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## SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Club promotes support to the LGBT community, and will host events celebrating gay pride.

OPINION PAGE 4

Cabralitics: SGC-MMC harvests progress through Facebook applications.

OPINION PAGE 4

Young adults consume at an alarming rate – which puts their education at odds.

LIFE! PAGE 5

Food for Thought: SpecialTea Lounge features inexpensive food, good service, but far from perfect.

LIFE! PAGE 6



Cross dressing entertainers find beauty in both gender roles.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Freshman duo steps up in Yarimar Rosa's absence. Rosa returns to action this weekend.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Yarimar Rosa had her stitches removed and is ready to play.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jose Lopez and Laura Wilcox Chamber Players Recital, Sept. 25, 8 p.m. See this dynamic duo play at the WPAC Concert Hall in a free performance.

Audience Pick SPC movie, Sept. 25, 5 & 8 p.m. Come watch the weekly SPC screening in GC 140. This week is audiences' pick and the feature movie is *Indiana Jones: The Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

FIU vs. Toledo football, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. Watch this action-packed football game; students are free and general admission tickets are \$24/sideline, \$15/End Zone.

## WEATHER



**FRIDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 80 HIGH: 88



**SATURDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 78 HIGH: 89



**SUNDAY**  
Partly cloudy  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 89

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## FOOTBALL

# Team looks for first win versus familiar rival

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

When FIU played Toledo during the fourth contest of the 2008 season, they came away with their first Football Bowl Subdivision victory ever against an out of conference opponent.

On Sept. 26 at FIU Stadium, the Golden Panthers will look for their second.

The Golden Panthers (0-2) will host the Rockets (1-2), who are coming off a 38-0 loss to No. 11 Ohio State on Sept. 19. Even with the lopsided loss, Toledo is ranked No. 23 in the country in total offense (442.3) and is averaging 28.3 points per game. FIU will have to build off of a strong defensive performance at Rutgers to hold off Toledo's firepower.

"They're very much

in transition with a new coaching staff and they are playing phenomenal football," Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal said of the Rockets. "They are extremely big and athletic at wide receiver. [Stephen Williams] had 15 receptions against Purdue. Extremely capable on offense."

Cristobal said Toledo is different in many ways from last season, however, in part because new Toledo head coach Tim Beckman was one of the best defensive coordinators in the nation for Oklahoma State for the last two seasons.

## DEFENSIVE TEST

Toledo features a strong aerial attack led by senior quarterback Aaron Opelt. The veteran signal caller has tossed for 939 yards and seven touchdowns in just

# Environment track a new alternative

**PHILIPPE BUTEAU**  
Staff Writer

The University's environmental push continues with the opening of the School of Environment and Society.

The SEAS, founded in the beginning of the Fall semester as part of the College of Arts and Sciences, came from the college's desire to put together like-minded faculty to increase opportunities for faculty and students to participate in environmental projects, according to Michael Heithaus, director of SEAS and associate professor of biological sciences.

"The faculty and the dean's office have been thinking about how to highlight our strengths in environmental issues for a lot of years," Heithaus said.

The idea for the SEAS came from Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts

and Sciences, according to Suzanna Rose, senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"He had the idea to build around environmental issues because the University has a very strong marine science program," Rose said.

The idea had been worked on since Furton came to the University three years ago, and now was the right time to have everything come together into a single school, Heithaus said.

"We already have a great faculty dealing with environmental issues, from the social and natural sciences to the humanities, so one of the things the school does is that it brings these great faculty and programs together, and helps package them and let people know what we do," Heithaus said.

SEAS, page 3

## GET READY!



RICK MARTINEZ/FILE PHOTO

**HOME OPENER:** Students can get in by presenting their Panther ID and can take one friend. The game starts at 7 p.m., there will be tailgating at the northwest corner of the stadium. Drinks are allowed only for those of age. Entrance for students is at Gate 6.

three games. Opelt's main target is Williams, a 6-foot-5 All-American candidate. Freshman Eric Page has burst onto the scene as a weapon for the Rockets as well, and leads the team with 21 receptions.

Among Toledo's slew of offensive weapons is running

back DaJuane Collins, who has 209 rushing yards on the season. The Golden Panthers have allowed 435 rushing yards through two games.

During last year's 35-16 win for FIU, the Rockets were able to accumulate 302 offensive yards, but the Golden Panthers forced

five turnovers and found success on the ground with 141 rushing yards. FIU took advantage and scored every time they were in the red zone that game.

FIU will need the running game that is ranked 119 out of

FOOTBALL, page 7

# New club helps children

## Initiative launches

# UNICEF on campus

**LAEBONY LIVINGSTON**  
Contributing Writer

If it were not for donations from the United Nations Children's Fund, FIU student Laura Florez would not have had the means to go to school and might not have been able to receive a college degree.

When Florez, a senior majoring in biology, was a child in Colombia, she received school supplies from UNICEF, which was very involved in her hometown.

When she moved to the United States, she began to give back by volunteering with UNICEF and eventually learned about the Campus Initiative.

The first program of its kind in the state of Florida, Campus Initiative has come

to FIU. It is a branch of UNICEF that was founded on the belief that college students have a role in helping distressed children survive.

"I believe that children are our future and many organizations deal with adult issues," Florez said. "But the goal of UNICEF is to help children succeed in life."

The initiative came to be when several FIU students with a history of working with UNICEF decided that the diverse city of Miami could use such an organization.

Florez is the first president of UNICEF at FIU and, along with the vice president, Annabel Pino, approached the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program Coordinator Aileen Landry

with the idea of starting such a program on campus.

Landry agreed to become the organization's advisor. With a child of her own, she understood how important the organization can be in any child's life.

In a matter of months, Florez and Pino were able to complete the requirements to make UNICEF at FIU an official school organization and recognized partner of UNICEF.

The functions of the Campus Initiative are to educate, advocate and raise funds through community events.

UNICEF at FIU will be hosting lectures on women's rights, advocating through letter-writing campaigns and a community newsletter, and concluding with several fundraising events throughout the semester.

Although still a young campus organization,

UNICEF, page 2

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

**Another culprit involved in Palm Beach Zoo theft arrested**

Another teen has been arrested in association with an animal theft at the Palm Beach Zoo.

According to WPLG, 18-year-old Jonathan Lopez was arrested on Sept. 24 for stealing four monkeys and one bird. Police believe his intention was to sell the animals on the black market.

He faces charges on grand theft, burglary and cruelty to animals.

On Sept. 11, his accomplice, 17-year-old Sean Patrick Harrison, was arrested and charged with grand theft and burglary.

**Man confesses the devil made him kill his family, wants death sentence**

The man who fled to Haiti after he was charged with killing his wife and five children has confessed his motive.

According to WPLG, Messac Damas told Collier County Police that he believes the devil made him kill his family and he intended to turn himself in.

Damas told officials that he wants death "right away" and hopes the jury will deliver a death sentence.

NATIONAL

**Sheriffs caught playing Wii at drug dealer's house**

The Polk County Sheriff's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force was caught on camera playing videogames at a crime scene.

After the HIDTA team entered the house of Michael Difalco, a convicted drug dealer in the area, police officers discovered a Nintendo Wii game and a big screen TV and began to play. The officers, however, did not notice the hidden camera filming them.

"Certainly this was a case of bad judgment," said Auburndale Police Chief Nolan McLeod in an interview with *The Tampa Tribune*. "We will handle it appropriately."

-Compiled by Jorge Valens

# Campaign strives to relieve stress

**ALEXANDER MILLER**  
Contributing Writer

FIU students hit the streets of Miami along with other volunteers to get people involved in Smile Miami, a violence-free, stress-free campaign.

The goal of Smile Miami, which began in Washington, D.C. last June, is to get citizens of Miami to relieve stress by smiling. Volunteers canvassed the city, encouraging citizens to smile and taking their picture for a Web site, [www.takeabreathmiami.org](http://www.takeabreathmiami.org).

The campaign is part of the larger non-violent, stress-free campaign Take A Breath Miami. Pictures of people smiling can be found on the campaign's site.

The Smile Miami campaign, in association with the Art of Living Foundation and the FIU Yoga Club, serves to mark the beginning of the Yoga Empowerment Service Plus program, a six-day workshop for students and others to

get involved and manage stress as part of a way to enhance people's lifestyle.

YES Plus instructor Natalia Stefanova said that the backbone of the workshop revolves around a breathing technique known as Sundarshan Kriya. Learning the technique encompasses the six-day event and can be done every morning.

"The program is very practical and students get better grades, more sleep and less stress, and other universities such as Cornell, Stanford and Harvard have all made yoga a part of their curricula," Stefanova said.

She also said students participate "in processes and games that help them with leadership, relationships and communication."

She said that various high schools also want to incorporate this in to their learning programs.

Local yoga instructor Amanda Williams, who also assists with FIU Yoga Club

**It helps students blossom into their true self and encourages them to ... put their values into perspective.**

Amanda Williams, yoga instructor  
FIU Yoga Club

and is involved with YES Plus, said the program "offers many techniques that increase immune function, quality of sleep, alertness and listening skills."

"The workshop is very interactive and it is a bonding experience," Williams said. "It helps students blossom into their true self and encourages them to get involved in their community and put their values into perspective."

The Art of Living Foundation is an international non-profit organization responsible for the inspiration behind the Smile Miami campaign.

The foundation was inspired by programs of humanitarian Sri Sri Ravi Shankar beginning in 1982. It participates in numerous

educational and humanitarian programs that uplift people and inspire global change.

Another YES Plus instructor, Richa Bhatnagar, a 22-year-old recent graduate of Brown University, explains her experience with the YES Plus program and the Smile Miami campaign.

"I was more focused and I felt like I had a better handle on all of the things I was involved in and to accomplish all of the things in a given day. I was also more relaxed and happier in general," Bhatnagar said.

The next YES Plus workshop will take place from Oct. 20-25 and students can receive more information at the FIU Yoga Club Web site at [www.fyuyogaclub.com](http://www.fyuyogaclub.com).

# Students to raise funds for children's cause

**UNICEF, page 1**

UNICEF at FIU is growing: Starting out with 22 students, including the members of the organization's executive board, they were able to sign up to 65 people at their organization's colorful table during the Club Fair between Sept. 1-4 at the Modesto Maidique Campus.

The first general meeting saw a turnout of more than 25 students and the executive board hopes to bring in more students as the year progresses.

The only requirement to join the organization, according to Florez, is a "genuine interest in helping the cause, along with spreading the word and education."

Landry would like to see the organization "start a legacy," and she waits to see what new members can do with the opportunities they have been given.

"I have full faith they are going to do great things," Landry said.

For their first semester, UNICEF is planning community events in order to spread the word and begin their fundraising goals.

One such event is "Spooktacular" on Oct. 31 for children to participate in Halloween activities and donate food and a dollar for the cause and other humanitarian causes on campus.

"We need other clubs to get in touch with us if they would like to participate

and have a table with members and activities for kids to enjoy a safe Halloween," Florez said.

Members of the organization said that donators will be able to see what impact their donations will have on children all over the world.

Some ideas are to have UNICEF at FIU adopt a child in another country so that donators could really see that the proceeds made at the University will go toward that child's upkeep.

The next organization meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. in GC 305.

For more information contact [unicef.fiu@gmail.com](mailto:unicef.fiu@gmail.com).

## THE BEACON

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## CORNER KICK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**GOAL!** Freshman David Williams, business major, takes some time off from school-work to play soccer between Lakeview North and University Towers on Sept. 23.

## Club supports sexual diversity

### Events to celebrate gay pride with guest speakers, games

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Contributing Writer

There's a place on campus for girls who like girls and boys who like boys, and for those who support them.

Stonewall 2 BBC, or S2B, a student organization at the Biscayne Bay Campus that supports the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, is speaking out about the issues their community faces.

"The goal is to raise more awareness for people to understand that it's a part of everyday life, and provide a safe place for people with the same mindset to just hang out without any pressures," said Daniel Anzueto, club president and a senior psychology major.

The club will host "Gay Day on the Bay," a kickoff barbecue that is open to all students and will take place Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Activities include football, a water balloon fight and Twister.

To celebrate "National Coming Out Day" on Oct. 11, the club is also planning on hosting a variety of activities throughout the day on Oct. 7, featuring tables with representatives from local organizations, such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Aqua Foundation for Women, Equality Florida, Pridelines Youth Services, YES Institute, and SAVE Dade.

The club will also read and share coming-out stories, host a Gay Bingo, and hopes to bring a drag queen performance to the event.

The majority of the events will take place in Panther Square, but there will be a guest speaker, former North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns, at 12:30 p.m. in WUC 159.

The club also promotes a "Day of Silence" in the spring, when GLBT activists and allies wear red shirts and don't speak for the entire day to bring attention to anti-GLBT sentiment.

With 20 to 30 current members,

the club isn't limited to just the GLBT community. Straight members who are supportive of the GLBT community are also part of S2B.

Its members aim to provide a venue for people to openly ask questions, share who they are and encourage people to come out. It is a place for the GLBT students and their allies to make others more aware through educational and social programs.

"The club offers an opportunity for students to recognize the silenced voices of the GLBT community," said Vicky Owles, associate director of Campus Life and Orientation.

Owles has served as advisor for S2B since it started, and this is her third semester teaching GLBT in America, a class that educates students about gay issues and promotes understanding. The class is almost at full capacity, which is a sign that tolerance and acceptance has increased over the past few years, according to Owles.

The original Stonewall disintegrated at BBC more than five years ago, and Anzueto re-established it as Stonewall 2 BBC as a freshman three years ago. Part of the club's name, Stonewall, is the name of a gay bar in New York City where riots took place in reaction to police officers violently raiding the bar. These demonstrations marked the beginning of the gay rights movements of the '60s and '70s.

"I think it's great that the GLBT community has a place for support and that the club is promoting an understanding of its community," said Brianna Bellantoni, a senior journalism major.

Anzueto and Owles believe that the majority of the University population is accepting of the GLBT community because of the diversity in South Florida.

## MAKE A MOVE



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

**IT TAKES TWO:** Oscar Caballero and Effy Pollzogoparlos from the Tango Times Dance Company show students a tango dance in Panther Square, part of SPC-BBC's Affair of the Arts week on Sept. 23.

"The perception of the GLBT community has changed for the better," said Anzueto. "At first, people were shocked at our events, and now we're not just 'that gay group.'"

There are still some students who don't feel they have a place on campus, according to Owles. "But society has been changing, and it's a much better place," she said.

Anzueto also helped introduced "Safe Zone" to the University, a nationally recognized program aimed at educating faculty and staff of universities about the GLBT lifestyle, and how to provide support when somebody feels they can't talk

to family or friends about their sexuality.

Anzueto is also currently working with the Women's Studies Center in developing a certificate program in queer studies.

Club members will meet Sept. 30 from noon to 1 p.m. in WUC 159, and everyone is welcome to attend.

"Our activities have helped to create a more open and accepting environment on campus where no one feels excluded," Anzueto said.

*For more information or to join the club, go to WUC 141, or e-mail stonewallbbc@gmail.com.*

## GAY PRIDE EVENTS

### General Meeting

Sept. 30 at 12 p.m. in WUC 159

### "Gay Day on the Bay"

Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### "National Coming Out Day"

Oct. 7, to take place in Panther Square.

There will be a guest speaker, former North Miami Mayor Kevin Burns, at 12:30 p.m. in WUC 159.

## New school focuses on studies of environment and society

### SEAS, page 1

BBC will be used to form the base of the school because of its location by the Biscayne Bay, according to Heithaus, who joined the University in 2003. But the SEAS will involve the entire University, not just one campus.

"I don't want people to get the feeling that this is just a Biscayne Bay school. It really is meant to integrate across the whole university," Heithaus said.

The focus of the school will be to understand how environmental systems work and how human relationships work with those systems. It will encompass natural sciences, earth sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, social sciences and humanities.

"One of the cool things about this school is that it's such a broad sweep that you can look at similar issues from lots of different angles," Heithaus said.

Although there isn't a specific curriculum set yet because the school has many components to it, according to Heithaus, students pursuing any of the existing degree programs in the College

of Arts and Sciences can have a concentration in environment and society. Students become part of the SEAS by taking environment and society-oriented classes.

Aside from these degrees, like bachelor's in English, international relations, liberal studies, marine biology and psychology, a bachelor's in environmental studies is being planned, along with more degrees for both undergraduate, graduate and Ph.D. students.

At the graduate level, there are master's degrees in creative writing and one in English, so students pursuing these degrees can also have a concentration in environment and society.

The classes that will be offered in the SEAS are the environmental courses that are currently offered within the department of natural sciences. Classes from the department of earth and environment, such as policy and environmental economics classes, will also be included in the school.

"At BBC, with the coastal initiative we've had for the last few years, there have been new classes for marine policy and literature of the sea, so we're going to see continued develop-

ment of new classes in some of these areas," Heithaus said.

The school will invest in video conferencing equipment so that courses, particularly at the graduate level, can be offered at both campuses, according to Rose. Classes would take place at BBC, but students who are based at the Modesto Maidique Campus would be able to participate in the classes from there. The SEAS staff expects students to gravitate toward being enrolled full-time at BBC if they wish to concentrate on environment and society.

Unlike other schools, students do not have to apply to the SEAS to become part of it, according to Heithaus. Students will be involved with the school by simply taking classes on environment and society.

The school will not hire new professors, because the SEAS classes are already existing classes. These professors, however, are trying to develop new angles to their courses, or potentially new courses that fit the theme of the SEAS, according to Heithaus.

"Hopefully as we go forward, we'll be able to hire new faculty that fit within this school,

and help to bridge across some of the strengths we already have and build links across departments," Heithaus said.

Although the SEAS has been officially created, there is no physical location for it yet. It is still in the organizational stage.

Rose said that although SEAS is a school, it is not quite the same as other schools that are currently at the University.

"SEAS is an umbrella for degrees that were plotted together thematically. At some point in the future, we will offer specific degrees for the school," Rose said.

However, students will be able to get bachelor's degrees in other areas and still be a part of the school.

"SEAS will enhance opportunities for everybody," Heithaus said.

Bismark Asante, a senior biology major, thinks the SEAS is a very good idea.

"Everything around us is biology, so if we understand our environment better, we'll know how to dispose of non-biodegradable substances," said Asante. "Anything that is environmentally related is good."

CABRALITICS

## SGC-MMC certainly toils — in the fields of Farmville

Student government had a farm. E-I-E-I ... O.

For the past weeks, the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus' Facebook page was filled with notifications relating to some of the council's most impressive accomplishments. These included several awards for stellar performance in the fields of "Farmville" and "Vampire Wars," two of the most realistic online simulations in the areas of agriculture and supernatural warfare, respectively.

COLUMNIST



CHRIS CABRAL

Ostensibly, created to notify students of important SGC-MMC events, achievements and position vacancies, the profile acted more as a vessel with which to play with these delicious and deadly Facebook applications

Sadly, after being notified by *The Beacon*, many of the posts preserving the memory of such actions were deleted. Apparently these operations were intended to be covert, so the evidence of their secret battles to protect FIU from vampires and virtual food shortages are now largely hidden to the public.

Thankfully, screenshots were taken to ensure that their heroic battles and harvests are not lost to history, we can still examine their activities in "Farmville" and "Vampire Wars." This is a good thing, for there is much to be gleaned from examining this information.

While SGC-MMC should be applauded for diligently fighting vampires, their conduct relating to this matter is alarming. For one thing, in late July, according to a recently deleted post, SGC-MMC "used their dark influence to dominate a mime." While mimes are no doubt a nuisance, that is no excuse for conjuring up dark influence to dominate them. Such actions are an abuse of power, and according to the SGA constitution, SGC-MMC has not been granted such evil abilities.

Moreover, SGC-MMC's health policies have been highly suspect. According to another post around this time, "SGC-MMC bathed in blood to replenish their health." While it is important for SGC-MMC to remain healthy, bathing in blood is a bad way to do so, and its health benefits did little for Elizabeth Bathory. Curiously, as of Sept. 21, this post was still online, perhaps as a warning to those who dare challenge SGC-MMC's supremacy over the realm of the undead.

Their Farmville accomplishments have been less unsettling. According to a recently deleted post, "SGC-MMC dug up some delicious truffles with the help of their pig in Farmville." This is certainly a laudable accomplishment, as truffles are a tasty treat for man and pig alike.

Yet whether SGC-MMC should be meddling in the affairs of Farmville is questionable. While it is good to know that SGC-MMC and its noble pig are toiling in the fields looking for foodstuffs, nowhere in the SGA constitution is SGC-MMC granted authority to encroach upon the sovereignty of "Farmville."

Some might think that the SGC-MMC Facebook page should be used solely to notify students of pending legislation, position openings and upcoming events. Thankfully, SGC-MMC Press Secretary Ben F. Badger knows better. He calls playing these games a "marketing tool." You've got to "play so your name is constantly out there." Thanks in part to his efforts, we can all rest easy knowing our student government is hard at work, dominating mimes with their dark influence.

## Young adults lose perspective in a world of debt Consumerism traps students

ROMNEY MANASSA  
Staff Writer

The recession has done much to highlight the dangers of financial extravagance, bringing to light the importance of prudence in a society of legendary overabundance. Most importantly, we're beginning to question our spendthrift habits, a contributing factor in the near collapse of the economy.

Numerous statistics have been thrown around about how we Americans are spending beyond our means, holding more in debt than in actual money: try about \$2.5 trillion in consumer debt as of last year according to *The Economist*.

Along with talk of having one of the world's highest obesity rates and a growing gap between rich and poor, one can certainly get the grim impression that we've crossed the line in terms of consumption.

All this holds particular significance to the students and youth of America. It should come to no surprise that younger people are the largest and most voracious consumers in the nation. We're the ones who embrace the Internet, engage in social networking, try out all the new gadgets and flock to movies in droves.

We drive the economy through our demand. Our consumption even defines this very era: the Information Age owes its prominence to our enthusiasm for new ideas and technology, and our tendency to spread them around like a wildfire.

Not surprisingly, we're the focus of many corporations and advertisers seeking to influence and tap into us as early as possible, so that we may carry on with spending for a lifetime.

As college students, we're walking a particularly shaky tight rope. With tuition rising, the struggle between material temptation and demanding education gets more precarious.

We can barely differentiate between luxuries and necessities or tell needs from wants. How many of us claim to be "broke" while maintaining the sort of lifestyle no truly impoverished person would know?

Suddenly, our standards of comfort become skewed; not being able to eat out every day or get the latest widget on the market leaves us feeling disenfranchised. We forget that the basic needs we take for granted — food, water, shelter — are luxuries to millions who can scarcely afford them, let alone anything unessential.

No other demographic has the opportunities we have. And no other can so tragically squander them as easily either. Indebted enough by the demands of an education, we're driving ourselves into the escapism and hedonism of a consumerist society. Educational attainment

was once something ascetic, achieved through hard work and diligence. Now the lure for things, brought on by credit and enticing mass commercialism, has left us unfocused.

A compilation of studies by Ben Woolsey and Matt Schulz gives a grim picture: 76 percent of undergraduates have credit cards, and are subsequently expected to amass almost \$20,000 in debt by the time they graduate. Half of all undergraduates have a whopping four or more credit

cards, a percentage that is increasing each year. And nearly 20 percent of all 18 to 24-year-olds are in debt. Young adults have the second-highest rate of bankruptcy after middle-aged groups.

But none of this needs to be a bad thing. After all, what's wrong with a little bit of convenience to help make our stressful, studious lives more comfortable? Nothing at

all, if we show a measured restraint in our spending habits.

Without a doubt, we need to scale back our love of things and the culture of material dependence that has us more burdened than ever. It all comes down to us; spending is a product of our actions, dictated by our willpower and nothing else. We have to merely let go and look at the bigger picture. Yes, it's easier said than done, but it's also easier done than paying back debts for the rest of our lives.

**As costs are rising, like tuition, the struggle between material temptation and demanding education is becoming even more precarious.**

## Glenn Beck has right to be seen by everyone

CHRISTIAN BAUMAN  
Contributing Writer

Protests swam through the Washington streets on Sept. 12. The protests were not to commemorate the eighth anniversary of the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of Americans, but rather to spawn a political movement. Fox News talk show host Glenn Beck gave a name to this movement: the 9-12 Project.

The objective: "Bring us all back to the place we were on Sept. 12, 2001 — the day after America was attacked. Then, we were not obsessed with Red States, Blue States or political persuasions. We were united as Americans, standing together to protect values and principles of the greatest nation ever created," according to the movement's Web site.

Beck shows no intention of joking. For America, Sept. 12, 2001 was a very difficult time to be a citizen. But parties were

put aside because the heart of our nation beat and bled with hurt, sorrow, anger — and worst of all, fear. I take pride in how far we've come eight years after the tragedy, especially in regard to the fear of flight and relations with Muslims here in America.

To me, the 9-12 Project is an attempt to create a label for the disorganized Obama protests.

Those inspired by Beck's 5 p.m. broadcast stormed the streets of our nation's capital in support of their host, protesting with fists closing and an American flag waving in the Washington winds.

However the protests were not to end any war, not to make any new policies, not for any civil rights, but to voice disdain for President Obama.

The demands of the 9-12 protesters were unclear. They became merely voices demanding a president's impeachment. They carried hand-crafted signs while crying against a communist

conspiracy, and an epic game including dozens of "Obama" jokes replacing "Yo Mama" jokes.

They called him a fascist and then a socialist. An atheist and then a satanist. A bleeding heart liberal and then an uncompassionate killer of grandmothers.

But there is another demographic for Beck's program: those who watch the 2 a.m. broadcast, like my hippie friend Chase. Beck is now his late night fix.

When I first heard that he enjoyed watching Beck I wondered how.

"Sober?" I asked.

"No way. Less sober the better, man. It just happened one night after a grueling battle of wine pong, I tuned in. He's funnier than Jimmy Fallon."

Chase understands that some may find it weird how he kicks a smile when Beck's emotions arrive at an ultra-patriotic climax or when he calls his followers to preserve a

pious union. But to Chase, there is nothing wrong with watching something on television to only be entertained.

"Did you know some of these people call themselves 'teabaggers'?" Chase continued. "They have no idea what's wrong with that, they're more afraid of President Obama being on television."

At the end of the broadcast it all comes full-circle. The protesters walk through Washington with waving signs and cries of being oppressed. The 5 p.m. viewers voice their fear of an America losing its direction, its identity — its freedom.

And then my friend Chase tunes in at 2 a.m. for a good laugh. Chase — anyone — has the freedom to tune in or not.

I think if we were to ask our Founding Fathers, they'd say it's free speech at its finest. Beck is counter-culture's counter-culture. The protesters want the change to change: so let them try.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

WINNER/LOSER



A jogger was given a warning in Switzerland after jogging naked through the streets of Thurgau. The runner told police that nudity allowed his skin to absorb more oxygen. The man did wear socks, or at least a sock.



A Boston EMT was accused of shooting two brothers. The EMT immediately grabbed his first aid kit to help treat the victims. The Massachusetts Office of Emergency Medical Services denied marksmanship as part of their training program.

OPINIONPIECE

75

The percentage of Americans that believe America is becoming more rude and less civilized.

QUOTATIONATION

"We will endeavour to cut carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by a notable margin by 2020 from the 2005 level."

Hu Jintao  
China's president

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# Local cafe's organic offerings won't break the bank

SpecialTea Lounge, located at 10766 Coral Way, has set up shop to make its mark in the world of café spots.

The neutral, pan-Asian, minimalist atmosphere of the restaurant is indicative of its relaxed cuisine but, unfortunately, carries over to its lack of seating options of two couch nooks with coffee tables and four two-seat tables.

The lounge tries its hand at 21st century menu display with their offerings being displayed on a plasma screen television but the location of the menu – right next to the door – could make it a possible crowd control hazard.

Furthermore, the constantly flickering screen and periodic ad interruption makes it somewhat difficult to choose a menu selection and retain the order mentally on the way to the register.

On a positive note, the interactive magnetic display of teas do offer the unique experience of seeing and smelling them before making a final decision.

Although a staff of one individual would be a frightening thought, the lone cashier was prompt, personable and maintained a pleasant attitude.

SpecialTea continues to make up

for what they've lost in aesthetics in the quality of their food, especially in their area of expertise. One tea variety that stands out is the Acerola Barbados Cherry, whose vivid red hue matches up with its robust, tart flavor. For those looking for a lighter tea, the Asian Pear tea is one to consider.

Coffee and espresso drinks are also available, which are touted as "fair trade" and organic. Although the coffee was bitter for my taste, it would appeal to one with a stronger palate.

If a hot beverage is not on the agenda, there are iced fruit, herbal, honeybush and rooibos tea varieties.

They also have cold frappe drinks that are based off of various sweet treats such as 'smores, cookies and candy bars. The chocolate cake batter frappe is a notable variety that could also suffice as a post-meal dessert. As of now, the only soda available is chilled Coca Cola served in a classic glass bottle.

Speaking of meals, the offerings are based off of five basic varieties that can each be prepared in three ways: a pressed wrap, a grilled panini and a salad.

Out of the ones I tried, the one that stood out the most was the Caribbean Mango Chicken Panini. The chicken was lightly seasoned with spicy Jamaican jerk seasoning which pleasantly contrasted with the sweet mango salsa topping.

Others that deserve an honorable mention are the I Heart New York wrap and the Ay Chihuahua Panini.

The I Heart New York wrap combined peppery turkey pastrami with creamy provolone, crunchy bacon and smoky, grain-riddled Dijon mustard for a highly savory experience.

The Ay Chihuahua Panini was a *tour de force* of chipotle-infused mayo with juicy chicken breast and fresh black and white bean salsa accented with corn.

One that I didn't fall in love with was the Tour of Italy wrap. The saltiness of the salami and the olive tapenade was overwhelming. Perhaps this would have been better suited for a salad, not for a warm sandwich. They also have the Olive You, a vegetarian option accented with mozzarella cheese, baby greens and tomatoes.

The pricing at SpecialTea Lounge is a pleasant surprise. Dishes that go for much more elsewhere can be had here for under \$10 and the beverage options can be had for well under \$5.

SpecialTea Lounge is now developing additional offerings including pastries, sweet paninis and cookies. If my experience is indicative of any later developments, then I am eager to see what they come up with next.

*Food for Thought is a weekly column reviewing local eateries. Beacon writers do not receive*



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

**OUT OF THE ORDINARY:** SpecialTea's tropically-influenced Caribbean Mango Chicken Wrap with an iced Assam Boisahabi Malty Tea.

free food or services in exchange expressed in this column solely for positive reviews. The views represent those of the author.

## IS IT WORTH IT?

# '80s action movie classic inspires future generations of film

DAVID BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

Believe it or not, there was once a time when the Indiana Jones franchise was Shia LaBeouf-free. When *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* was released last summer, I felt a pang of anger and disappointment.

Anger at executive producer George Lucas and director Steven Spielberg for losing sight of the roots of the series and disappointing new members of the audience; people who had never seen an Indiana Jones film or hadn't grown up with the films on syndication.

The wonderful thing about our day and age is that regardless of how awry a franchise may go, you can always go back to the well or your local Best Buy and see what all the hubbub was about. Or, you could go down to the Student Programming Council's screening of the film

There's a reason why there have been three sequels to 1980's *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

*Raiders* is easily one of the greatest action films of all time. Recounting the plot almost seems foolish, but this reviewer will take a shot at it.

Henry "Indiana" Jones, played by Harrison Ford in a career-defining role, is an archeologist and university professor who has a knack for getting himself in bad scrapes – like the time he went to South America to retrieve a golden

idol only to be chased by a large boulder and a tribe of natives. Jones is enlisted by the United States government to recover the Ark of the Covenant.

Of course, the ark is what Hitchcock would call the *macguffin*. It is not an integral part of the plot but fuels the entire motives of the characters. It's established early in the film that

“Many action films have robbed from this movie: the global trek, the dozens of close calls, the brutal fight, the over-the-top chase...”

whoever has control of the ark can control the world, and Indy just can't let the Nazi's have their way.

Jones goes on a global trek for the ark, with his former lover in tow, Marian Ravenwood (Karen Allen).

Many action films have robbed from this movie: the global trek, the dozens of close calls, the brutal fight, the over-the-top chase – *Tomb Raider*, *Romancing the Stone*, *Firewalker*,

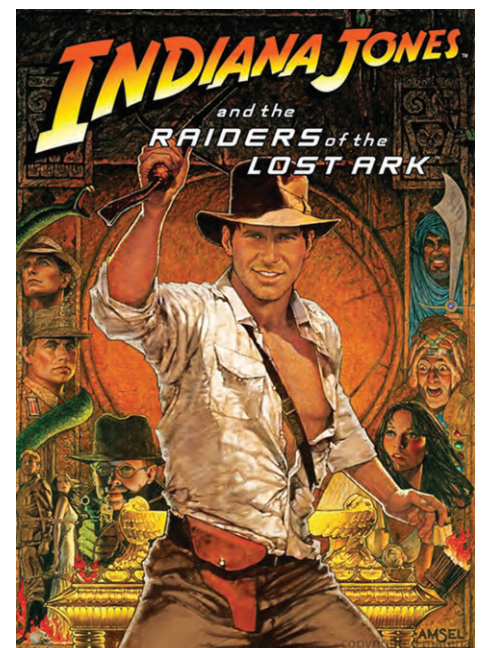
*Pirates of the Caribbean*. It may not seem groundbreaking or original now, but this film is still a cornerstone.

Spielberg and Lucas, inspired from Saturday morning serial cartoons such as Flash Gordon, served a tribute to their childhoods while making one of the first great blockbusters of the 1980's.

You know the hat and the whip and the

stubble. Ford created a character with a mix of Han Solo from *Star Wars* (also played by Ford) and Fred C. Dobbs played by Humphrey Bogart in *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. He's a tired man and world weary but a man of action, with the pursuit of history on one hand and the pursuit of fortune on the other.

The chemistry between Ford and Karen Allen is palpable. They feed off each other. And, of course, Spielberg's direction is fast-paced but



knows where to hit its marks. He knows when to take a respite from the pursuit and develop its characters and when to push forward. Spielberg and cinematographer Douglas Slocombe create a very visceral film with grit and excitement.

Watching it again, it fits like an old glove, or an old fedora. I emphatically recommend this film.

*"Is It Worth It?" is a weekly feature rating the relative quality of films screened by SPC.*

# Dedicated fans more likely to enjoy Brand New's darkest album to date

**DIANA GALBAN**  
Staff Writer

Something about Brand New's music makes you feel so helpless, like a child with no hand to hold onto while crossing the street.

The Long Island group's music has always been dark, from their punk beginnings with *Your Favorite Weapon* to their most complex and obscure record up to now, *The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me*.

Three years from that release, the dark cloud that floats above their heads has gotten darker, resulting in their latest effort, *Daisy*.

Originally named *And One Head Can Never Die* – a much more appropriate title – *Daisy* is not a far stretch from the sound Brand New have developed with their recent records.

For those unfamiliar with their work, however, this new album may seem way too loud, insane, sloppy and unwelcoming.

"Vices" is the opening track, starts off as a sort of golden-age-Hollywood ballad performed by a woman and a piano before being jarringly interrupted by frantic screaming and loud feedback a minute and a half into the song.

"Bed" follows with the worst transition I've heard in a while, and is very out of character for Brand New.

The single "At the Bottom" transitions smoothly with a dramatic intro and is reminiscent of the days when you sang Modest Mouse's "Float On" in your car.

"Gasoline" is the fourth track, which debuted acoustically during a solo show in Seattle a couple months back.

The mixed and produced version is much more chaotic and hysteric. "You Stole" follows as a breath of fresh air to the previous emotionally heavy tracks so far, it contains all the themes of this record, but in moderation.

A minute and a half interlude follows with Twiny guitar riffs, clapping and less

electronic and static elements.

"Sink" ends the more unapproachable portion of the record.

This particular track includes every signature trait of Brand New, as well as everything good about *The Devil And God*: the abrupt ending, Roky Erikson-inspired Satan references, and the schizophrenic struggle between good and evil, melody and noise.

The next four tracks may as well stand by themselves as they lead perfectly into each other. "Bought a Bride," (unofficially titled by fans as "Bride," "Trees" and "Brick House") "Daisy," "In a Jar," "Noro," and "Handcuffs."

This is probably due to guitarist Vin Accardi's lyrical contribution to most of this record and the fact that he was the sole author of TDAG's "Handcuffs."

At first, and for those not accustomed to their newer albums, *Daisy*'s main flaw seems to be its difficult transitions.

But by the end of the 40 minutes, it's obvious that for the most part this transition problem is no flaw at all, but quite premeditated as the last track impeccably loops into the first, making it a closed circle of beautiful madness.

This record is definitely harder to get acquainted with than their earlier material, but if you know Brand New at all, you know you'll have the next three years while they make their next one to get used to it.



## NEON NIGHTS

# Drag queens break down traditional views on gender

Driving down South Beach, those towers of color and grandeur used to make me nervous – the drag queens I mean, not the high-rise condos. Seeing them in women's clothes and knee-high boots as they entertained bar patrons would fill me with a mix of anxiety and guilt: I felt bad if I stared but I couldn't relax unless I could make sense of what I saw.

Why would a man put on a dress?

Drag queens must have the amazing power to sense fear or anxiety. It's as if years of growing up feeling like an outsider could grant one with incredible powers once one is able to be free from social constraints and don a pink wig. My first experiences with drag queens almost always started like this: they spotted me staring in disbelief and caught me trying to look away when they made eye contact. Bad move.

"Hey little twink in the purple shirt, come here!"

That was me. Twink is gay slang for any boyish-looking young man. It's not exactly what I like to be called, but I'll enjoy references to my youth while I still get them.

"Come up here baby, don't think I don't see you *papi!*"

Whether they are bringing you up on stage to enter a booty dance contest where there is no prize for first place, or just to crack a few jokes and possibly get you to show off your abs, drag queens are masters of the stage. Sociologists and experts in queer theory have argued that gender in all social settings is simply a performance.

When you get up in the morning, dressing up in the "appropriate" gender uniform is no different than an actor backstage getting ready for a scene.

The drag queens at Voodoo Lounge, located on 111 S.W. 2nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, have taken this concept and made Sunday nights the home for their weekly drag

show, "Life's a Drag." This weekly show is a collection of some of the most talented drag performance artists you will find under one roof in South Florida. Daisy Deadpetals is the hostess with the grossest jokes, and when I saw her on stage a few years ago at the now defunct Coliseum nightclub, she was the first drag queen to make me see that their only intention is to show us a good time.

TP Lords is another famous drag queen who performs at Voodoo Lounge but her act relies more on having the stage presence of a dragon and lip-synching to intense choreography with her muscled troupe of backup dancers. Her outfits are usually a dazzling avant-garde toss-up of 80's day-glo and punk, and she's not afraid to go wigless.

My sister once approached her to shower her with compliments, to which she gracefully replied, "Darling, it's beautiful women like you that inspire us to be the way we are."

It's clear to me now that drag queens do not simply try to become femininity – they incorporate it. By accepting the beauty in both genders, and in all its forms, drag queens transcend those rigid rules that keep us from wearing and becoming what we really are.

I'm reminded of a powerful scene in the movie *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything*. Ms. Vida Boheme, Patrick Swayze's most fabulous role, approaches Carol Ann, a small-town wife, about how she feels about knowing that the "real" Ms. Vida Boheme is actually a man.

"Vida, I do not think of you as a man and I do not think of you as a woman. I think of you as an angel."

I think that's healthy – not to mention a beautiful thing.

*Neon Nights* is a weekly column about Miami nightlife. Beacon writers do not receive free food or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this column solely represent those of the author.

COLUMNIST



**BOBBY JOE BRACY**

## THIS WEEKEND

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

#### SONIA FLEW



Watch this play by the FIU theatre program!  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$8-12  
WHERE: Wertheim Theatre

#### INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN ART SUPPLY DRIVE '09

Enjoy a performance by Jesse Jackson and free drinks for a good cause!  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$5  
WHERE: Dorsh Gallery

#### THE POSTELLES



Enjoy hearing this Upper West Manhattan band.  
WHEN: 9 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Club 50

#### JAZZ AT MOCA

Relax to the musical stylings of Mitch Frohman while admiring the stars  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: Museum of Contemporary Art

#### PIVOT POINTS PART 3



Experience this mixed-media exhibition today!  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: MOCA

#### EYENITY AT BIERSCH

Groove to the sounds of this rock-reggae powerhouse band.  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

#### DEATH TO THE SUN



A farewell to summer music fest with the best of local music!  
WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: American Legion

#### RHYTHM FOUNDATION'S DANCE PARTY FUNDRAISER

Spam Allstars perform as we!  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$100  
WHERE: Key Biscayne Beach Club

#### THE QUEERS

Give this surfer punk band a listen to crank up your weekend.  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$12  
WHERE: Respectable Street

#### POPLIFE FEATURING TIM SWEENEY LIVE

Rock out to a performance by Sweeney and others!  
WHEN: 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: Electric Pickle

#### CARMEN



Experience this legendary opera for yourself!  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$30  
WHERE: Colony Theatre

#### MIAMI INTERNATIONAL WINE FESTIVAL

Join fellow wine enthusiasts for this annual celebration!  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$75  
WHERE: Miami Beach Convention Center

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

#### JON MARTIN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY



Enjoy local talent and celebrate John Martin's!  
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: John Martin's Pub

#### ENANITOS VERDES AT THE FILLMORE

One of the biggest rock bands of South America brings their talent stateside.  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$29.50  
WHERE: The Fillmore

#### JULIETTE LEWIS

Enjoy a performance by the comedienne-actress turned rocker!  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$14.99  
WHERE: Culture Room

#### LINCOLN ROAD FARMERS MARKET

Enjoy eating fresh and well at this farmer's market.  
WHEN: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Lincoln Road Mall

#### DECONSTRUCTING PIN-UPS



Learn the history behind these retro bathing beauties  
WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Museo

#### ART TALKS WITH TERRY NORTON

Words of wisdom and creativity make for a lovely lecture.  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: FREE  
WHERE: Bear and Bird Gallery



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

**FILLING SHOES:** Olga Vergun (right) took over most of the offensive responsibilities after Yarimar Rosa (left) missed 11 out of 12 games so far this season.

## Team chemistry will help erase last season's meltdown

**BONILLA, page 8**

Panthers win three consecutive games without losing one set. Freshman Jovana Bjelica also helped alleviate some of the weight off of Rosa's shoulders by recording 96 kills in eight games.

Besides senior experience, Vergun understands the frustration of missing playing time because of injuries.

She did not play one game last season due to injuries. Rosa needs a teammate to relate to, this season more than ever.

This is Rosa's senior year and last chance to make an impact in the NCAA tournament. Last season's early exit in the Sun Belt Conference tournament was a disappointment for a team who crushed opponents during the regular season. Rosa's main concerns should be healing her pinky and making sure she comes back with the same intensity she's played with the last three seasons.

*Hey Jude, don't make it bad. Take a sad song and make it better.*

The season is almost halfway done. There is no time to dwell.

Work on getting back at full strength to make the team's

season more successful.

### YESTERDAY

Because of what this team has been able to accomplish the last four seasons, it is crucial for the Golden Panthers to maintain their level of play against the elite opponents at the end of the season.

No conference team besides Middle Tennessee or Western Kentucky had any business defeating the Golden Panthers last season. Yet, New Orleans ousted FIU in the second round of the 2008 Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Another late season meltdown will have the team wishing it could turn back time.

*Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away. Now it looks as though they're here to stay.*

Singing this tune from January to August of next year will leave the players feeling like they've wasted the whole year.

*There's a shadow hanging over me. Oh, yesterday came suddenly.*

If the Golden Panthers don't let up against any opponent, the end of the season will be comprised of memories worth reliving, not regretting.

### LET IT BE

Last season's episode is unlikely to reoccur because this squad has proven it does not need to rely on one player to win.

The team is 11-2 without Rosa this season with both losses against teams that were ranked No. 22 in the nation at the time. Even without Rosa, FIU gave then-No. 22 FSU a 3-1 dogfight of a match.

Setter Natalia Valentin will have three senior outside hitters to jolt the offense once Rosa does return.

With freshman libero Chanel Araujo playing every game as well, this team has improved the roster to once again claim the SBC title.

These 17 conference games ahead will allow this unit to discover its identity and learn to play together for a string of consecutive games.

Rosa may have missed more than one-third of the season, but her return should not be rushed. The Golden Panthers have more than enough time to find out the best way to assimilate the senior back into the team.

*For though they may be parted there is still a chance that they will see, there will be an answer. Let it be.*

# McCall to start game, has high expectations

**FOOTBALL, page 1**

120 in the FBS to produce in order to have similar success to what they had against the Rockets in their last meeting.

Starting running back Darriet Perry leads the team with 50 rushing yards, but is getting just 2.5 yards per rush. The offensive line could set the tone for rushing success, but it is an area of needed improvement.

FIU is allowing the most sacks in the FBS. When quarterback Paul McCall has been given time, he has been efficient. The senior has completed 58 percent of his passes on the young season, but relentless pass rush from Alabama and Rutgers during the team's first two games have put McCall in a tough position.

**They are going to improve. I want to emphasize capability because they are capable.**

Mario Cristobal, head coach  
Football

"Protection was an issue last game and the second half of our first game, and a lot of that is attributed to us playing very mature defensive lines," Cristobal said. "You work with your linemen at becoming technique maniacs at what they do to continue to increase your understanding of what's going on."

"They are going to improve. I want to emphasize capability because they are capable."

### MCCALL WILL PLAY

Despite a sprained

knee sustained in the Rutgers contest, McCall will start against Toledo. McCall said the 2008 Toledo game was the turning point, paving the way for the Golden Panthers to win five of their last nine games.

The Rockets are in the bottom five in the FBS in scoring defense, so the possibility of a high scoring game is realistic.

"It brings a smile to my face," McCall said. "But if we win 7-6 I'll be happy, and that's what we're hoping for from our defense."

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## CLASSIFIEDS

### JOBS

South Beach based father seeks part-time nanny/helper for 13 yr old son. Light cooking, errands, help son with homework. Non-smoker, English speaking, hours are late afternoon and early evenings. Must be able to live in when father is away on occasion. Send CV and recent photo to: DSL, APT 3001, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Part-time work, good English skills, mornings or weekends – knowledge of music and photos helpful. Call 305-551-6926.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**TRUE FRESHMEN:** Libero Chanel Araujo (left) and outside hitter Jovana Bjelica (right) play together during the team's home opener on Sept. 10 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Araujo leads the team with 169 digs and Bjelica has 96 kills.

## Golden Panthers' season told through hit songs

*-No, I get by with a little help from my friends.*

The remastered Beatles box set could not have been released at a more apt time for the Golden Panthers volleyball team and its star player Yarimar Rosa.

Just one day after the albums were released, she suffered a dislocated pinky during the team's home opener vs. the University of Miami.

As she was escorted off the court, the Golden Panthers took care of the Hurricanes in the third set to win the

game on Sept. 10.

Her teammates should've dropped off "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club" at Rosa's door that night as the Golden Panthers compiled a 4-1 record in the next five contests.

Millions of fans and critics have already dissected the lyrics of every Beatles song ever released. But the band's music is so timeless that its songs are able to outline the Golden Panthers' 2009 season and what the team must accomplish to finish strong.

### COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA

### HEY ROSA

Outside hitter Olga Vergun would be the first player to show Rosa some of the lyrics from "Hey Jude": *Don't carry the world upon your shoulders.*

Vergun has taken upon herself to be the offensive threat the team needs when Rosa is not in the lineup. She leads the team in kills with 160 and brings much-needed experience as one of three seniors on the team.

Last week, Vergun was the main proponent of the offensive onslaught to help the Golden

**BONILLA, page 7**

# FRESH DUO

## Two freshmen contribute crucial minutes

JOEL DELGADO  
Staff Writer

For the first time in Danijela Tomic's five-year career as the Golden Panthers volleyball coach, she has the luxury of using true freshmen in the lineup.

Libero Chanel Araujo and Jovana Bjelica are two freshmen contributing to a team in need of players in light of Yarimar Rosa's absence.

Tomic is not surprised that Araujo and Bjelica have been able to come in and make an immediate impact on her team.

"I recruit players that would be able to come in and start for us," Tomic said.

### CALIFORNIA DEFENSE

Araujo hails from Seal Beach, Calif., where she was able to develop into the strong defensive player she has become. At Rosary High she stood out on defense, earning Defensive Player of the Year honors three times.

From the first time she took the court as a Golden Panther, the 17-year-old realized the game at the Division I level was different from what she was normally used to.

"At first coming out I was anxious to play and it was really exciting," she said after playing in her first match earlier this season. "The game is a lot faster; it's more relentless than any other level."

She's been a staple of the Golden Panthers' defense, compiling a team-high 169 digs, averaging 4.12 digs per set. Her play so far earned her Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week honors after helping the Golden Panthers sweep the Jayhawk Invitational.

"It was an honor to receive it, but also there's a lot more work I can do," Araujo said. "I'm focusing a lot more. I'm really getting into practice because that's where you improve the most."

### SERBIAN ATTACK

While Araujo has established herself

on the defensive side of the game, Jovana Bjelica has already made her mark on offense.

Coming from a family filled with athletes, it was clear that Bjelica was likely to be a successful athlete herself.

"Both of my parents were athletes, so they wanted me to be an athlete, too," Bjelica said. "First my mom wanted me to do track and field. And then my dad wanted me to be a volleyball player."

Fortunately for FIU, she listened to her father and chose to pursue volleyball.

Bjelica's Golden Panther debut was held back as Tomic and the rest of the team waited for the NCAA to grant the freshman from Belgrade, Serbia clearance to play.

When she finally got an opportunity to play, she didn't disappoint.

In her first collegiate match, Bjelica led the team with 13 kills against Kansas on Sept. 4 and has not slowed down since.

In eight games, she is third on the team with 96 kills on an offense that has dominated opponents.

She says the style of play in America slightly differs from what she was used to in Serbia, where she was part of the junior national team, but she has been able adjust well during her time in Miami.

"My teammates have helped me a lot and my coaches, too," Bjelica said. "I felt very well on the court."

### READY TO CONTRIBUTE

As the Golden Panthers prepare to begin conference play, the team is happy that Araujo and Bjelica have been able to step in and both of them are hoping to enjoy further success on the court.

When asked about what stood out about Araujo's first experiences at FIU, she alluded to the match at Kansas.

"When we beat Kansas, I haven't had that feeling in so long," Araujo said. "It was such an adrenaline rush, and I want it to be like that for the rest of the season."

### VOLLEYBALL

## Rosa ready to play after dislocated pinky

JOEL DELGADO  
Staff Writer

Already 12 games into the 2009 season, three-time All-American Yarimar Rosa has yet to play a complete full match due to two separate injuries – a strained hip and a dislocated pinky.

She will try to make a comeback this weekend vs. Sun Belt Conference foes Troy and South Alabama, according to Golden Panthers volleyball coach Danijela Tomic.

"She'll play," Tomic said concerning Rosa's status for the games on Sept. 25 and 27. "It's just a matter of her getting her timing

back. It's going to take her one or two more practices, and she'll be fine."

Rosa dislocated the pinky finger on her non-hitting hand on Sept. 10 against the University of Miami after a block attempt and has not played since that game.

She had the stitches from her hand removed on Sept. 21 and participated in her first practice the next day wearing a splint on her hand.

"With the splint, my hand doesn't hurt at all," Rosa said. "I'm still afraid of blocking, but everything else is going pretty well so far."