, students will be able to audition in front of judges and perform before their peers in hopes of making it to the grand finale.

The event is open to anyone willing and wishing to display vocal abilities in front of live audiences. The auditions will be held on Oct. 1, 7 and 14 in the Graham Center Pit from noon to 2 p.m.

The finale will be held on Oct. 22 at 8

p.m. in the GC ballrooms and will be hosted by last year's winner, Adam Bolanos. During intermissions, morale captains - two leaders assigned during the marathon to encourage group members - will be performing line dances learned at the previous year's marathon.

There will be a charge to all audience members who attend and the money raised will go directly to FIU Dance Marathon and the Miami Children's Hospital Foundation. Last year alone, Golden Idol raised \$3,000 for the foundation and even more is expected this year.

"Everyone is encouraged to come out of their shell and try something different while helping others," Quintana said.

Golden Idol is trying to incorporate all students regardless of age or interests. This is a program that was created to involve students with the event in a different way.

Everyone on campus can participate, whether it is by entertaining the audience or by making a donation.

"FIU tries to cater to all different kinds of interests and needs, and this is a way to involve those students with a love for music, performing and community service," Quintana said. "Our main goal is to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the Golden Panther family."



FERNANDO GARCIA/BEACON FILE PHOTO

BUST A MOVE: A group of student performers show off their moves during last year's Dance Marathon.

WEEKEND CALENDAR

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 26

WHAT: SPC Hispanic Heritage Event
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: SPC Movie Indiana Jones
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: ENGAGE Workshop "Member Teambuilding"
WHERE: GC 314
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.

WHAT: FIU Theatre Presents "The Cook"
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Ambassadors of Rock Presents: Fergie
WHERE: Hardrock Live
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: "Clutch" with Special Guest "The Sword, Graveyard"
WHERE: Arshi Center for Performing Arts
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Democracy for America Campus Corp.
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Muslims Students Association
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHAT: Japan Club Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Fracture at the White Room
WHERE: White Room
WHEN: 10 p.m.

SATURDAY • SEPTEMBER 27

WHAT: Anberlin Free Instore Acoustic Show
WHERE: Uncle Sam's Records
WHEN: 2 p.m.

WHAT: Cheech & Chong Light up America
WHERE: The Fillmore Miami Beach
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: Henry Rollins - Recountdown Tour
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Zumba Class
WHERE: Gracie's Grill
WHEN: 11 a.m.

WHAT: Diwali Festival of Lights
WHERE: GC Ballrooms
WHEN: 6 p.m.

WHAT: Think Pink Rocks Hosted By Queen Latifah
WHERE: Mizner Park Amphitheater
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

WHAT: Classic Albums Live Presents: The Doors
WHERE: Paradise Live
WHEN: 9 p.m.

WHAT: Collision Music and Art Festival
WHERE: PS14
WHEN: 9 p.m.

WHAT: Spunk Fest 3
WHERE: Club Flavour
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.

WHAT: TNA Wrestling
WHERE: Bank United Center
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 28

WHAT: The Reclamation Project
WHERE: Miami Science Museum
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: Nightmare: Ghost Stories
WHERE: Soho Studios
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Kulcha Shok Muzik
WHERE: Jazid
WHEN: 10:00 p.m.

WHAT: Bergonzi String Quartet and Shelton G Berg Piano
WHERE: University of Miami Gusman Hall
WHEN: 4:00 p.m.

WHAT: Henry Rollins - Recountdown Tour
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

WHAT: Radio Gol
WHERE: Mosaic Theatre
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: State of the Union
WHERE: ArtCenter/South Florida Gallery
WHEN: 2:00 p.m.

WHAT: F.I.U. Theatre Presents: THE COOK
WHERE: Wertheim Performing Arts Center
WHEN: 7:00 p.m.

WHAT: Miami Spice New England Clam Bake at Oceanaire
WHERE: Oceanaire Seafood Room
WHEN: 5:00 p.m.

Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado

Working the waiver wire necessary for fantasy success

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

Can you believe a quarter of the NFL has passed by? Three weeks have zoomed by, and after this Sunday, we will be able to figure out who the contenders and the pretenders are.

Fantasy Football starts to get a little bit trickier, with teams getting by weeks. Tinkering with the your lineups and scouring the waiver wire becomes very important from here on out.

The Lions, Colts, Dolphins, Patriots, Giants, and Seahawks have byes this week, putting some fantasy owners in precarious situations.

Don't be discouraged if your team hasn't performed up to standard, and some superstars haven't lived up to expectations. Randy Moss, Chad Ocho Cinco, Derek Anderson, Braylon Edwards, Andre Johnson, Carlos Palmer are some of the players owners were counting on who haven't come through with big games this year.

Jay Cutler, Julius Jones, and Dwayne Bowe are some players that have fantasy owners jumping for joy with their excellent performances.

I'm not going to tell you who to start and who to sit this week, I'm going to tell you who to be ok with releasing, and which players, if they are still out there, to pick up, because their production will only increase.

PLAYERS TO PICK UP

Pierre Thomas: RB, New Orleans Saints- This touchdown machine has become the "thunder" to Reggie Bush's "Lightning". He doesn't muster up a lot of yardage, but consider starting him if you have an opening because of the bye week.

He is owned in less than 30% percent of leagues, and has a favorable matchup against the 49ers defense this week.

Antonio Bryant: WR Tampa Bay Buccaneers- With Brian Griese now at quarterback, the Bucs are starting the spread ball around, Griese threw the ball 67 times last week, and Bryant benefited catching 10 passes for 138 yards against a tough Bears defense.

Joey Galloway is injured, what else is new, and Ike Hilliard cannot stretch the field.

Look for Bryant to separate himself as the number one receiver for the Bucs, who will continue to throw it all over the field in a shootout with the Packers on Sunday.

Jason Campbell: QB, Washington Redskins- If Campbell is still a free agent in your league, snatch him up ASAP. Santana Moss looks like his old self and his yard after catch ability is incredible.

Antwaan Randle-El is a viable number two, and with Chris Cooley at tight end and a healthy Clinton Portis running the ball, Campbell will flourish.

He is a viable starter if your having problems at quarterback. The most encouraging stat for Campbell is that he hasn't thrown an interception yet this season.

Le'ron McClain: RB, Baltimore Ravens- McClain is clearly the Ravens number one goal

line back, and has passed rookie Ray Rice on the depth chart.

The Ravens play hard nose football, and with Rookie Joe Flacco at quarterback, they want to run the ball in red zone situations. Even though Willis McGahee is almost 100%, the Ravens want to bring him along slowly, and McClain will still be heavily relied on in the Ravens simplified offense.

Steve Slaton: RB, Houston Texans- Recently named the starting running back of the Houston Texans, Slaton is used to carrying the offense, as he did at West Virginia, and with the Texans passing game not in sync yet, look for Slaton to keep in improving on his performance the previous week. A workhorse running back like Slaton only gets better as the season progresses.

PLAYERS YOU CAN DROP

Ahman Green: RB, Texans- Slaton is the

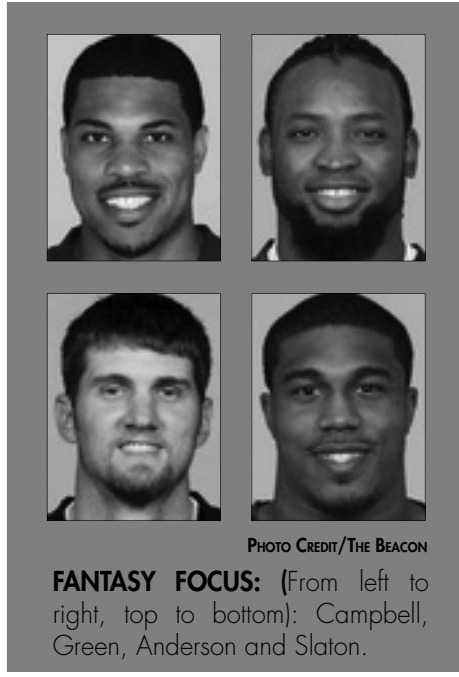


PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

FANTASY FOCUS: (From left to right, top to bottom): Campbell, Green, Anderson and Slaton.

starter, Green is over the hill, he hasn't been healthy since his days in Green Bay, and time has come for the Texans to give up on their prize free agent pickup from only a few seasons ago.

Jeff Garcia: QB, Tampa Bay Bucs- Griese will continue to be the starter as long as he continues to have success with the previously stagnant Tampa Offense.

Its not worth having Garcia on your bench, look to pick up JT O'Sullivan or Jason Campbell as replacements.

Derek Anderson: QB, Cleveland Browns- Owners are tired of waiting for Anderson to show up, and so is the Browns front office. Brady Quinn will be starter by week 8.

If you have an extra spot on your roster, it might not be a bad idea to pick up Quinn and wait for him to be the starter and do well.

If you have any fantasy football questions or comments, feel free to email me at Jonathan.Alpert@fiusm.com and listen to Panther Sports Talk Live, Tuesdays an Thursdays noon-1 on radiate fm and streaming online at www.FIUSM.com



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

STARTLING SCENE: USF linebacker Brouce Mompremier is attended to in the second half of the game vs. FIU Sept. 20th. Both teams met at midfield for a silent moment.

FIU fans still a long way from being respectable

Sometimes someone or a group of people just don't fit in.

Whether it's a short person in a tall crowd or someone who looks and talks the part but cannot perform the same way, there is always that awkward hole in society.

In this society, leave it to FIU football fans to volunteer for the part of scum of the football sub-division fan base.

There are 119 teams in the sub-division, and though the FIU football team came into the season ranked last, they might be last in quality of fans as well.

If the brawl on the field with the University of Miami in 2006 is still fresh in people's minds, then the Golden Panther beloved did not fail to disappoint critics and further damage the already fragile reputation the team had.

Though the infamous brawl and the loss of scholarships due to failed requirements in the summer was between players, fans now had their time on television to disgust their audience during the Sept. 20th meeting at home against South Florida.

NO CLASS

For those fans in the stands who did not notice the classless act of a few hundred people in the student section, here it is.

During the third quarter of the of the home opener, Bulls linebacker Brouce Mompremier collided with a teammate in a hit in which the player endured an awkward fall and did not react afterward. In what seemed like

a neck injury, a very serious affair that can affect the spine, paramedics were rushed to the field as Mompremier could not get up.

This is where FIU fans come in.

During the national television broadcast, fans were heard yelling chants of obscenity mocking the fallen Mompremier.

Rivals.com reported that ESPNU analyst Charles Arbuckle, who covered the game, proceeded to blast fans

on the air for being classless.

Luckily, the incident was not blown up in the national media the next day due to FIU's lack of relevance in the NCAA scene, but it did leave a stain on a very well played game by FIU's up and coming team.

The overall group of people associated with FIU failed to support the Golden Panthers as much as they could as well.

With an attendance figure reported at 16,717, the fans failed to fill up the building, which holds 18,000.

Once again leave it to FIU fans to leave seats empty on a perfect Saturday afternoon in a brand new stadium that has been advertised since the summer.

With over 30,000 FIU fans overall in the schools database, over 100,000 alumni, and help from a couple of thousand USF fans, FIU stadium could not be packed.

On top of that, people could not even stay the whole game, which had an exiting

finish. The Golden Panthers scored nine points in the 4th quarter to close the gap and get themselves in the game, but some fans felt the need to exit the stadium minutes before the game was over.

BUILDING

With all of the embarrassment I mentioned, students should remember this and learn what being a fan is.

I don't mean to bring down every FIU fan in the building, because I did see encourage-

ing things at the game. There were people who stayed civilized, cheered the team throughout, and remained silent during Mompremier's scary moment.

Those people do not deserve the reputation, but a fan-base as a whole takes on the identity of the indiscretions of the few.

With the stadium only in Phase I of its building process, and the team just scratching the surface of college football, there can only be improvement from the team, which is clearly headed in the right direction.

But the Community surrounding the team is the big concern to me.

Coach Mario Cristobal seems to be building his slogan, a strong foundation, but if the fans don't learn to be a part of it, it is hard to see the motto taking shape.

If things do not change -- well, FIU fans will just continue to be viewed as that group that just can't fit in.



COMMENTARY

JONATHAN RAMOS

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

Your Room Is Ready! Furnished room, bath. Short drive from campus, \$450 month. Includes utilities and club. INTERNET. Smoke-free. Drug-free. 305-905-5055. abbasone@earthlink.net

Apartment 4 Rent 1 & 2 Bdr. Completely Remodeled, pool, gym, Sauna, Laundry on site. Frank 786-262-5520

Do you like sports?

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to cover a sporting event?

If you answered "yes" to both these questions, join our staff!

Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124

Bird Tire Auto Center

10875 SW 40th Street
Miami, FL 33165
305-221-0474



Bird Tire & Custom Muffler Center Have Joined Forces to Bring You the Best In Custom Designed Aluminized or Stainless Steel Exhaust Systems & Complete Original Replacement Systems, "Lifetime" Limited or Entire System Warranties Available.

• VORTEX • FLOWMASTER • SUPREME DIESEL • VOLT • MUSTANG PERFORMANCE •
• ELIMINATOR TURBO • METAL CAT • CMX CONVERTER •

Grand Opening Specials
(Good only for a limited time)

Take \$20.00 Off
Any Stainless Muffler for
Import Cars

Vortex Muffler, Aluminized
Pipe, & Chrome Tips
Starting @ \$195.95

ROCKET TRIP

FIU offense tries to get going versus Toledo defense

LUCA MESSINA
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers are through with both the hoopla surrounding the debut of their brand new on-campus stadium and the 17-9 loss against No. 13 ranked South Florida.

With an 0-3 record, FIU's attention now shifts to the Toledo Rockets (1-2) who are thirsty for a victory after also falling just short of upset of their own against No. 25 ranked Fresno State.

The Rockets will look to record their first home victory against the Golden Panthers in the first meeting between the two schools.

After sophomore quarterback Wayne Younger replaced junior Paul McCall in the fourth quarter against South Florida and was responsible for setting up the Golden Panthers first offensive touchdown, it was once again the topic of conversation as to whether or not head coach Mario Cristobal would finally name Younger the starter after three games.

As of Sept. 23, there was no word as to whether or not Cristobal had made the decision.

Younger finished just 3-of-7 but showed both his speed and his arm strength on a key 61-yard pass to freshman T.Y. Hilton that left FIU's offense at USF's own 1-yard line.

Several plays later, the Golden Panthers recorded their first offensive score on a 1-yard run by senior running back Julian Reams.

McCall was 8-of-13 for 46 yards and had a costly interception in the third quarter that prompted the switch.

The Rockets present a far less intimidating challenge than the Golden Panthers' three previous opponents but are certainly capable of blowing this game out of proportion if it is one of those typical games for FIU in which the offense is consistently thwarted and the defense is overworked.

Junior quarterback Aaron Opelt had a fine performance in the 55-54 overtime loss to Fresno State as he finished 22-of-41 for 265 yards with three touchdowns thrown while rushing for one to account for the Rockets first overtime score.

On the season, he has thrown 7 touchdown passes and just one interception.

Opelt is the center piece of an offense that is currently ranked 50th in the Football Bowl Subdivision and has averaged 37 points and 396 yards per game.

Their rushing offense is ranked 25th while their passing offense is ranked 79th.

Complementing Opelt is junior running back DaJuane Collins who has 360 yards on 44 carries with 4 touchdowns on the ground.

The Golden Panthers should also be wary of both senior tight end John Allen and junior wide receiver Stephen Williams.

Allen was particularly reliable last week for the Rockets as he had 8 receptions for 93 yards and



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STILL SEARCHING: Wide Receiver T.Y. Hilton, left, and linebacker Armond Willis, right, will look to get a first win for FIU.

2 touchdowns, one of which occurred in overtime.

The FIU offense this week will be dealing with a defense that is certainly less overpowering than the likes of both the Kansas Jayhawks and Iowa Hawkeyes.

The Rockets' defense is ranked 78th and has allowed opposing offenses to average 379 yards and 14 touchdowns but this will become a moot point if the FIU offense is nonexistent.

Regardless of who is behind the center on Sept. 27, the Golden Panthers will need to put the ball in the hands of those who have proven themselves thus far this season.

T.Y. Hilton, sophomore Marquis Rolle, and senior tight end Eric Kirchenberg have all been contributors for this offense and it will be essential to get them

involved if either quarterback can get into a passing rhythm.

For the second time this season, Golden Panther offensive coordinator Bill Legg will have experience against FIU's opponent as his former employer, the Purdue Boilermakers, faced the Rockets last season in a game in which Purdue dominated Toledo 52-24.

Legg's 2007 Purdue team defeated the Iowa Hawkeyes but that success was a non-issue when the Golden Panthers faced the Hawkeyes on Sept. 7th in a 42-0 loss.

In any event, Legg's experience against this week's opponent can be viewed as somewhat of an advantage.

The Golden Panthers match up better with the Rockets because the discrepancy in talent is

far less than their previous three opponents.

While the Toledo's offense is without question better, defensively, the Rockets are only ranked 13 spots ahead of the Golden

If the FIU offense puts up a tolerable performance and the defense plays the way they did against a very sound USF offense, FIU pullout a win.

Playing on the road has always been a challenge for FIU; they have yet to win on the road in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

The Glass Bowl, however, has not historically been one of the more challenging venues to play in.

The determining factor will be the Golden Panther offense and the outcome of the game will depend heavily on it.

Golden Panthers look to rebound when conference play begins

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU Women's volleyball team begins conference play at home this weekend hosting South Alabama (6-2) on Friday at 7 p.m. and Troy (9-6) on Saturday at 7 p.m. at FIU arena.

They return home after suffering back-to-back losses for the first time this season at the UAB/Samford Invitational.

The Golden Panthers have gotten off to great start with an impressive record of 10 wins and 3 losses.

FIU will look to rebound from back-to-back losses for the first time this season.

Both losses come after the Golden Panthers won 10 or their first 11 contests and were on the verge of a possible national ranking. The Golden Panthers were set back at the invitational.

FIU's aspiration of winning the Sun Belt tournament and getting into the NCAA tourney relies heavily on starting their conference schedule on a positive note.

With winning records, both Troy and South Alabama pose a formidable challenge for the Golden Panthers, who currently lead the Sun-Belt.

Even though FIU is coming off of the consecutive losses, they have the make-up and potential to be a danger-

ous team in Sunbelt play.

Junior outside hitter Yarimar Rosa is coming off back-to-back Sun Belt Conference player of the week awards and is leading the nation in kills per set.

The last player to earn back-to-back honors is Megan Argabright of Western Kentucky during October of the 2006 season.

Rosa had at least 20 kills in all three matches this weekend.

Junior Isador Rangel set a career high in kills with 15 and freshman Natalie Valentin led all players with a career high 55 assists in the loss to Memphis.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

GO HARD: Libero Mariana Drumeva makes a play during a home game this season. FIU has a 10-3 record thus far.