

WORK IT!

BBC opens new fitness center

AT THE BAY PAGE 3

5% MORE PROBLEMS

Tuition increase raises problems

OPINION PAGE 5

TRUE OR FALSE?

Urban legends debunked by media

LIFE! PAGE 7

HALFWAY DONE

Men's soccer season suffers

SPORTS PAGE 12

NCAA: Athletics violated bylaws

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

The NCAA sent FIU a notice of allegations stating the University violated several NCAA bylaws. The letter detailed that 40 student-athletes competed while ineligible and that men's soccer, women's soccer and women's golf

incorrectly applied NCAA financial aid legislation.

The NCAA has requested the University to send them records to confirm whether the allegations are correct.

The institution must submit responses to the allegations by Dec. 4, 2007.

For the full story, visit Beaconnewspaper.com.

Group brings race forums

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

Silent, somber, black-shirted FIU students surrounded the Graham Center Pit last February; a sour culmination to the much anticipated Pan-African Celebration that should have admired the richness and variety of African culture.

"Not My History," the motto of the Pan-African protests, whose activists claimed the Pan-African Celebration did not accurately represent a black celebration, exemplifies the race problem that American society has: lack of cultural awareness, recognition and racial prejudice.

At least Hashim Benford, a member of the Black Student Union, thinks so. Inspired by the protests, he approached the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services seeking collaboration to introduce a nationwide program next Spring called Campus Conversations on Race.

As a result, FIU will be among the 11 universities adopting a program that aims to foster racial understanding through student-led, open discussions that explore racial prejudice.

Benford believes a college setting is ideal to conduct a forum like this one because of the abundance of students available that can bring their leadership, energy and opinions into the race discourse.

MPS has selected 10 student facilitators who will be coached through sessions of race-themed conferences

through Fall where they'll be exposed to different race topics that will prepare them to guide college-wide conversations. For Kathleen Black, who was chosen as a facilitator, recognition of racial differences is the first step to solving race-related problems.

"It is important to be able to talk about race. People like to think that they are more open to [racial conversations] than they really are. While our population is diverse on campus, it is still uncomfortable to acknowledge our differences," Black said.

The college-wide conversations next Spring will be structured into separate groups. Two facilitators will lead each group and four students will be asked to participate in them.

MPS hopes the discussions will be constructive forum to explore different viewpoints on race themes.

A topic will be selected to begin each session but conversation will be "as organic as possible," Benford said.

Hate crime incidents such as the Jena 6 and the recent race-motivated attack on FIU student Stephen Barnett will be potential launching pads to discuss questions like, "What is the nature of the racial problem?" Benford said.

Although FIU has a multiethnic community, Benford explains diversity does not equal racial tolerance.

Benford hopes CCOR will eventually develop from "words to action."

For more information visit MPS at GC 216.

FACULTY RECOGNIZED



MELINDA BOONE/THE BEACON

FACULTY PRIDE: Faculty from different departments stand barring banners from their different colleges at the 2007 Faculty Convocation Awards Ceremony Oct. 5 at the Wertheim Performing Arts Center.

Event recognizes, awards faculty

CHRISTINA VEIGA
Asst. News Director

Krishnan Dandapani, professor of finance in the College of Business Administration, was the winner of the Council of 100 Outstanding award at this year's Faculty Convocation and Awards Ceremony.

Held Oct. 5 at the Nicole and Wertheim Performing Arts Center, the ceremony recognizes every year faculty for their outstanding work, from publishing

important papers to citrercams and securing over 15 million in funding.

Aside from the recognition, the award also consists of a \$10,000 award.

Dandapani was completely surprised by the award and was glad to receive the support of his community, he said, and added that he hopes this recognition will draw attention to the initiatives he is championing now.

Dandapani is currently working with the Asian studies program to estab-

lish an "educational link" between the United States, India and China because that area of the world is growing greatly, he says.

Dandapani's other major work is a book about hurricane litigation and the financial affects of hurricanes, which he has been working on for 10 years and will come out this year.

Faculty Awards of Excellence in six areas were also awarded during the ceremony. The areas included: teaching,

research, service, undergraduate advising, graduate mentorship and adjunct faculty.

In all, 31 faculty members were given accolade.

"Today we celebrate education," said Kalai Mathee, associate professor and chair of molecular microbiology and immunology at the opening of the ceremony.

FIU president Modesto Maidique addressed the audience about the affect

AWARDS, page 2

Adopt-a-Player program funded

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

In order to foster student involvement with the community, the Student Government Council of the University Park campus approved \$1,500 to fund the Adopt-a-Player Program. The goal of the program is to promote panther pride at FIU and the surrounding community.

"This is a program I wanted to start," said Jennifer Ruiz, speaker of the house for SGC-UP and founder of the Adopt-a-Player program. "I wanted it to be an SGA event."

The SGC-UP is funding

100 percent of the program with Athletics essentially donating the time and commitment of the football players.

The program involves 20 FIU organizations adopting one of 20 FIU football team players by showing their support for that player during the next home game Nov. 17.

"All they're really looking for is support," Ruiz said.

Any FIU organization can participate.

A meet-and-greet pep rally is being planned for various FIU organizations to meet the players and make a choice as to who

they want to sponsor.

Once a player has been adopted, the organization would be responsible for having at least 10 of their members root for that player.

"It will boost moral and build partnerships," Ruiz said.

In return for attending the home games and rooting for the players, each adopted player will attend two events a semester hosted by or involving the organization that adopted them.

Mario Cristobal head coach of the FIU football team is enthusiastic over the possibilities the pro-

gram may lead to.

According to Cristobal, all of the players have reacted well to the program.

"They do not have much time to interact with the student body," Cristobal said.

Cristobal hopes that the Adopt-a-Player program will grow beyond the 20 initial players. Details regarding the exact implantation are still being determined, but Ruiz is confident the program will be a success for the Louisiana-Lafayette match Nov. 17.

"Bottom line is that this will generate support," Cristobal said.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • OCTOBER 8

Music Saves Lives- Blood Drive (Mon.-Thurs.): 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., *In front of Bookstore (UP)*
BBQ at the Bay: 12 - 3 p.m., *The Bay (BBC)*
Panther Rage General Meeting: 4 p.m., *GC 140 (UP)*
French-Canadian Film Festival presents "La Grande Secuction.": 8 p.m., *GC 140, (UP)*
Vagina Monologues Auditions (All Week): 6 - 9 p.m., *DM 192 (UP)*

TUESDAY • OCTOBER 9

(Similarities) Catholicism & Judaism- A Dialogue: 12 p.m., *Theatre (UP)*
Dance Marathon Golden Idol Auditions: 12 - 2 p.m., *GC Pit (UP)*
Hugh Willoughby "Shifting Climates of the 21st Century": 12:30 p.m., *GC 243 (UP)*
French-Canadian Film Festival presents "Memories Affectives.": 4 p.m., *GC 140, (UP)*
SOC Meeting: 5:30 p.m., *GC 150 (UP)*
An Evening of Rumi: 7:30 p.m., *GC 140, (UP)*
Panther Power Meeting: 2 p.m., *WUC 157 (BBC)*

WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 10

Panhellenic Charity Denim Fundraiser for Breast Awareness: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., *GC Pit (UP)*
Catholic Student Union- Holy Mass: 12 p.m., *GC 150 (UP)* **Faith Jam Lunch:** 1 - 3 p.m., *GC 2215 (UP)*
French-Canadian Film Festival presents "Le Survenant.": 2 p.m., *GC 140, (UP)*
SGA General Meeting: 3:30 p.m., *WUC155 (BBC)*
SGA General Meeting: 4 p.m., *GC140 (UP)*
Alternative Breaks Information Session: 8 - 9 p.m., *Lakeview South Multi -Purpose Room (UP)*

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 11

FIU Wear Pink Day: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., *(UP)*
Catholic Student Union- Eucharistic Adoration: 12 - 1 p.m., *GC 150 (UP)*
French-Canadian Film Festival presents "C.R.A.Z.Y.": 2 p.m., *GC 140, (UP)*
SPC Latin Karaoke: 7 p.m., *Gracie's Grill (UP)*
National Coming Out Day: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., *Info Table in Panther Square (BBC) & All Day at UP*

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 12

Party in the Pit- Hispanic Heritage: 12 p.m., *GC Pit (UP)*
CLS Engage Workshop: 12:30 p.m., *GC 305 (UP)*
South Florida Chapter of the American STA: 7 p.m., *HLS 180 (UP)*
SPC "Lost City" w/ dinner: 8 p.m., *GC140 (UP)*
A Night for Molly: 7:30 p.m., *GC Ballrooms (UP)*
"Pip Brant: The Flying Carpet & Other Re-useables" opening reception: 7 p.m., *Frost Art Museum, (UP)*
Green Critics' Lecture presents Meryle Secrest: *GL 100 (UP)*
"Astronomy in Pictures": 8 p.m., *ACI 154 (BBC)*
Grand Opening for Fitness Center: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., *WUC 160 (BBC)*

SUNDAY • OCTOBER 14

Arab Public Opinion on Foreign Relations: 2 p.m., *ACI 154 (BBC)*

- Compiled by *Kassandra Pool*

Officer speaks about life, job

JESSICA SOLIS
Staff Writer

To many who know him, Bill King can be considered accessible. As the director of Public Safety, King tries to make sure that the University police department he supervises is as approachable as he is.

A man who has been involved in the field of law enforcement for the past 33 years, King initially did not believe he would ever become a police officer.

After majoring in sociology and playing football and basketball at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., King said an interest in law enforcement was sparked by his long-term goals.

"People come into law enforcement thinking that they can make a difference and serve the public," King said. "I think it's all about service and being able to

offer a variety of services to the community."

After recruitment efforts to enlist minority candidates into the field of law enforcement arrived in his hometown, King decided to become a police officer.

"I had negative experiences with police officers before that and really thought I could change the perception of police officers while help others," King said.

He began his career working as a state trooper with Michigan State Police, where he worked for 25 years. He later became deputy chief of police of the Ypsilanti Police Department in Ypsilanti, Mich. It was during this time where he began his transition to university police, which he believes is not that different to off-campus police departments.

King eventually returned to WSU, this time as chief of

its police department. But after three years, a warmer opportunity came calling.

"I saw the position open at FIU and, to get out of the cold weather, FIU and Miami seemed to be a very attractive position," King said.

King has been the chief of the FIU police department since 2004. Working with a younger, more proactive population has impressed him, "the enthusiasm they have about working with the other students, faculty and staff and the enthusiasm they have about their lives and their careers," King said.

He has no specific favorite part of his job, but said he appreciates the opportunities he has meeting new people as well as with the



KING

people he works with.

Those he works with say feeling is mutual.

"I feel that he performs his duties in a professional and courteous manner," said Beatriz Villa, senior secretary.

"He also has an open-door policy. If he's here and a student comes in that needs to see him, he welcomes them."

King hopes that the University understands the objectives of Public Safety and will ultimately cultivate a positive image of the department.

"I think we've been very reactive to any situations that have come up on campus and I think we've been valuable in providing a good level of service for all of the University community," King said.

Maidique addresses issues, faculty

AWARDS, page 1

recent budget cuts and tuition increases in the state of Florida.

"I speak to you today with a sense of relief," Maidique said. "With the help of our friends in legislator and elsewhere, we have beaten back the ignoble proposals that were made relative to our budget."

Maidique assured the audience that FIU's goals would not be affected by the proposed budget cuts,

while at the same time warning of hard times to come.

Bruce Hauptli, Faculty Senate chair

Our University is a vibrant academic community because of your collective efforts and accomplishments.

"This is not to say that we don't have a bumpy road ahead," Maidique said.

To combat the cuts,

Maidique said FIU will have to secure more funding from the private sector,

rework the Florida Bright Futures scholarship program and raise tuition to "just the national average."

Maidique also assured the cuts would not affect the opening of the new University medical school slated to open in.

Faculty Senate chairperson Bruce Hauptli turned the attention away from politics and back to the faculty and their accomplishments.

"Our University is a vibrant academic community because of your collective efforts and accomplishments," Hauptli said.

NEWSFLASH

FIU's athletic training program evaluated

FIU could become the first University in Florida to have an accredited entry-level master's program in athletic training if it's approved by two representatives from the Commission on Accreditation for Athletic Training Education who will visit the University Oct. 17 through Oct. 19.

Athletic trainers specialize in the prevention and rehabilitation of injuries in physically-active individuals. If the program is accredited, FIU will join the 17 universities in the country already offering the program.

During the three-day visit, CAATE representatives will inspect both the school's on and off campus facilities to make sure they meet compliance and accreditation standards; they will also interview deans, faculty, students, as well as the medical director and athletic trainers involved in the program.

"Accreditation is key because students have to graduate from an accredited program to be eligible to sit for the board of certification exam," said Jennifer Doherty-Restrepo, athletic training chair and program director.

CAATE will announce its decision by next February, just in time for the first graduating master's class to be able to meet the board exam requirements.

-Compiled by *Vanessa Alvarez, Beacon staff*

SGC-UP Notes

- Oct. 4**
- Call to order 4:08 p.m.; Adjournment 5 p.m.**
- President's Report (Marbely Hernandez):**
 - Board of Governors recommended funding for the new College of Medicine not be cut
 - A 3.9 percent budget cut was suggested.
- Vice President's Report (Arthur A.J. Meyer):**
 - Golf carts designated for the Panther Safety Tram are back from being repaired.
- Lecture Chair's Report (Anthony Rionda):**
 - Presidential debates will be held at Florida Atlantic University.
 - Voter registration drive Oct. 17.
- Student Services:**
 - Will do survey on a text messaging service.
- Student Programming Council:**
 - Hispanic Heritage coming in October.
 - Business etiquette lecture on Oct. 17. To register visit fiu.edu/~GSA
- Student Organizations Council:**
 - Special elections will be held Oct. 9.
- New Business:**
 - FIU Counseling & Psychological Services Suicide Awareness Program passed for \$1805 to retroactively reimburse CPSC for the September event.
 - Keep S.O.B.E.R. fund passed for \$1500. Funds will be contributed to the Night for Molly event Oct. 12.

- Compiled by *Ben F. Badger Jr, Beacon staff*



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INFORMATION

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New fitness center to enhance workouts

PATRICIA GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Senior Kenid Joseph will be one of many students who will have a chance to utilize the Biscayne Bay Campus's new state-of-the-art fitness center, scheduled to open on Oct. 12.

For the past year, Joseph had been working out at BBC's former fitness center, located on the third floor of the Wolfe University Center.

She agreed BBC needed an upgraded fitness facility.

"The old gym felt cramped. There was such a small amount of equipment that I had to wait in line for people to finish using the machines," Joseph said.

The fitness center's open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony will be on Oct. 12 at 10 a.m.

Tours of the new facility, located at WUC 160, will be given, as well as demonstrations of the machines by representatives of equipment vendors such as Life Fitness, Hammer Strength, and Hampton Strength Systems.

Students will have the opportunity to collect giveaways and prizes, such as towels and water bottles.

Faculty and staff will get the chance to win a membership through a raffle.

The new fitness center will have more than double the number of equipment than the former fitness center. For example, 21 cardiovascular machines are expected to be in the cardio village section; the former center only had four.

Nine plasma screen televisions will be installed in the new fitness

center.

The center also will include a 1,100 square foot aerobics studio offering many classes such as hip-hop, kickboxing, ballroom dancing, and belly dancing.

Whereas the former fitness center hosted the aerobics classes in the same room where students used the exercise equipment, the new center has a designated aerobics room. The room also will be utilized for conducting yoga classes in collaboration with The Wellness Center.

In addition to offering courses on meditation and stress management, complementary massages will be offered.

Also provided are women's and men's locker rooms complete with restrooms and showers.

"This fitness center is going to offer a lot more options for students. The objective is to help all students feel like there is something there that they can benefit from, in terms of the equipment, the classes that are offered, and the convenience of the facility.

"We really think that students will find it a place that they can enjoy going to, and working out in," Cathy Akens, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, said.

The reason for building the new 12,000 square foot facility was to meet the needs of the students, according to Elias Bardawil, associate director of campus recreation.

"The new fitness center is much more female friendly. There is more equipment [ideal] for the deconditioned athlete.

"The equipment in the current



JESSICA KERTZNIUS/THE BEACON

WORK IT OUT: The new fitness center, showing off its new cardiovascular equipment. The grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for Oct. 12.

fitness center is plate-loaded which makes it more difficult for someone who is not used to working out," Bardawil said.

Students with less experience working out will have the opportunity to schedule appointments with on-staff trainers.

In addition to helping students become better associated with the equipment, trainers will also make sure their work out regimen reaches its full potential.

Construction on the new fitness center began in spring 2006. Stobbs Brothers Construction is the company that built the \$1.8 million facility.

The money to build the new

fitness center was provided by Capital Improvement Trust Funds so this project did not affect student tuition.

The new fitness center will have a passage that leads to the now closed Aquatic Center.

Although no date has been set for the reopening of the Aquatic Center, it is anticipated to be a very important asset to the fitness center.

Together, the Fitness and Aquatic Centers will form a combined 70,000 square foot mega recreational complex, Bardawil said.

"The Aquatic Center is going to provide an optimal balance of

recreational programs, academic classes, and varsity athletics," Bardawil said, in reference to swimming, lifeguard and scuba diving classes that will be offered at the Aquatic Center in the future.

James Wassenaar, executive director of student affairs operations and auxiliary services, feels that the new facility will improve the quality of life for students living on campus.

"The fitness center is an important amenity for resident students. They spend 24 hours a day, and seven days week on campus.

"I hope that it is seen as another wonderful facility for students to utilize," Wassenaar said.

Religious club caters to Witnesses

CATHERINE KAIMAN
Contributing Writer

When a traveling Jehovah's Witnesses club overseer suggested to Anthony Muthra, a construction management major, to start a club chapter at FIU in December 2006, Muthra thought it was a great idea.

A month later, the Jehovah's Witnesses club was formed at the Biscayne Bay Campus and it currently has 10 members.

"I really enjoy being a part of this organization because we help clear up misconceptions about what [Jehovah's] Witnesses are, how we organize and what we believe in," said Muthra, the club's vice president.

The club wanted to share their beliefs with each other and the rest of the student body, according to Voltaire Lysius, an FIU alum and the club's advisor.

"The club is a way for students who are Jehovah's Witnesses to express their concern

for their fellow students and educators by providing Bible-based literature that encourages moral values and answers some of life's most serious questions," Lysius said.

The Jehovah's Witnesses religion was founded in 1870. It interprets the Bible to be God's word and is historically accurate. People practicing the religion believe that Jesus Christ was God's son and try to live in accordance with Jesus' life. The religion currently has 7 million members across the world.

The club's mission statement, written by Lysius, is "Moral instruction and education are inseparable. This was the conclusion of [Russian author and philosopher] Leo Tolstoy's lifetime of reflection and experience. The purpose of the student organization is to distribute literature that helps one to appreciate that there needs to be the [teaching] of moral values if education is to be beneficial."

Club members provide any

student who is interested in becoming a Jehovah's Witness with home Bible studies, free of charge. These individual lessons teach the religion's interpretations and analyze particular passages of the Bible.

The club recruits members through tabling, which is set up in the Wolfe University Center at various times during the week. Students can pick up information on the religion and the club as well as talk to club members.

The club meets once a month at BBC at varied times and locations. When it is difficult to organize the group, meetings are conducted over the phone to discuss club issues. To ensure that everyone has a chance to read the material, accommodations are made for the visually or hearing impaired.

"I enjoy the meetings because everyone is friendly and I love that we take the time to study the Bible and discuss it as a group, rather than everyone having their own analysis," said Wade

Charlestant, a senior majoring in education and a club member.

The club is still a work in progress, Muthra said. He and the club members hope to schedule events for students to watch videos on the religion's beliefs and history.

Although the clubs has not set any events yet, Muthra said that students would be made aware when there are special guest speakers and lecturers, such as prominent Jehovah's Witnesses, in any of the South Florida congregations.

The club does not have its own Web site, but anyone interested in learning more about the religion should visit The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society's Web site, www.watchtower.org, according to Lysius. All Jehovah's Witnesses congregations fall under the Watchtower Society, an organization that distributes all literature and books to its followers.

For information, e-mail Muthra at modena09@gmail.com.

JOIN OUR STAFF!



Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124 and pick up an application.

Professor uses life experiences for work, plays

GLENN COINE
Contributing Writer

Professor Mario Diament of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication said the most significant aspects of his career has been his experience with investigative reporting, theater writing, and growing up under a military dictatorship in Argentina.

“I think that after doing all the things [I have done] and the things I still expect to do and having lived through times of turmoil and despair and times of hope and happiness I have gained a certain insight into the nature of people,” Diament said. Born in Argentina in 1942, Diament cultivated a love for journalism because his father would read stories to him in the local paper.

“[The stories were] mostly about exotic countries, interesting places...” Diament said. “[Writing and journalism] seemed like something I’d really like to do, to have the opportunity to see interesting things, and to fight for causes I believe in.”

Diament went on to work as a journalist in Argentina during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Working under a military dictatorship there, he and other journalists were subject to various degrees of censorship and violence.

At the time, Diament said that reporters in Argentina had to be careful with what they wrote because not only was the government watching the press, but a lot of reporters were killed by the military. Diament said this did not stop him from covering what he thought needed

to be covered.

“[I wrote] to denounce morally wrong and illegal acts of the government, and to fight for freedom and justice, and to defend those who I thought should be defended,” Diament said.

Argentina was not the only place where Diament faced censorship. As a foreign correspondent, he was once jailed in Yugoslavia in the 1970s when he was assigned to cover a story on Josip Broz Tito. Tito was the president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1953 to 1980.

“These experiences give you a better understanding of the importance of your profession [as a journalist]. It is your responsibility to tell people what’s happening,” Diament said.

In addition to his journalistic experience, Diament has written nine plays as well as a screenplay. *Blind Date*, a play Diament wrote in 2004, is one he considers his favorite. It is about a chance encounter amongst five people in various situations and coincidentally meet. Diament wrote *Blind Date* in order to show that daily events can change a person’s life without the people involved being aware of it.

“This was a difficult play, because there was minimal action. Normally, in theatre, things are about action, but in *Blind Date*, the characters tell the stories to the audience, so the language is very important to keep the audience’s attention,” Diament said.

Blind Date is now in the process of being made into



DIAMENT

DIGITAL ERA SPEECH



JESSICA KERTZNIUS/THE BEACON

SCRIPPS DAY: E.W. Scripps president and CEO, Ken Lowe discusses the digital age at the Wolfe University Center Ballroom on Oct. 3.

a film, which is being co-produced in Argentina and Spain, and will be released in 2008.

Diament went on to enroll into the master’s program at Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The Univer-

“**Mario Diament, SJMC professor**

You can’t enter into [journalism] if you don’t have curiosity and passion for the truth. Without those things, you’ll never be a good writer or journalist.

sity offered Diament the option of allowing him to enter directly into their masters’ program based on his career experience, even though he did not have a bachelor of arts degree. Diament graduated from the program in 1995.

Diament was asked by FIU staff to do research on the state of the Spanish language press in the U.S. He was asked to stay in order to develop SJMC’s Spanish Language masters program.

Students such as Luis Acosta know that Diament understands the importance of storytelling. Acosta recalls his first assignment for Diament’s “Thinking Like a Writer” class, taught in Spanish.

“He wanted us to talk about our mothers as if they were characters, and events were episodes.

“This one girl mentioned [in her paper] something about her mother liking orchids and [Diament] took that and showed her how to do her whole story based on that one little thing about her mom liking flowers. And he did that with everyone’s [story]. He would get an idea from the most insignificant detail and direct us from there,” said Acosta, a graduate student.

Allan Richards, SJMC chair, said he has sat in on Diament’s classes and believes that Diament has the ability to guide his students into becoming better writers and journalists.

“Not only is he charming, but he knows how to zero in on what a student is doing or not doing in a story,” Richards said.

Diament said he likes to give his students tools and tips to help them become better journalists.

“You can’t enter into [journalism] if you don’t have curiosity and passion for the truth. Without those things, you’ll never be a good writer or journalist,” Diament said.

NEWSFLASH

Rabbi, Bishop to discuss inter-faith book

Rabbi Mario Rojzman and Catholic Bishop Justo Laguna will discuss their book *All Roads Lead to Jerusalem... and also to Rome* on Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the Mary Anne Wolfe Theater at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The book details the development of the authors’ friendship and an understanding of inter-faith.

The event will be co-sponsored by Hillel Second Generation, BBC Campus Ministry, Campus Life and Orientation, Latin and American and Caribbean Center, Centro Cultural Argentino and the Judaic Studies Program.

For more information, call 305-919-5804.

Lecture to discuss Middle East public opinion

Middle East Society’s Russell Lucas will discuss “Arab Public Opinion on Foreign Relations” on Oct. 14, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

The lecture will look into public opinion and what people think in the Middle East, Lucas said.

The event will be held in Academic I, room 194.

For more information call 305-919-4839.

-Compiled by Eddith Sevilla

SGC-BBC Notes

October 3, 2007

Call to Order: 3:37 p.m., Adjournment: 4:25 p.m.

President’s Report (Katiana Saintable)

- No report

Vice President’s Report (Cassandra Andrade)

- The meeting between Panther Power, Student Programming Council, Student Government Association, and Housing Council has been postponed. No date has been set for future meeting.

- Andrade was in Tallahassee last week with University Park representatives to make sure the College of Medicine is not taken away or has its funding removed. These appeals are only house and senate recommendations and can still be vetoed by governor Charlie Crist. So far the Senate has requested a 2.9 percent budget cut for most medical schools in Florida.

-Compiled by David Rodriguez
(Visit www.beaconnewspaper.com for full notes.)



“An Evening of Jalaludin Rumi” Faruk Celebi Efendi

world-wide head of the Mevlevi Sufi Order
Sufi chanting, whirling, discourse

Poetry reading: Peter Rogen

Oct. 9, 2007 7:30 p.m.
GC 140 (University Park)

Co-sponsors: Center for the Study of Spirituality (<http://cas.fiu.edu/SpiritualityCenter>) and Islamic Studies Program in conjunction with International Year of Rumi (UNESCO)

THE BEACON | Editorial

BOG decision best for all parties

From a gallon of milk to a gallon at the pump, everyday necessities become more and more expensive. Our education is no different. As *The Beacon* reported in its Oct. 1 issue, the Board of Governors unanimously voted to increase tuition by 5 percent, effective Spring 2008.

The increase amounts to roughly \$5.67 per credit hour, which equals \$68 per semester for students taking a full load of courses. In order for the increase to become a law, it must first be approved by the Florida House of Representatives and Senate; and then survive a possible veto by Gov. Charlie Crist, who already exercised his veto power this summer on a similar measure.

It is imperative that the legislature and governor both agree with the BOG's decision to increase tuition in the upcoming spring. The lack of funding for public universities has made increasing enrollment, recruiting faculty, staff and adding additional classes more difficult. Students have already felt the effects of a university system strapped for cash. The university-wide hiring freeze that was set in place, after the BOG told universities to prepare for a budget cut of 4 to 10 percent, has hurt students' chances of graduating as professors are needed to teach certain classes cannot be hired.

Even if the university could hire faculty, who's to say they would come?

Along with the hiring freeze, the budget cuts have also frozen salaries, making any current faculty ineligible for a raise.

Not to mention the fact that

this university is located in a state where property taxes are out of control, home insurance costs are astonishing, and the cost of living is among the highest in the country.

Even more troubling is this scenario: a qualified college student turned away by a publicly funded university as a result of capped enrollment. State universities are already behind in terms of public funding—Florida is ranked in the bottom half of the country in terms of support they receive in public dollars.

The future of the public university system looks grim if this problem is not addressed soon.

This is where the BOG's role becomes crucial. For the first time in its history, the BOG asserted the power given to it by Florida voters in 2003, preserved in its constitutional mission.

In the Florida Constitution, it is said the BOG was created to achieve excellence through teaching students, advancing research and providing public service for the benefit of Florida's citizens, their communities and economies, the people hereby establish a system of governance for the state university system of Florida.

The vote to raise tuition comes amid a power struggle between the Legislature and the BOG over who should have the authority to set tuition. The dispute will be decided in Florida's high courts.

It is common sense for the BOG to assume tuition setting responsibilities as they are an entity solely dedicated to the State's universities. And only they can make a judgement in the best interest of students.

PENNY PINCHING



Tuition increase lightens wallets

NICOLLE GARBER
Opinion Editor

Many students at FIU pay out of their own pocket for tuition. Their parents have their own financial responsibilities and so they must provide for themselves. In that sense, the proposed 5 percent tuition increase is a cost that would greatly affect the residential student population.

Now 5 percent doesn't seem like a lot, but let us say you are taking 15 credits and you are an in-state, undergraduate student. Each credit is approximately \$113, so 5 percent of \$113 is \$5.67. Now multiply that by 15, and you get about \$85. That is an extra \$85 you would have to pay every semester—about two books for an English major and half a book for medical students.

The implementation of a 5 percent increase would bring in about \$9 million to FIU. But that projec-

tion may not be correct if some students aren't be able to produce the extra \$85. Students who quit their jobs to attend FIU and pay out of pocket will also face a greater difficulty. With no funds from a weekly job, they will have to take out more loans. For students who have little or no financial aid, have no weekly income from a job, and rely solely upon loans to attend school will definitely feel the strain of the increase. And students who have no job, no work-study, and no car to find a job will have to eat Ramen every day instead of every other day.

Sure, \$85 may seem insignificant but let us expand upon what \$85 can buy. With the \$85 you can buy a \$50 and \$20 bus ticket to the Biscayne Bay Campus. It can buy a George Foreman Grill for students who cannot afford a meal plan. The \$85 can buy two boxes of color print paper for a photography student. It

can also help pay for a student's study abroad trip to Japan. And lastly, \$85 can buy gas for a week for a commuting student.

But those who will take the biggest financial hit are graduate students.

With their tuition totaling approximately \$260 per credit, they are receiving the worst end of the tax increase. Assuming they are taking 12 credits, they will have to pay an extra \$156.

Tara Lamp, a nursing student, stares wide-eyed as she hears about the increase. Her bright smile fades as she contemplates her current financial disposition. "For the student whose every nickel, dime, and penny counts, it's a huge deal. Not everyone is a Bright Futures scholar."

If the tuition increase trend continues to climb in the near future, a proper education could soon become a luxury.

Military presence highlights inconsistencies in school policy

JOSEPH MARHEE
Contributing Writer

As the U.S. government attests, "the greatest sacrifice a person can give is to that of his country," but homosexuals and bisexuals are rudely excluded from this 'honor.' According to the Armed Forces's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, members of the American homosexual community are both unfit to lead or to realize their full potential.

The "don't ask don't tell" policy forces homosexuals and bisexuals to bury their true identities and it stipulates that sexual orientation is a marker of a person's worth to society.

This policy is far reaching: it also applies to Reserve Offi-

cers Training Course (ROTC). ROTC provides 60 percent of the U.S. armed forces officers—they too cannot be homosexual or bisexual.

While the policy may not seem like a big deal, it is when a discovered homosexual who was a veteran of two years in Iraq is retroactively denied their hard earned benefits. The explanation: discovered homosexuality is grounds for Dishonorable Discharge, meaning that benefits will not be granted.

That is a clear cut instance of discrimination.

However, the policy's "Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" amendment, which protects those who are suspected of being homosexual from harassment, goes largely unrecognized. For example, in the case

of Allen R. Schindler, Schindler was brutally murdered in what is now called a "blanket party" (the practice of covering an officer with a blanket and attacking them). The servicemen and several others who suspected that Schindler was gay left a "nearly-unrecognizable corpse," a fate much worse than being denied military benefits.

The policy itself is a huge step back for Americans who pride themselves of "living in the land of the free". Further segregating the straight from the gay community. The policy implies that sexual orientation is something of great importance and would suggest that someone not of the 'correct' orientation is of little use to the military, and of little value to society.

But federal legislature aside,

by allowing ROTC and the Armed Forces to recruit on campus, FIU has taken a hypocritical stance towards homophobia and racism. Although in the process of hiring employees, the United Faculty of Florida agreed not to "discriminate against . . . any employee . . . based upon sexual orientation [and race]."

Therefore, by allowing ROTC and the Armed Forces on campus FIU only advances homophobia and discrimination, and indirectly endorses them both.

So what allows a military recruitment presence at FIU?

Money. The Supreme Court, in the case of *Rumsfeld v. FAIR*, upheld the Solomon Amendment, stating that the federal government could deny

funds to schools that do not allow recruitment.

While it cannot be known for sure if that is FIU's reasoning for continuing to allow indirect discrimination, the ruling of the Solomon Amendment may play a big role in how FIU may be more of a victim than the perpetrator.

The ruling makes it difficult for the school to practice Equal Opportunities in all facets of decision making—like ROTC and other outside organizations that exist on campus.

And because schools are under the law's heavy hand, they are left with few choices, other than to allow this to happen. It is a prime example of how far our rights and even our school's motto can go; obviously, not very far.



CHRISTOPHER NECUZE/THE BEACON

Son plans trip to find lost father



The Meaning of Life
a column looking
for the answers
C. Joel Marino

Dan Levinson is planning a trip.

It's going to be a long trip, so he's been preparing for it all summer, even teaching himself a foreign language during the hour-long commutes to his current school, St. John's University in New York.

Dan, 22 years old and originally from Broward, is a good student and an ambitious guy.

He graduated from William & Mary's in 2006 and is pursuing a degree in international law.

But there are days when Dan can't help feeling bored in class.

If he doesn't zone out, he turns on a computer and searches for news articles with two key words: 'Bob' and 'Levinson.' That's his dad's name; that's also the reason for his trip.

Bob Levinson went missing somewhere in the Middle East seven months ago.

Dan said his dad – a former FBI agent turned private investigator – was subcontracted by some major corporations to investigate cigarette smuggling in Iran.

Bob, 59, left Dubai at 10:45 a.m. on March 8 and arrived at Kish Island, Iran, that same day. He checked into a hotel that afternoon. He hasn't been heard from since.

"I was in Japan when my mom sent me an E-mail and asked me to call home. That's when she told me my dad went missing," Dan said. "I was the last to know."

The Levinsons are a large family: the parents, Christine and Bob, plus seven children; Dan is the middle child.

"People call us the Brady Bunch because we're so close. We're just a traditional family, I guess," Dan said.

A Facebook group dedicated to the family shows the siblings huddled in front of the camera, all hugs and smiles.

Dan and his siblings share what he calls a typical Levinson trait: optimism, which he attributes to their tight bond.

They bristle when anyone asks what kind of man Bob was – he's still alive, they say, so they refuse to answer in the past tense.

The Iranian government has said there's no evidence Bob is in the country, though reports given to the Swiss embassy in Tehran say that he did arrive in Kish and took a taxi from his hotel.

These are the family's only leads.

But this doesn't deter the Levinson optimism. Dan is traveling to Iran to look for his dad.

Comments left on Internet message boards have called it a stupid decision and a suicide mission.

The messages disturb Dan, but he

Rumor Has It

Television, Web sites aim to disprove urban legends

SARAH RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Kidney thieves, alligators in sewers, evil spirits responding to chants of "Bloody Mary" – the term "urban legend" refers to a widely-circulating story that is usually untrue, or at least impossible to prove. Often, they begin with some small element of truth, but become increasingly exaggerated as they get passed through the grapevine.

Some are merely amusing, and could be fun to pass on to others even if one did not truly believe them. Others appeal to their audience because of shock value, mystery and horror.

Freshman Henry Labrada thinks that urban legends appeal to the public's curiosity and sense of adventure.

"I think urban legends are so popular because people love being scared," Labrada said. "They enjoy putting themselves in other people's shoes and getting that adrenaline."

The use of E-mail and the Internet has made it much easier to circulate information quickly and globally, allowing urban legends to snowball and spread. The Internet, however, has also served to debunk a lot of these misconceptions, making web sites that expose fact and fiction almost as popular as the myths themselves.

One such web site is www.snopes.com, named after a family of characters in the works of American author William Faulkner. Here, visitors can browse through dozens of categories of urban legends, hoaxes and

general misconceptions for crimes, politics and radio and television.

Operated by Barbara and David Mikkelsen, the web site rates hundreds of stories with green, yellow, red or white dots that measure validity. Green is used to rate ideas that have either been proven by evidence or that were once based on real events while yellow refers to claims with insufficient evidence. Red is used for stories determined too improbable, stories that would have been all over the news if they had actually occurred.

Freshman Katherine Benzaquen believes that, in spite of the evidence snopes.com collects, the site's decisions should be questioned.

"I have heard of snopes.com and I think it's pretty interesting, but I wouldn't trust everything it says," Benzaquen said.

The Mikkelsons are quick to point out that, although they have bibliographies to support their verdicts, no one should take them as the final authority.

Another popular medium for testing and debunking urban myths is the show "MythBusters," appearing on the Discovery Channel.

In each episode, Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman choose three common beliefs or themes. According to Discovery.com, instead of merely looking for information that would disprove the myths, Savage and Hyneman set out to personally test them, no matter how dangerous doing so can become. Past episodes have been centered on

ninjas, the reliability of air bags and the idea that fire can be extinguished using nothing more than the human voice.

Sarah Nelson, a junior, said the show has been well-liked because it piques viewers' curiosity, and simultaneously offers useful information.

"I think it's pretty entertaining, and they have good facts," Nelson said. "The last one I saw was one with Coke, whether it can clean the [car] engine better than water. It worked about the same as water."

Nelson also points to a deeper reason for our fascination with shows that test our assumptions.

"Our society and culture is so based on tradition and these urban legends that we want to know if our basis is true or not," Nelson said. "We rely so much on media, and 'MythBusters' focuses on whether these movies are right or not. It's interesting to see whether the scriptwriters have done their homework."

Ultimately, urban legends might reflect society's love for mysterious, seemingly-impossible stories, but it remains debatable whether the veracity of each individual myth actually matters all that much.

Labrada questions whether the way snopes.com and "Mythbusters" collects evidence to prove or disprove these stories, and then makes all such evidence available to the public.

"I think most of the urban legends can be proven false," Labrada said. "But who would take the time to do it?"

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'A Pair of Nuts' to perform

BEN F. BADGER JR.
Asst. News Director

For students seeking a night of laughter, "A Pair of Nuts: The Comedy Duo" starring alumni Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco will be performed at the Miami Improv Oct. 10 at 8:30 p.m.

The show will consist of loosely improvised sketches and several videos in between the sketches.

According to Trabanco, attendees can expect a lot of sketches about ridiculous situations.

Both comedians described the show as being similar to late night comedy shows, but with only two people.

"I've been watching "Saturday Night Live" since I was little," Piedra said. "Our show has a very SNL feel to it."

The comedians won "Best South Florida Performance" at the 2007 Miami Improv Festival and were featured on BET's "We've Got to Do Better." The duo has been acting together since they joined FIU's Improv, an improv and sketch comedy troupe which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this semester.

Piedra, an FIU alumnus, describes his stand up routines as being dry humor, but he has a lot of pride in his sketch comedy and acting skills.

"I was an actor before I was a comedian," Piedra said. "I love them both equally, but you get that immediate reaction with comedy."

The actor/comedian has showed up on television a few times in vari-

ous roles on shows such as "Boston Legal," "Las Vegas" and "Last Comic Standing."

Despite his TV spots, Piedra does not consider any one of his appearances a "big break" and is still waiting for it to happen. Until then, he has his routines and a degree in theatre from FIU to fall back on.

The other "nut" is Trabanco, who is in radio sales during the day, but by night, is a self-proclaimed "sketch comedy genius of South Florida."

"We play off each other," Trabanco said.

Trabanco said that his comedy career does not provide him much monetary support, but money is not the reason he does it.

"I get a high off people laughing," Trabanco said. "If I can get a big group of people laughing, it's worth it."

For a preview of what to expect at

their show, visit www.myspace.com/pairofnuts. Several filmed sketches such as "Gayo" and "Flavor Farts" are posted on the site for viewing.

The cost for admission is \$10 and if the show is successful enough, Trabanco said that the Miami Improv might pick up the show for several months. So, naturally the "nuts" are hopeful that Oct. 10 will be a big success.

"We're very excited about performing on the same stage as so many great comics," Piedra said in a press release. "It's an all new show that's gonna kick ass on all levels."

Those interested in attending must be at least 18 years old to attend and 21 to drink.

For directions to the Miami Improv, visit www.miamiimprov.com. And for more information on the "nuts," check www.myspace.com/yamil and www.myspace.com/johnnytrabs.



COURTESY PHOTO

FUNNY FELLOWS: Yamil Piedra and Johnny Trabanco, former FIU students, will perform their comedy show at the Improv in Coconut Grove on Oct. 10.

Despite tragedy, family stays hopeful

MEANING, page 6

says the trip is something he has to do. He hopes to leave by the end of the year and scour the vast country for leads on Bob's fate with his mom and other family members.

This wasn't their first idea.

"Please help my family locate my father ... Please do all that you can to bring him home to us," wrote Stephanie Curry, a Levinson sister, in one of many letters sent by family and friends to Mohammad Khazaei, Iranian ambassador to the United Nations.

National and global media have covered their story. The Levinsons even tried to ask Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad if he had any updates on Bob's search when he recently spoke at Columbia University.

These options haven't gotten them far. The trip isn't their last

resort, just their best, Dan likes to say.

"We go to church every week and pray that he's well, because we know he's well," Dan said. "He's still out there, somewhere."

Dan visits bars, spends time with his friends and girlfriend, and makes sure to stay on top of his homework.

Besides Japan, he's also traveled to Europe and China and hopes to one day visit South America.

But for now, his mind is stuck on the thoughts of another trip, and of his dad and family.

"Sometimes I feel guilty living my own life. It's like we're all just distracting ourselves until dad comes home," he said.

For more information on the Levinsons and their mission, visit Helpboblevinson.com.

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RENATO GONZALEZ/THE BEACON

POOL PARTY: Marlon Bright of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars jumps into the Panther Hall Pool during the honors society's Wahoo Splish Splash Pool Party. The party, held on Oct. 4, was open to members and non-members.

MUSIC

Bruce Springsteen - *Magic*

Album shows rock can still deliver a profound message

EVER CRUZ
Staff Writer

With *Magic*, Bruce Springsteen's first album in five years with the E Street Band, he has created one of the most honest and important records in the last few years.

The album opens with the thunderous, riff-heavy, "Radio Nowhere," in which Springsteen bluntly takes aim at the current and sad state of music invading the airwaves. In the chorus, he growls, 'This is radio nowhere/is there anybody alive out there?'

Magic is more aggressive than his previous release, the Sept. 11 mournful *The Rising*. On "Living In The Future," Springsteen sings about the dark times ahead; he addresses issues such as lovers being separated by war as well as the global warming issue.

Interestingly enough,

the track is as upbeat as one of the band's 80's tracks, driven by an infectious saxophone and pounding drums. He's worried about the future but nonetheless, he still has hope that things can turn around for the better.

"Gypsy Biker" is a sad track about a family member lost at war and the effects it has on family. Then, in "I'll Work For Your Love," Springsteen sings about trying hard to become a citizen for God.

The title track beautifully employs acoustic guitar, mandolin and a synth keyboard for a song that mixes lyrics about illusion and death.

The violin, driving drums and desperate-sounding vocals scream for attention as Springsteen sings, 'Whose blood will spill, whose heart will break ... Who'll be the last to die, for a mistake.'

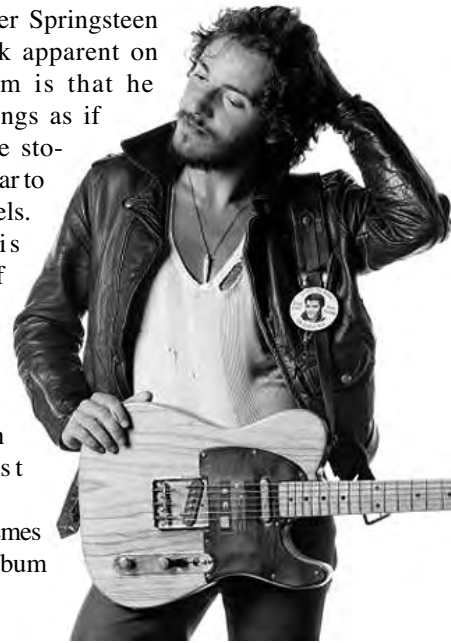
For those familiar with Springsteen's work, the album is a combination of 70s Springsteen, in the style of *Born To Run* and *Born In The USA*. Just like those classic albums, this release uses the "wall-of-sound" approach, in which layers of instruments are used in songs; instruments that range from traditional rock 'n' roll instruments to organs and string arrangements.

Another Springsteen trademark apparent on the album is that he writes songs as if they were stories, similar to mini-novels. *Magic* is full of stories about American life - life in the 21st century.

The themes on this album

range from the war in Iraq, to decisions the government makes and how it affects the people.

Ultimately, this is a solid album that speaks about the harsh realities of today - songs that are relevant for today's generation. For those who still believe in rock 'n' roll and think about what's going on in the world, this album is for you.



GAME

Heavenly Sword

Epic full of rich details

LUIS GARCIA
Staff Writer

Heavenly Sword has been watched very closely by many Sony PlayStation 3 owners since the system's launch. Sony and developer Ninja Theory's tale of revenge is finally here to captivate thrill-seekers with its martial arts finesse and fury.

The game is told through a series of flashbacks that chronicle the main character Nariko's path of vengeance against King Bohan after her people were ravaged and enslaved in his quest to claim the Heavenly Sword for power;

Nariko's clan has long guarded the sword. Nariko, against the clan leader and her father's wishes, takes up the sword to save her clan, even at the cost of her own life.

Heavenly Sword's control is easy to pick up and play from the beginning.

Two attack buttons and quick access to Nariko's different fighting styles by holding the L1 and R1 buttons allow for easy combinations and quick adapting for fighting enemies.

Also at Nariko's disposal are super styles that instantly devastate one or multiple opponents. Defensive maneuvers such as evasive rolling, controlled through the left analog stick and countering oncoming attacks with a well-timed press of the Triangle button are simple to execute.

At some points in the game, *Heavenly Sword* will change focus to Kai, a cross-bow wielding young orphan aiding Nariko in her quest with her skills. In these portions, use

of the motion-sensing 'SIXAXIS controls' and the projectile view of the camera allow players to give the appropriate after touch to their aim for added precision. Nariko also has this skill when throwing objects in the environment, including prone-bodies.

Although the game is exhilarating and will keep players interested with its characters, six chapters leave it very short-lived. While challenging, determined players can finish the game within six or seven hours, perhaps less.

There is a nice wealth of content to discover, such as added combat moves, concept art, interviews with developers and the extra difficult hell mode.

Heavenly Sword is a grand showcase of the PS3's power. Much detail went into crafting the characters that inhabit the cinema-influenced landscape.

Whether its facial expressions, waterfalls or Nariko's flowing hair, the game spares no expense in visual presentation.

Much of the beauty of it is watching the action as Nariko dispatches foe after foe with grace, fluidity and pain.

The sounds and music of the game contribute to the visual flair. Adding further to the experience is superb scripting of the story and acting that bring the characters to life. Andy Serkis (Gollum of the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy) in the role of King Bohan, in particular, is a sight to behold.

Heavenly Sword is meant to be savored for every moment and shows that short stories can captivate as much as an expansive epic.

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Volleyball continues winning ways in dominating fashion

VOLLEYBALL, page 12

always find something that their team can improve on and that's the way I am," Tomic said. "Looking at our winning streak, I think it is nice but the main thing for us is to not focus on records. We need to focus on every match that we play everyday and treat it as the most important match of the season. So far we have been doing that and that's why we are in a good place in the standings."

For Tomic, the 50th win is the latest on the long list of accolades she has received in her coaching career. Two years ago, in her debut season, she led the Golden

Panthers to a 12-win turn around and a No. 6 seed in the SBC tournament.

Last year, she pushed the young team to the brink of success - leading them to a 24-8 regular season, a share of the Sun Belt title with Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky and an appearance in the conference tournament's championship game.

Despite falling short at the end of the season, everyone took note of Tomic and she was named the Sun Belt Conference Coach of The Year.

Thirteen games into this season her team is sitting atop the SBC East Division standings.

Midway through season, team still looking for offense

SOCCER, page 12

For an offense to gel together, the whole offense needs to understand each other. Besides Guerra and Coleman, there has not been another team member who has exhibited consistent team chemistry.

Guerra is the best ball handler on the team and he breaks down defenses better than any one. However, teams have taken note of this and have begun to double-team him. When he is double-teamed, other players should come help him and make themselves available to receive the ball. Instead, they have left him out to dry too many times this season.

Scoring chances for the men's club have not been excessive, but there have been enough to score more than the four total goals scored this year, the fifth was an own goal by the University of Connecticut.

Two glaring, constant mistakes have ruined scoring opportunities for the offense: hesitation and poor decision-making.

The majority of offensive plays near the penalty box involve a player dribbling towards the goal only to stop briefly, looking for other teammates rather than taking the initiative and shooting. That brief pause allows the

lagging defenders to catch up and block off the Golden Panther attack.

The same moments of hesitation also allow the goalie to charge the offensive player and grab the ball.

There's a time to shoot long range and short range. The Golden Panthers have yet to figure out when is the right time to shoot either.

Ill-advised shots from more than 30 yards out have not produced one goal thus far this season. But they have led to soccer balls landing near the Pharmed Arena or the baseball stadium.

Conversely, there have been several plays in which a player is inside the penalty box and refuses to shoot in time. The Golden Panthers either pull the trigger too soon or never take the pin off the grenade.

Nine games mark the mid-way point of the regular season. Considering they have not won, the regular season is probably as far as they'll go 2007. The change in head coaches from Karl Krenser to Eketebi has been rough so far.

The mild-mannered Eketebi does not show much emotion on the field, but there is no way he could be happy with his team's offense and overall record.

Only one more question can be asked about the men's soccer team: "When does next season start?"

ROSA HONORED



ADAM BARKAN/THE BEACON

RISING STAR: Sophomore outside hitter Yarimar Rosa, the preseason Sun Belt Player of the Year, added to her growing list of accolades by being selected as the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week for the week ending on Sept. 30.

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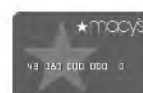
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FALLING BEHIND



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

OVERWHELMED: Junior forward Levi Coleman, sophomore forward Christian Caporaletti and sophomore midfielder Juan Guerra have all been smothered and bullied by defenders.

Conditioning, chemistry to blame for men's soccer slow start



Commentary
Sergio Bonilla
Sports Editor

"Where's the beef?" asked the little old lady from the Wendy's advertisement made famous during the 1980s. Now, FIU men's soccer fans might find themselves asking, "Where's the offense?" Five goals in the first nine games of the season have resulted in zero wins for the offensively challenged men's squad. The team's record is 0-7-2 through

those nine games. The defense has kept the team in most games, averaging 1.8 goals allowed per game. But lack of conditioning, disoriented team chemistry and the inability to finish have fused to kill the Golden Panthers' offense. At the start of the season, the players looked out of shape. Coach Munga Eketebi made several substitutions early because of his players' fatigue. This resulted in less scoring opportunities and a disadvantage in time of possession. Opposing defenders had no trouble tackling and stripping the ball from the slow Golden Panther midfielders and forwards.

Their stamina improved after a few games, but the rust wouldn't rub off as their lack of communication led to several spoiled scoring chances, causing crosses out of players' reach and

passes to opposing defenders. On several occasions, a player passed the ball to absolutely no one, hoping that a teammate was going to appear. Plays like that always ended

with a loss of possession rather than a scoring attack. The best offensive game of the season so far was against Illinois-Chicago in which midfielder Juan Guerra scored two goals with the help of forward Levi Coleman. For a two-game stretch, Guerra and Coleman showed signs of life for the Golden Panthers' offense, but Coleman's playing time was cut down significantly because of an injury he sustained against Marshall. Guerra was overwhelmed in that game by numerous defenders.

“ The defense has kept the team in most games, averaging 1.8 goals allowed per game. But lack of fitness, disoriented team chemistry and the inability to finish have fused together to kill the Golden Panthers' offense. ”

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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Tomic reaches milestone with win

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

Danijela Tomic, the brains behind the Sun Belt Conference powerhouse that is the Golden Panthers women's volleyball team, picked up her 50th career victory in a win over conference foe Florida Atlantic Oct. 2 at Pharmed Arena. The Golden Panthers cruised to a dominant 3-0 (30-20, 30-23, 30-22) win, giving Tomic's resume a slight facelift in the process. In just 73 games Tomic hit the coveted 50 win mark, making her the fastest Golden Panther volleyball coach to ever achieve such a feat. Dr. Judith Blucker, the program's first coach, had the previous record as she made it to 50 wins in 93 matches in 1975. After the game, the always humble Tomic down played her

achievement. "I am happy and I am humbled," Tomic said. "I don't do my job to break records or to put my name in the record books. I am just trying to coach these kids and make a difference and I think that when you do things the right way, the results will come." Understandably overshadowed by Tomic's milestone was an excellent overall performance by the Golden Panthers. Sophomore All-American Yarimar Rosa continued to impress as she delivered a match-high 14 kills on a .360 hitting clip. The second half of the team's 1-2 punch, sophomore Olga Vergun, had 12 kills, and senior Anita Szmanska had 11 kills on a scorching .786 clip. Freshman setter Natalia Valentin continued to get more comfortable orchestrating the Golden Panther offense as she

posted her fourth double-double of the season with a match-high 46 assists to go along with 10 digs. Freshman power hitter Ines Medved added eight kills in the victory. The win was the ninth in a row for the Golden Panthers, who maintained their perfect SBC record at 6-0 and improved to a 11-2 on the season overall. Meanwhile, the Owls seem to still be asleep so far this season. The loss dropped them four games below the .500 mark at 6-10 and dropped them to 3-3 in the SBC. Despite the win streak, Tomic says there is always room for improvement and wants the team to stay focused. "I am pleased with the progress we are making in different areas, but most coaches will



FILE PHOTO/THE BEACON

COACHING TIPS: Sophomore outside hitter Yarimar Rosa discusses strategy with head coach Danijela Tomic.

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