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RIDIN' DIRTY



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

SPC GIVES YOU WINGS: Jose Barrios, a business major, rode the bull for 37 seconds before losing his wings during SPC's States of Fun Fall Fest 2008.

Classroom makeover: 28 classes renovated, upgraded

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. News Director

This past summer, the Facilities & Management department renovated a total of 28 classrooms from FIU's three campuses to make the rooms more presentable and conducive to learning.

"We identified renovations of the classrooms as a top priority due to the dilapidated conditions of many of our classrooms and the University's commitment to undergraduate education, even during a time of severe budget cuts," said Provost Ronald Berkman in an e-mail to *The Beacon*.

Whereas several classes used to feature cracked chairs, stained carpets and discolored walls from years of students' heads resting on them, these classrooms now have new carpet, marker boards, furniture, lighting, technology and colored walls.

Academic Space Management and Facilities & Management evaluated which classrooms on the FIU campuses required renovating. Both departments based their decisions on classrooms' age, condition and frequency of use.

At University Park, 19 classes located in Deuxieme Maison, Chemistry & Physics and Owa Ehan received numerous upgrades.

Six Academic One classrooms at Biscayne Bay Campus and three Engineering Center classes were remodeled as well.

According to Academic Space Management Director Gloria Jacomino, DM and OE classes were restored because of old age while CP classes needed to be remodeled due to size and frequent use.

One of the larger classrooms involved in the project, CP 145, holds over 200 students. Student Betty Nguyen has taken classes in CP 145 before and will be taking General Chemistry 2 in the same classroom this fall.

She didn't notice the new acoustic panels installed, but said they can now hear their professor more clearly than ever.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Jeffrey Joens noticed the new painting and seats, but said that teaching in CP 145 has not become easier because new technology has not been added to the classroom.

However, some classes, like DM 190, have received updated technology and equipment. University Technology Services installed a new multimedia podium in Associate Professor of English Maneck Daruwala's class, and she mentioned teaching in the

Students sipped joe with Joe Garcia

ELSIE PUIG
Contributing Writer

On the morning of Sept. 4, FIU students at the University Bookstore's Starbucks enjoyed a different cup of joe.

Democratic Congressional hopeful Joe Garcia made an appearance to mingle with students and exchange ideas, while enjoying some coffee.

Garcia came in, shook hands with students and proposed some of his ideas for change if elected to Congress. He is currently running against Republican Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, who has held the congressional seat for the 25th District of Florida since 2003.



GARCIA

Garcia's visit to FIU was a chance to connect with the younger people of his district and offer some alternatives to issues that are important to them, such as budget cuts affecting academic programs and the soaring tuition costs. Garcia proposed that the government should invest particular attention and resources in funding education.

"Our country's wealth does not lie in the economic resources we have, rather in our intellect, our patents and our ability to produce innovative thought," said Garcia, who used Google as an example of an innovative thought that gives the country its

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JOE GARCIA STATS

Nominee: U.S. Representative for 25th district (Miami-Dade, Collier and Monroe counties)

Political Party: Democratic

Job: Spanish American League Against Discrimination board; Chairman of Regis House, a Miami addiction treatment and prevention center

Meet him: Event with former Sen. Bob Graham at Miami-Dade College on Sept. 12 at 11:30 am.

For more visit: www.joegarcia08.com

Campaign intends to save Cuban rebel

ANDREW CALIENES
Staff Writer

Students are mobilizing a campaign to save Iris Tamara Pérez Aguilera, a Cuban dissident, who is being held in Cuba under charges of resistance toward officers of the National Revolutionary Police.

The FIU chapter of the Free Cuba Foundation is working together with the Cuban Democratic Directorate, a Miami-based organization for the advancement of democracy in Cuba, to put media pressure on the Cuban government to drop Pérez Aguilera's charges.

"[We are] writing letters, e-mails and spreading the word as to what her plight is," said John Suarez, an FIU alumnus and

long time member of Free Cuba Foundation. "Human rights defenders like Iris in a country like Cuba need to be defended by people of goodwill around the world."

Pérez Aguilera has been sentenced by a Cuban judge to either pay a hefty fine or face up to 250 days in jail for having interceded on the National Revolutionary Police, who was beating a young Cuban man by the name of Melquíades Hernández on the streets of Placetras, Cuba.

Upon intervening, officers slammed Pérez Aguilera against the nearby police vehicle, yelling racist profanities at her such as "f*****g black" and "black monkey."

A short while after that exchange, they told her that all they needed was "an order

to kill all these f*****g blacks who stick their noses into everything," according to Pérez Aguilera's husband, former political prisoner Jorge Luis García Pérez "Antúnez" in an interview with the Cuban Democratic Directorate.

"I have no reason to pay a fine if I have committed no crime. My only crime, according to them, was to have defended Melquíades Hernández, a young man who was bleeding profusely, and on top of that, [the Cuban police] was beating him," stated Pérez Aguilera by telephone to the Cuban Democratic Directorate.

On Aug. 20, Cuban democracy activists all over Cuba and Miami petitioned

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THE BEACON

Due to technical difficulties, page 2 was cut off. The Beacon apologizes to its readers for this inconvenience. To read the full version of stories that were cut off, please go to fiusm.com

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Entrepreneurship institute to hold special seminar

FIU's Global Entrepreneur Center will host a lecture by the U.S.'s largest financial and technology services firm on Monday Sept. 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Doug Tatum, a founding partner of Tatum LLC, will speak to students and offer insight during a two hour lecture held at the University Park MARC Invitational Pavillion.

FIU proves it's all business

FIU's College of Business was ranked as one of the top business schools in the country by U.S. *News and World Report*. The magazine ranked different colleges and universities in their annual report titled "America's Best Colleges 2009." FIU's College of Business was the only business program in Florida to received a top-15 ranking.

HIV researcher allotted more funds

FIU professor and HIV researcher Madhavan Nair has received a generous grant from the National Institute of Health. The MERIT (Method to Extend Research in Time) will double the amount and duration of Professor Nair's current grant, giving the professor an additional five years and a total of \$3 million. Professor Nair has focused his research on issues dealing with cocaine use and HIV.

– Compiled by Julio Menache

POLICE NOTES

Aug. 14 – Aug. 27

Aug. 14: Public Safety was called by a University faculty member in reference to a 21-year-old male who was sleeping at the University Park Towers TV Lounge.

The subject had been warned verbally in the past for similar actions by police officers, some two to three weeks before.

The subject was given a written violation for trespassing and was subsequently arrested.

Aug. 20: Public Safety was contacted by a student who stated that he left his laptop notebook unattended on top of his desk inside 345B of the Biscayne Bay Campus Library.

When the victim returned to the room, unknown person(s) had entered the unsecured room and removed his black, Toshiba laptop computer. A canvas of the area yielded negative results.

The only functional camera in the area of the incident was unable to capture the culprit.

Aug. 27: Two male students got into a physical altercation late in the evening.

One of the students, on his way to the FIU Recreation Center, parked in parking lot 8 and was met by the other male.

The first student walked away, not wanting to talk. The first student was followed into the gym by the other male, when both began arguing.

Then, the first student left the gym and proceeded to get into his vehicle.

At that time, the other male began pulling the car door so that it would not close.

A minor physical altercation ensued and then the first student was able to close his door and call FIU Public Safety.

Units responded to the scene. Afterward, both parties left the scene without incident.

– Compiled by David A. Barrios

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Sept. 3, 2008, the news section photograph titled Hey Mr. DJ misspelled the event's DJ. His name is Anthony Sobers-Assue, not Anthony Sabers.

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



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

CUP OF JOE: Joe Garcia, Democratic Congressional hopeful, drinks a cup of coffee in the FIU Bookstore with Jose Marantes, a sociology graduate student.

Not so average Joe Garcia addressed student concerns

GARCIA, page 1

technological edge.

Garcia also said he believes the government should have special interest in funding education as the breeding ground for innovation that steers our economy forward.

"For every one dollar that goes into education, you get six dollars back," he said. "Therefore, there is an incentive for government to channel funds toward education."

If elected, he hopes to expand college loans and reduce interest.

He also addressed another common complaint among college students: the lack of career opportunities and debt after graduation. He offered a solution he claims will directly steer money toward the local economy.

According to Garcia, education and economy are two factors that are inextricably linked, and small businesses can act as an effective liaison for both. He proposed there should be more of an incentive to prepare a future task force of new hires in small

businesses.

"Some small businesses offer tuition reimbursement for newly graduated employees," said Garcia. "And consequently, it will boost the local economy and help students pay off debt."

Garcia vowed that students would be informed of these career opportunities.

For his constituency, Garcia hopes to invest in the individual and the community as the root of change, much like education is the foundation for fueling the economy.

"Homestead is one of the most productive agricultural lands in this side of Florida, but it's the people that make it productive," he said.

Therefore, Garcia puts particular emphasis on giving people incentive for public service, especially teachers, who have long been underpaid.

The problem, he says, is that the government is spending more than it has to on two main areas: the energy sector and health care. However, restructuring these two will guarantee more money used for education.

"If a child gets a cavity, health care does not cover that; if the child develops an abscess, it does not cover that either. Once that abscess turns into a tumor, then [health care providers] are willing to pay the \$40,000 for treatment," Garcia said. "It is unnecessary to pay that amount, when the problem can be tackled from the beginning."

Garcia concluded that this leads to funds used improperly, as in the case of education.

Overall, Garcia attempted to touch base with young voters, who may be the deciding factor in his run for a congressional seat.

"I was very impressed with the ideas he offered, especially those for education. I was actually even considering being involved with campaigning," said senior Onex Salva, a liberal arts and science major.

After Garcia spoke with students and drank some coffee, he headed over to FIU's radio station Radiate FM, where he was interviewed. The interview can be heard at FIUSM.com.

Notice of Public Meeting

The Speech-Language Pathology Program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is having a reaccreditation site visit on September 22 and 23, 2008.

A meeting is scheduled on September 23rd at 8:15 am in room CBC 232 for public input on the program's compliance with the Standards for Accreditation of Graduate Education Programs in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology published by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA). A copy of the Standards for Accreditation and/or the CAA's Policy on Public Comment may be obtained by contacting the Accreditation Office at:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
2200 Research Boulevard #310, Rockville, MD 20850

or by calling:

ASHA's Action Center at 800-498-2071,

or by accessing the documents on ASHA's Web site at:
<http://asha.org/about/credentialing/accreditation/>

The meeting is open to all interested parties from the university and the community

Main goal of free lecture series on ecology is preservation

JULIA CARDENUTO
ANA PEREZ
Beacon Staff

As part of FIU's green initiative, the Biscayne Bay Campus will soon commence "The South Florida Coast: New Horizons in Science and the Humanities," a lecture series designed to raise awareness and motivation to preserve the environment.

Starting on Sept. 18, the four lectures will be free and open to students and the public. They will be held on different days, all at 7 p.m., on the terrace of the Kovens Conference Center.

Rebecca Dinar, outreach coordinator for the vice provost, hopes these lectures will be a productive beginning to an evermore educated South Florida.

"The goal is that each lecture ignites curiosity, provokes a discussion and engages an action. Each person walks away with a greater understanding of the value of preserving our environment," Dinar said. "Even the titles force you to contemplate the parts of global warming that you may not have considered."

The series will open with "Losing It All to Sprawl," a lecture focused on highlighting the effects of development on community, neighborliness and Florida's unique environment. Bill Belleville, an Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker and nature writer, will be leading the lecture that will present a time "when it took resourcefulness and common sense

to live in Florida and not air-conditioning and bug spray."

On Oct. 16, Alan Farago will present "An Alligator Eating its Own Tail: Florida in the 21st Century." The third lecture, "Spirituality Goes Green: Scientific and Spiritual Approaches to Global Warming," will take place on Nov. 13 and consists of a multidisciplinary panel of experts that will explore the connection between spirituality and the environment.

On Dec. 4, the lecture series will conclude with "Earthy Meditations," a reading and discussion conducted by poets Robert Wrigley and Campbell McGrath.

This past March, Damian Fernandez, former interim vice provost, gave a speech introducing this interdisciplinary coastal environmental initiative.

He described a vision that today is blossoming in action.

"To capture the spirit of our founders and enhance and preserve one of our most precious resources, I would like to see BBC become a place where our unique location on the bay is celebrated and protected in perpetuity. In short, the plan is to weave coastal issues into the life and curriculum of the campus," Fernandez said.

Fernandez succeeded in securing two grants for the program: a \$140,000 grant given by Jane's Trust, and a smaller grant given by the Florida Humanities Council, which is being used to fund the lectures and to run ads in local papers informing people about the events.

"In light of the fact that the envi-

ronmental education of South Florida residents will play a crucial role in the future health of the region's ecosystems, the success of the program is critical," Fernandez said.

Dinar explained that to make this possible, several segments of the community came together.

"It's not just me. The momentum for the initiative came from at least three parts of the FIU community," Dinar said.

She attributes it first to the geography of the campus, located in "one of the most beautiful spots in South Florida." She also credits the students, who, according to Dinar, believe that this environment and community are worth preserving.

Finally, Dinar acknowledges University President Modesto Maidique's participation in the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, a commitment signed by more than 300 colleges and universities in an effort to create a more sustainable environment, and his pledge to "try and build green and do what he can to help."

BBC's Student Government Council main environmental initiative, according to SGC-BBC President Ana Maria Silva, is the "Day On The Bay," which will take place in November and will aim to "reach the community, students and professors to help clean the bay."

The lecture series will be presented under a tent by the bay and is being co-sponsored by the City of North Miami. Dinar stressed the

MEMORIAL MONOLITH



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

PEACE POLE: The Campus Ministry Council will lead a dedication ceremony for the Peace Pole during its annual Multifaceted Peace Fair on Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Peace Pole will represent a remembrance for Sept. 11 victims and Virginia Tech. It will take place behind the WUC and the Marine Biology Building.

fact that the event came together with help from various parties.

"It's not any one person, but a team of people, and the students are a main part of this team," Dinar said.

For more information visit www.fiu.edu and RSVP or call (305) 919-5700.

Volunteers welcomed at Arsht Center

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Life Editor

Students looking to acquire experience in fields like theater, education or art have an opportunity to do so while having fun, meeting new people and learning about the performing arts.

The Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, formerly known as the Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, is looking at FIU students for volunteers to help in performances, tours and offices.

"We are really excited about getting more students involved in the Arsht Center," said Evelyn Gigiras, volunteer services manager at the Arsht Center.

A Volunteer Fair will be taking place Sept. 9 from 10.30 a.m to 2 p.m. in Panther Square at the Biscayne Bay Campus. Students will have the opportunity to meet the volunteer services manager and apply.

Volunteers will have the ability to choose the area in which they want to help, depending on their field of interest.

According to Gigiras, students have the option to help as ushers, ticket-takers, in-guest services, tour guides, in the office, and even during special events such as the Calle Ocho Festival. Bilingual students and sign language speakers are a plus, according to Zachary Trautenberg, mar-

Getting students involved is important because they are our future patrons, and volunteering is a wonderful way to enhance their experience.

Evelyn Gigiras, Volunteer Services Manager
Arsht Center for the Performing Arts

keting specialist at the Wolfe University Center.

"Any major is welcome. There are many positions available, and students can find one that fits them," Trautenberg said.

The program consists of a 72-hour volunteer commitment that can be arranged according to the student's availability.

"The schedules are flexible. We have matinee and evening performances," Gigiras said.

For each performance, the volunteer should be able to work at least four hours. A commitment to at least two times a month is also requested. For those students volunteering an entire day, lunch and free parking will be provided.

After completing 72 hours of service, volunteers also receive a series of benefits, ranging from an annual volunteer awards banquet, four tickets to any performance and a basic Arsht Center Membership valued at \$50, to T-shirts and other discounts.

During daytime events such as Snow

Day, where real snow is brought for children to play with. Volunteers are also welcome to bring family and friends, according to Trautenberg.

Students seeking an internship also have an incentive. According to Gigiras, volunteers have a high chance of earning an internship that could eventually become a job at the Arsht Center.

"We had a volunteer that eventually became a tier leader, which is a paid position. He then became an assistant house manager and is now a house manager," Gigiras said.

There are no specific majors needed; all students need to do in order to volunteer is fill out an application and attend a one-hour training orientation.

"Getting students involved is important because they are our future patrons, and [volunteering] is a wonderful way to enhance their experience," Gigiras said.

For more information contact Evelyn Gigiras at (786) 468 2285 or volunteers@arshtcenter.org.

CAMPUS TALK

Why do you come to Biscayne Bay Campus?



Lorraine Henderson
Freshman

"The best thing about BBC is that it's quiet and homely. I'm new here, but everyone is very welcoming, and there are lots of Caribbean people."



Ryan Jagessar
Senior

"You build real friendships with people. You actually feel like you are part of a community instead of feeling lost in this humongous world. The area surrounding the campus is way nicer than down by UP."



Marcello Paciotti
Senior

"BBC is great because it is convenient. You can park closer to class than at UP and can meet up with people better. And there's a family environment too."

- Compiled by Kishore Sawh

THE BEACON | Editorial

Legal hurdles shouldn't hinder academia

America is one country that values academic freedom more than most. Imagine a world where scholars are prohibited from doing research because of government restrictions that prevent travel to certain countries.

We seem to take for granted that students here and across the country can walk into a classroom and hear a professor lecture about how the current government is corrupt and wrong. It is certainly a step up from the era of McCarthyism in the 1950s as well as in other countries today where forced patriotism is the norm.

It may surprise some that since 2006, research by public colleges and universities, even if funded fully by private money, has been prohibited in countries listed as terrorism sponsors by Florida statutes, specifically the Travel to Terrorist States Act.

This law aimed to protect our nation by ensuring that public money would not end up in the hands of terrorist states. It also protected national secrets from being exchanged by unauthorized agents traveling solely under the guise of academic purposes.

The law's prohibitions were misguided, however. They were recently ruled at least partly unconstitutional by a federal judge who ruled that researchers should be able to use private

funds for traveling to black-listed countries such as Cuba, North Korea, Sudan and Syria.

The state never had any business prohibiting private funds from financing any sort of research.

Moreover, though the possibility misusing these funds exists, much legitimate and important research does go on in these nations, most notably in Cuba.

FIU's Cuban Research Institute has sent faculty and students to the country for a class on humanities, and the University of South Florida's Institute for Research in Art has had long-standing academic relations with the island nation that was hindered by the signing of the law.

These projects and others should not be banned over well-intentioned but impractical fears of terrorism. Striking down the portion of the law that prohibited private dollars from conducting research is a step – albeit a small one – in the right direction.

This law should be expanded to re-allow public monies to be used for research in any area academia deems necessary. State universities would not be obligated to spend public dollars on such projects if they were found not relevant enough or legitimate evidence was found that the research could endorse terror. They should not be explicitly prohibited from doing so, either.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Novel Nixed' article presents faulty view of decency standards in relation to free speech

Matthew Ruckman's article, "Novel Nixed: Fears of Violence Hinder Manuscript," shows the lack of knowledge that typifies his position. Ruckman argues that Random House's decision not to publish "The Jewel of Medina" was a small act of censorship.

Random House is perfectly justified in not publishing this novel, and in no way does their action merit the term "censorship."

A publishing house is not a branch of the government, and is acting rationally by looking out for its interests: profit and reputation.

We live in a global market, and due to the global spread of information, what is published in the United States is quickly read in the Middle East.

We cannot simply state that deciding not to publish this novel was for fear of repercussion from the radical sects of the Islamic community.

Ruckman's generalizations about the Islamic community also illuminate his lack of knowl-

edge of Middle Eastern culture and Islam. The excerpts provided in his opinion piece are offensive to anyone, regardless of religious affiliation.

The idea that "one person's inviolable theological line can be another's hopscotch court" only goes so far.

Maybe Ruckman should take an Islam course at this University before commenting on this situation.

Freedom of speech is a guaranteed right in the United States, but decency is a custom that pervades most societies in the world, including ours.

Maybe Ruckman is a blaring atheist, and even though I'm not a religious fanatic, I wouldn't print something that includes the head of a world religion in a soft porn dialogue.

Rodrigo Prichard
Senior
International Relations



WEB RESTRICTION

Comcast limits bandwidth

KATY HUDDLESTUN
Contributing Writer

We're all familiar with cell phone payment plans, where you get a certain amount of minutes, and additional usage incurs extra charges.

It seemed as if it was just a matter of time before Internet service providers wised up to this ever profitable system – and one finally has, recently announcing its plan to cap users' bandwidth at 250 gigabytes per month.

Though Comcast claims this system has always been their policy, ISPs typically do not enforce bandwidth usage among their users.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2008, users who exceed this limit will be "contacted by the company and asked to curb their usage" and those who refuse to comply may find themselves disconnected, according to the Associated Press (and also stated on the Comcast Terms of Service Web site).

Many questions arise when a system we are so used to is altered, for one: why? Major ISPs are working with systems nearly a decade old that are having trouble dealing with the ever-expanding amount of Internet users.

When the system gets clogged up, customers find their Internet connections moving slower and that forces ISPs to either invest in extremely expensive hardware upgrades, or limit those who are using the highest percentages of the bandwidth.

This cap is said to affect only 0.1 percent of Comcast's estimated 14 million subscribers, but how is one to know where they stand?

Comcast's Director of Corporate Communications Charlie Douglas was interviewed by CNET News and was asked whether there will be a usage meter provided by Comcast.

"There are numerous free or fee-based meters that are widely available on the Internet to anyone who wants one," Douglas said.

This could mean various things for the Internet as we currently know it. Comcast stressed that the bandwidth cap, two to three gigabytes, is far above the median monthly usage for its customers.

For these types of users,

the limit may provide speedier Internet service.

On the other hand, fears have arisen that if such a system succeeds for this one company, the others will quickly follow suit, which may lead to a quick race to the bottom; the cap may be increasingly lowered alongside soaring prices. Other companies have already been testing this type of system such as Time Warner and Cox Communications; both have experimented with caps ranging from 5 to 75 GB per month.

Another set of problems with this type of limited access system stems from the increasingly high bandwidth content

have had this type of system for years.

Some areas, in the U.S. and abroad, have a limited number of choices regarding who to purchase Internet service from, which brings up the topic of healthy market competition.

Many are pushing for legislation that prohibits states from issuing exclusive contracts to certain companies, which would allow them to charge excessive prices since they would be the only choice. People are also talking of Comcast boycotts to discourage the enforcement of the cap.

It has also been mentioned that this is being done by the

"We must ensure our right to quality Internet and not allow ISPs to slowly chip away at it with lowered standards and higher costs."

on the Internet and other home entertainment systems.

With the introduction of various file sharing applications, broadband telephone service, online gaming and video/audio streaming sites such as our cherished YouTube, these types of programs use large amounts of bandwidth that ISPs have not had to deal with in previous years.

Bandwidth limits are also posing a problem to Internet content producers who upload large amounts of bandwidth-consuming audio and video, from which many of us get highly valued entertainment and information – at least those of us seeking refuge from the predominant reality TV and FOX's "Breaking News" stories.

With the increase in wireless Internet access, users will have more pressure securing their connection from mooching neighbors who could easily run you over your monthly allowance of gigabytes, not to mention keeping closer watch

on your own household's usage. Although shocking to some of us, bandwidth caps are not new, as many other nations

ISPs to combat the popular switch over from traditional TV and phone systems to the Internet, which can perform both of those functions and at typically lower costs.

Whatever the reasoning may be, it is clear that we must keep a close watch as this story progresses. As students and intellectuals of the 21st century, the Internet has become our source of knowledge, communication and entertainment.

We must ensure our right to quality Internet and not allow ISPs to slowly chip away at it with lowered standards and higher costs, when it is currently something we enjoy limitlessly. I encourage you to inform yourselves on this subject, as it could be one that affects your Internet use significantly.

If these large ISP's become aware of the wide range of people who are concerned with this new policy enforcement, they will be much less likely to try to do anything that will cause large stir of discontent.

So be aware and be proac-



PICASSO'S ART

FIU alumnus writes autobiography with spray paint

SHANNON FALLON
Staff Writer

Claudio Picasso – yes, that is his rightful birth name – is making his mark on the streets of Miami with his larger than life graffiti artwork. With his modest manner and wondering mind, this native Chilean artist may be more than meets the eye.

Dressed in everyday cargo shorts, a striped blue polo and flip-flops, Picasso looks like anything but an artist besides his blue paint-stained hands. Graffiti art had been introduced to Picasso in the nineties as the hip-hop scene emerged and he took to the streets to express his art. As a former FIU student, Picasso studied art history but dabbled in the different creative arts such as photography and drawing.

"I didn't know what I [wanted] to do in college. I just knew that I liked art and that I was going to do something with it," said Picasso. "[A professor] once told me that I had an off way of looking at things. I didn't know it at the time but I guess it was a compliment. That comment has stayed with me till now."

After college, Picasso took a break from graffiti to pursue other career options. Currently, he teaches graphic art to students at Corporate Academy North in Brownsville. It wasn't until Lauren Reskin, a former co-worker and friend, asked Picasso to paint a mural outside of her independent record store "Sweat Records," that Picasso picked up the spray can.

Picasso's first mural, one of his favorites, is a painted red and white

scene from the Akira Kurosawa film *Yojimbo*. The ideas can be accredited to Picasso's childhood memories in which he rented videos from a Chinese movie store and had been introduced to Asian samurai films.

"I asked the owner one day to recommend some movies so he gave me a couple of foreign ones. After watching them, I went back and told him I needed more. These movies changed my life and introduced me to foreign films."

Picasso has now returned to do a second mural for Reskin at her new "Sweat" location.

This time, Picasso's mural, also known as the Wall of Idolatry, depicts various influential artists such as David Bowie, Billie Holiday and members of Daft Punk in vibrant green, blue and white.

The unveiling of the mural this past Saturday kicked off with kegs and cupcakes, as guests bumped to the beats of local DJ's.

The success Picasso has had with his murals has branded him an artist, even though he may beg to differ.

"I don't like when people call me an artist. I just don't consider myself an artist. I hate nine tenths of my work. I even hate the process of painting."

What does Picasso like?

"When you do that one piece and it comes out just right, it makes up for all the rest," he said.

He calls his work autobiographical, something that he has just recently realized. His paintings depict different people influencing his life in one way or another at some point in his life.



Art by: Claudio Picasso
www.cp1art.com

Health Services eases transition into "The Real World"

MONICA PUERTO
Contributing Writer

University Health Services and Student Health Advocates for Peer Education are concerned about students' transitions into college. This transition impacts everyone differently at an academic, personal, social and intellectual level.

UHS and SHAPE collaborated with other departments including the Victim Advocacy Center, the Student Programming Council, the Counseling & Psychological Services Center and Career Services, to create The Real World: College Style. The pilot project has been planned since last spring with the purpose of answering any questions imagin-

able about college life while making it fun for the audience.

Real World will take place at Lakeview North on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.

Speakers from these departments, as well as FIU students, will be at the event to speak to students about what to expect out of college life. Questions ranging from how to prepare after college, how to practice safe sex, how to deal with peer pressure, how to manage studying time and more will be explored.

"I hope I can learn how to [have] a [fulfilling] college experience without living at the dorms," said freshman Anthony Rodriguez.

Real World will also present attendees with information about internships, clubs

and organizations that help build experiences and skills. Students will also be encouraged to ask questions about any concerns they may have and make new friends who have similar aspirations or questions.

Healthy cash is a new initiative by UHS that rewards students for being healthy. Attending other UHS events and programs, signing up for a free HIV test, acupuncture, or a 30-minute massage, will accumulate healthy cash. The cash can then be exchanged to redeem gifts that are on display at the Wellness Center or at the student health Web site.

Students exchanging healthy cash may choose among "I Heart Boobs" T-shirts, mugs, "I Love FIU" tote bags or even school

supplies as prizes.

A deejay will be present and food, t-shirts, glow in the dark bracelets and healthy cash will be given away.

Cassandra L. Roache, Wellness Center senior health educator, is part of Real World and the Healthy Cash program. She was surprised to see how many people are not aware about the utilities at FIU.

"It is amazing to see even seniors at FIU that don't even realize they can get a free HIV test. That is why programs and events like these are created. So they can be aware of the tools that they can use here to prepare them for the real world," she said.

For more information on student health, visit studenthealth.fiu.edu.

Seth Rogen lands dream role in latest Smith film

DAVID GERMAIN
AP Wire

All Seth Rogen really wanted when he came to Hollywood was to make a movie with Kevin Smith.

His dream came true, and more: Rogen got to make a dirty movie with Smith.

Rogen stars with Elizabeth Banks in Smith's "Zack and Miri Make a Porno," a romantic comedy with a whole lot of skin showing.

The 26-year-old actor recalled a meeting nearly a decade ago with a prospective agent who asked what his career goals were. That's when he confessed his desire to work with Smith, whose profanity-spewing raconteurs were an influence on the sort of films Rogen eventually would make himself.

The agent "said to me that's probably easier than you think. I hadn't realized that Kevin Smith movies didn't make any money," Rogen said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles. "To me, he was like Steven Spielberg. I didn't realize the difference between good movies and movies that make a lot of money."

With the "Clerks" movies and films such as "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma," Smith has built a huge cult fan base but has yet to break widely into the mainstream. Rogen, who has scored hits with the similarly adult-themed comedies "Pineapple Express" and "Knocked Up," thinks "Zack and Miri" could be the one that puts Smith in front of a broader audience.

"Zack and Miri" features Rogen and Banks as lifelong best pals and roommates who discover there may be something more to their relationship when they make a porn flick to pay off their debts.

Smith wrote the script with Rogen in mind, having seen the actor in the acclaimed short-

I started seeing billboards going up with his face on them and I was like, we lost this guy.

Kevin Smith

lived TV series "Freaks and Geeks" and later in "The 40-Year-Old Virgin." By the time Smith finished the script in spring 2007, Rogen was the cusp of leading-man stardom with "Knocked Up."

"I started seeing billboards going up with his face on them and I was like, we lost this guy," Smith said. "This dude was like a supporting actor in '40-Year-Old Virgin' and he's just waiting for somebody to give him his own movie."

But Smith said that when he sent an e-mail to Rogen asking if he would read the screenplay, the actor shot back an answer within 2 minutes.

Rogen read "Zack and Miri" on the beach in Australia while doing press for "Knocked Up" and was eager to sign on from the start.

The comedic sex depicted in "Zack and Miri" is tame by hardcore pornography standards, and the subject matter never gave Rogen a moment's pause.

"I love porn. I watch tons of porn. The Internet speeds have evolved directly with my sexual drive," Rogen said. "I almost did it purely based on the title."

That, and the chance to work with one of his idols.

"Without Kevin Smith movies, I don't think I would be doing exactly what I'm doing now," Rogen said.

GETTING PHYSIC-AL



GIOVANNI GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

MAD SCIENTISTS: Seniors Irene Perez (right), Felipe Garay (middle), and Natan Samuels (left) spend time at the Society of Physics Students' table at the SCO Club Fair.

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Weekly Calendar September 2008

MONDAY

8

WHAT: FIU Go Gree Fall Recruitment "Meet the Fraternities"
WHERE: Graham Center
WHEN: 8:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: Free

WHAT: FIU College Democrats/FIU Students for Obama Meeting
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 8 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Beta Laser Tag
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawn
WHEN: 9:30 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Dinosaurs of china
WHERE: Miami Science Museum
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT:
WHERE: Sweat Records
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: Free

TUESDAY

9

WHAT: New Times Iron Fork
WHERE: Miami Science Museum
WHEN: 6:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$25

WHAT: Wine Tasting
WHERE: Hollywood Vine
WHEN: 6:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Alma De Tango
WHERE: Ritz-Carlton
WHEN: 9:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT: Trivium/All that Remains
WHERE: Revolution Live
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Bretrayer
WHERE: Coral Gables Stage at the Biltmore
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: varies

WEDNESDAY

10

WHAT: Xperimento at Jazzid
WHERE: Jazzid club, South Beach
WHEN: 11 :00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Art Deco Audio Tour
WHERE: Art Deco Welcome center
WHEN: 10:00 a.m
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT: Music Saves Lives General Meeting
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 12:30 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Panther Promotions General Meeting
WHERE: GC 340
WHEN: 5:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Italian Club General Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 4:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

THURSDAY

11

WHAT: Classic Albums Presents: The Beatles Abbey Road
WHERE: Paradise Live
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$35

WHAT: Cafe Iguana Speed pass
WHERE: Cafe Iguana
WHEN: 10:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$20

WHAT: Caribbean Student Association General Meeting
WHERE: GC 150
WHEN: 4:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: French Club General Meeting
WHERE: GC 343
WHEN: 3:30 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Federal Jack Film viewing
WHERE: GC 140
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

FRIDAY

12

WHAT: Mates Of States
WHERE: Culture Room
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: \$15

WHAT: Radiate FM Welcome Back Giveaways
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 12:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Democracy for America Campus Corps.
WHERE: GC 241
WHEN: 6:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

WHAT: Tango Lessons
WHERE: GC Pit
WHEN: 7:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: varies

WHAT: Muslim Students Association general meeting
WHERE: GC 305
WHEN: 1:00 p.m
HOW MUCH: FREE

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All-star cast hosts cross-network telethon

SANDY COHEN
AP Wire

After seeing what "An Inconvenient Truth" did for environmental awareness, Hollywood producer Laura Ziskin wanted to make a documentary about cancer, a disease she has fought since 2004.

Former Paramount Pictures chief Sherry Lansing, who established a namesake foundation dedicated to cancer research and awareness, was working with television networks to put on a cancer awareness TV special. Katie Couric, who has been an advocate for early cancer screenings and even televised her own colonoscopy since losing her husband to colon cancer 10 years ago, was working on a similar project.

So the women got together — along with other entertainment-industry execs and more than 60 of their famous friends — to create Stand Up to Cancer, a fund- and awareness-raising organization set to hold an unprecedented, star-studded live telethon airing simultaneously on ABC, NBC and CBS on Friday night.

"I jokingly say I have to make cancer awareness entertaining," said Ziskin, who is producing the show at Hollywood's Kodak Theater. "The good news is that the entertainment community gets it. We're touched. Look at Patrick Swayze. Look at Christina Applegate. Look at Robin Roberts.

"Cancer is not in the closet anymore, and now that it's out of the closet we have to motivate the public to demand that, as a country we do better," she continued. "And if the country won't do it, we'll do it. We'll raise money ourselves and try to spend that money in a way that will lead to better, less toxic treatments that we can get to patients more quickly."

Applegate, who recently underwent a double mastectomy after being diagnosed with breast cancer, is among those set to help deliver the message Friday. She'll be joined by scores of other stars from TV, music and film, including Halle Berry, Forest Whitaker, America Ferrera,

Cancer is not in the closet anymore, and now that it's out of the closet we have to motivate the public to demand that as a country we do better.

Laura Ziskin
Hollywood producer

Jack Black, Salma Hayek, James Taylor, Carrie Underwood and Rob Lowe.

Celebrities will share their personal experiences with the disease and will help answer phone calls from donors, Ziskin said.

The hourlong show will also include a performance of "Just Stand Up," a charity song featuring Mariah Carey, Mary J. Blige, Beyonce, Rihanna, Fergie, Miley Cyrus, Underwood and others. Couric and her fellow network news anchors, Charles Gibson and Brian Williams, are set to host the show.

The aim of Stand Up to Cancer is to raise funds for "translational research," Ziskin said, which encourages scientists to collaborate rather than compete, translating basic science into applicable therapies for patients. She compared the approach to the Manhattan project.

"We took the best and brightest and locked them up in Los Alamos and said you can't leave until you split the atom and create, unfortunately, a bomb," Ziskin said. "This is no less a problem, with half a million Americans a year dying from this disease. If we take best and brightest, encourage them and reward them for working together, the answers will come much more quickly."

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TIE MATCH



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

TIED UP: Jahbari Willis (7) tries to fight off a Missouri-Kansas City defender in the Golden Panthers 2-2 draw on Sept. 7.

REPLAY

Rouco shores up staff with addition of Evans

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Men's basketball continued to fortify its sideline with the addition of assistant coach Dwight Evans.

The veteran coach has made six NCAA tournament appearances in his career as an assistant and joins FIU after spending his last six seasons on UCF's staff. Evans also brings Sun Belt conference experience to the Golden Panthers, who have hopes of improving on their conference-low nine win season of a year ago.

Evans served on South Alabama's bench from 1999-2002, which includes a conference championship.

The hiring is the second recent change to head coach Sergio Rouco's staff, as Evans' hiring comes a week after the team brought in Heath Glick as an assistant coach to replace the departed Ken Huber.

CROSS COUNTY WIN

FIU men's cross country enjoyed a season opening victory at the Greentree Invitational

on Sept. 5. The women's team came in fourth at the event, which was held at Tropical Park in Miami.

Sebastian Castillo led the way for the men as he finished with a time of 21.24.02 over the four mile course.

The men's team had four top 10 overall finishers, including Castillo. Despite the fourth place finish for the women, Daniela Espino provided an encouraging spark with her second place individual finish in the event. The team will run again on Sept. 20 at the Mountain dew invitational in Gainesville.

FIRST LOSS

After a blazing start to the women's volleyball season, they took their first loss on Sept. 5 to Iowa State, 3-0 (25-18), 25-9, 25-6). All conference pre-season performer Yarimar Rosa had her first game of the season in which she recorded less than 10 kills. The Golden Panthers were swept in a match for the first time since Oct. 13 of last season.

FIU (6-1), plays their first home game of the season on Sept. 12 against UCF.

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SUN BELT FOOTBALL STANDINGS

	CONF	OVERALL	PCT	HOME	AWAY	STREAK
Troy	1-0	1-0	1.000	0-0	1-0	W1
Arkansas St.	0-0	2-0	1.000	1-0	1-0	W2
FAU	0-0	1-1	.500	1-0	0-1	W1
La.-Lafayette	0-0	0-1	.000	0-0	0-1	L1
FIU	0-0	0-2	.000	0-0	0-2	L2
La. Monroe	0-0	0-2	.000	0-1	0-1	L2
North Texas	0-0	0-2	.000	0-1	0-1	L2
Midd Tenn.	0-1	1-1	.500	1-1	0-0	W1

*All records up-to-date as of Sept. 7

FIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

OPPONENT	DATE	TIME
South Florida	Sept. 20	7 p.m.
@ Toledo	Sept. 27	7 p.m.
@ North Texas	Oct. 4	7 p.m.
Middle Tenn.	Oct. 11	7 p.m.
@ Troy	Oct. 18	7 p.m.
@ La.-Lafayette	Nov. 1	5 p.m.
Arkansas St.	Nov. 8	7 p.m.
@ La. Monroe	Nov. 22	7 p.m.
@ FAU*	Nov. 29	4 p.m.
W. Kentucky	Dec. 6	7 p.m.

*Game played at Dolphin Stadium

SPORTS COVERAGE ONLINE AND ON AIR

Get the latest FIU sports news by reading The Beacon every M-W-F, on line at FIUSM.com or by listening to Panther Sports Talk Live every T-R at noon on WRGP Radiate FM (88.1, 95.3 and 96.9).

Iowa overpowers FIU

FOOTBALL, page 12

he did, and coach Cristobal talked about that decision

“We were having a little bit of trouble holding up up-front, and Wayne had success when he was in there, so we let him go the rest of the way. A game like this is good for a guy like Wayne, because he can escape and be creative on the run and he moved the football and did some good things”

The coach also addressed Wayne’s play in the second half, and how it may have an effect on Paul McCall’s starting job.

“We’re still going in with Paul as our starter, and we’ll watch film and make some corrections, but we feel like we said at the beginning of the season, we’ve got two guys that can play football, and



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP PHOTO

WRAPPING UP: Jeremiah Weatherspoon looks to tackle Iowa tight end Allen Reisner. The Golden Panthers allowed 512 yards on defense.

Wayne just looked like he was getting hot, and it was more of a better matchup

some attitude adjustments FIU has made under coach Cristobal.

The Golden Panthers will have a week off before taking on USF on Sept. 20

We got over powered. Let’s call it what it is. That’s a Division-I football team that’s way ahead of us right now.

Mario Cristobal
Head Football Coach

game for him to play in.”

Linebacker Scott Bryant looked to the positives after the game and talked about

“We picked our slack up [in the second half], and we didn’t have our heads down, that the old FIU.

at 7 p.m. for their home opener, and the first game in FIU’s new stadium.

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HAWKED DOWN



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP PHOTO

BIRD PREY: Quarterback Wayne Younger (14) is sacked by Iowa's Chad Geary, in the Golden Panther's 42-0 loss to the Hawkeyes.

Golden Panthers start off season winless after losing 42-0 to Iowa

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

The Golden Panthers were shut out for the first time since last season's opener at Penn State, when they lost 42-0 to the Iowa Hawkeyes on Sept.

The Hawkeyes (2-0) rolled up 512 yard of total offense, with over 200 coming in the first quarter.

The hot start can be credited to Ricky Stanzi, who started his first collegiate game for Iowa at quarterback and Shonn Greene, who rushed for 130 yards on 13 carries, 101 of which came in the first quarter.

Stanzi, who split the snaps with incumbent starter Jake Christensen, finished the day 8-of-10 for 162 yards and three touchdowns.

Christensen was ineffective for Iowa in his two first half drives, turning the ball over on downs, and directing a three-and-out.

Julian Reams got the ball moving early for FIU (0-2), averaging nearly five yards per carry in the first half before being sidelined with a concussion, and not returning for the remainder of the game.

Paul McCall struggled behind a depleted offensive line, which was missing three of its starters,

and allowed the FIU quarterbacks to be sacked six times.

McCall only played in the first half, and finished 8-of-16 with just 55 yards passing, and two interceptions.

The junior starting quarterback looked indecisive at times and was replaced at the start of second quarter with Wayne Younger.

Younger had decidedly better results moving the football than McCall, completing 6-of-7 passes, and finishing 11-of-20 overall. Younger was able to move the Golden Panthers into Iowa territory twice in the third quarter, but penalties stifled both drives and FIU turned the ball over on downs.

The scoring began with an 11-yard touchdown run by Shonn Greene on Iowa's opening drive in the first quarter, which was the first of three Hawkeye scores in the first quarter.

Ricky Stanzi tossed a 59-yard touchdown pass to Derell Johnson-Koulianos and Paki O'Meara had a 17-yard touchdown scamper.

In the second quarter, Stanzi threw two more touchdown passes, the first, a 23-yarder to Brandon Myers and the second, a 8-yarder to Colin Sanderman to take a commanding 35-0 lead into the half.

BOX SCORE

	FIU	Iowa
First Downs	13	25
Rushing-yards	27-56	41-241
Passing	162	271
Comp-Att-Int	19-36-2	17-25-1
Return Yards	7	105
Punts Avg.	8-40.3	2-36.5
Penalties-Yards	4-25	2-15
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Time of Possession	28:44	31:16

RUSHING — FIU: Reams 5-24, Ned 10-21, W.Younger 7-17, Serini 0-3, Hilton 1-3, McCall 4-(minus 12). **Iowa:** Greene 13-130, Hampton 10-54, Stanzi 5-30, O'Meara 3-20, Johnson-Koulianos 1-6, Christensen 1-2, J.Murphy 5-2, McNutt 1-0, Oberland 2-(minus 3).

PASSING — FIU: W.Younger 11-20-0-107, McCall 8-16-2-55. **Iowa:** Christensen 8-12-0-99, Stanzi 8-10-0-162, McNutt 1-3-1-10.

RECEIVING — FIU: Rolle 5-39, Ned 5-34, Mertile 4-(minus 2), Hilton 2-39, Dickens 1-22, Kirchenberg 1-18, Phillips 1-12. **Iowa:** Johnson-Koulianos 3-90, Myers 3-60, Reisner 2-42, Sandeman 2-31, Morse 2-19, Brodell 2-15, Paine 2-4, Nordmann 1-10.

Jake Christensen engineered a touchdown drive early in the fourth quarter capped by a 23-yard touchdown pass to conclude the scoring.

"We got over powered," said coach Mario Cristobal, about his team who got pushed around by the Iowa lines on both sides of the ball. "Let's call it what it is. That's a Division-I football team that's way ahead of us right now"

FIU had trouble on both lines

for the majority of the day, allowing nine tackles for loss to go along with the six sacks, and defensively, not registering a sack or quarterback hurry in the game.

The coaching staff had planned to insert Wayne Younger into the game at some point and the breakdowns on the offensive line proved to be one of the reasons Younger played as much as

Following two upsets East Carolina cracks Top 25

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP Writer

East Carolina can't play the underdog role anymore.

After opening the season by upsetting two ranked teams, the Pirates earned themselves a place in the AP Top 25 for the first time in nine years.

East Carolina was No. 14 in the media poll released Sunday. Southern California remained No. 1 and Georgia was No. 2. Ohio State's sluggish 26-14 victory against Ohio, without star tailback Chris Wells, on Saturday cost the Buckeyes two spots in the rankings. They fell to No. 5 behind No. 3 Oklahoma and No. 4 Florida.

The Buckeyes will have a chance to move back up when they visit USC on Saturday.

USC received 33 of a possible 65 first-place votes and 1,577 points. Georgia got 23 first-place votes and 1,525 points. Oklahoma (two), Florida (four), Ohio State (one), No. 6 Missouri (one) and No. 7 LSU (one) also received first-place votes. The Buckeyes had 15 first-place votes last week.

Texas, Auburn and Wisconsin round out the top 10.

East Carolina's latest big win was its third straight against a ranked opponent, dating to last season's Hawaii Bowl victory against Boise State, and probably the Pirates' most impressive.

East Carolina manhandled previously No. 8 West Virginia 24-3, shutting down Pat White and the Mountaineers' speedy spread offense. That came a week after the Pirates took out Virginia Tech.

West Virginia dropped all the way to No. 25.

The last time East Carolina was on a roll like this was 1999, when the Pirates were ranked most of the season before falling out on the final poll of the season.

East Carolina hasn't been ranked this highly since 1991, when the Pirates finished the season at No. 9.

The Pirates now shift to being the favorite instead of the underdog.

They open Conference USA play at Tulane this week, then travel to rebuilding North Carolina State. Their next home game is against Houston before they have a week off.

The second 10 starts with Alabama, followed by Texas Tech, Kansas, and the Pirates.

Arizona State is No. 15 and Pac-10 rival Oregon is No. 16.

Penn State moved up two spots to No. 17 after blowing out Oregon State 45-14, and BYU slipped three places to No. 18 after needing a blocked PAT — and the help of a controversial penalty — in the final seconds to preserve a 28-27 victory against Washington.

No. 19 South Florida and No. 20 Wake Forest held their spots after dramatic victories.

The final five were Fresno State, Utah, California, Illinois and West Virginia.

Cal moved into the rankings for the first time since last season after a 66-3 victory against Washington State.