



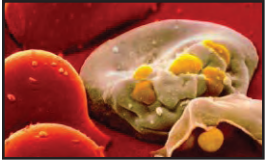
Designer animals carry a huge price.
PAGE 6



Bored? Check out our weekend calendar!
PAGE 9

SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 4



SJMC students produced a Web series about how HIV is affecting South Florida—they never imagined it would turn into one-hour show on public TV.

AT THE BAY PAGE 5

A break-in at the BBC English Department left everyone doubting the camera security system.

OPINION PAGE 6

Threats against Juanes' life should be condemned.

LIFE! PAGE 8

August recap of all the best and worst of film.

LIFE! PAGE 6



Faculty members pair up for concert.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Athletics unhappy about season opener vs. UNC.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Volleyball may have the experience and returning players to make a run in the NCAA tournament.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Organic Farmers Market, August 26, 12-4 p.m. This popular event occurs every Wednesday, where you can stop by and get a fresh organic smoothie or your weekly produce. Located on the Graham Center lawn.

The FIU Trail of the Torch, August 27, 10 am. This event will be held in the housing quad and will trail for two miles around campus. The first 300 people get a free t-shirt.

President Rosenberg's Ice-cream Social, August 28, 3-4 p.m. Free ice-cream will be given out to everyone at the pit in Graham Center.

WEATHER

FRIDAY
PM T-Storms
LOW: 71 HIGH: 91

SATURDAY
Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 80 HIGH: 88

SUNDAY
Isolated T-Storms
LOW: 80 HIGH: 88

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VOLLEYBALL

Squad starts quest to win SBC title

LUIS ESTRADA
Staff Writer

With a three-time All-American and coach who has led her team to four straight winning seasons, the Golden Panthers volleyball team has been selected to win the Sun Belt East Division by conference officials.

Coming off a regular-season Sun Belt Conference championship and an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, the players and coaches know that they need to surpass last year's accomplishments to have a successful year.

Coach Danijela Tomic is entering her fifth season as head coach and expects even more from her team this year, given that they lost a few close

VOLLEYBALL, page 11



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

READY FOR SENIOR SEASON: Senior outside hitter Yarimar Rosa is entering her last season as a Golden Panther. Will she make the most of it?

SGC-MMC

Proposal puts democratic process at stake

FRANK MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus announced the creation of three new senatorial committees and a new structure in the cabinet at its first joint session on Aug. 26.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda asked the senate to create three committees to look into textbook prices, elections and Athletics.

Textbook prices were a concern brought up by new University President Mark Rosenberg when he visited SGA this past summer.

"I'm not happy about the fact that it

costs \$800 or \$900 a semester for your textbook costs," Rosenberg said during his visit.

Rosenberg challenged student government to organize their efforts and open a dialog with the University Bookstore. He encouraged them by reminding SGA that they had "purchasing power."

"We are going to meet with people,

seek alternatives," Rionda told Student Media.

The national price average spent on textbooks, according to the College Board's 2008 annual survey of colleges, is \$1,077 per student per academic year.

SGC-MMC, page 2

Program lets high schoolers advance in college

ELSIE PUIG
Staff Writer

A new alternative for ambitious high school juniors and seniors allows them to advance two years in college, without the cost of tuition, books or their FIU student ID.

FIU's Academy for Advanced

Academics, an initiative championed in liaison with Miami-Dade Public Schools, has opened doors to 88 high school juniors and seniors from five local high schools: G. Holmes Braddock, Miami Coral Park, John A. Ferguson, Ronald Reagan and Felix Varela.

"You should have seen their smiles in orientation, they are

excited to be here," said Bill Beesting, assistant dean for undergraduate studies, who helped coordinate the effort.

According to Beesting, University President Mark Rosenberg felt that offering this opportunity to high school students is "a way to reach out to the community and build cooperation with Miami-

Dade County Public Schools."

To be admitted into the program, students must have a 3.0 GPA and have scored 50 on each section of the PSAT.

The program allows gifted students to take three college classes in the morning and three

HIGH SCHOOL, page 2

NEON NIGHTS

PARTY AT YOUR OWN RISK

Let loose, be yourself at trendy downtown hot spot

I needed to know the truth, so leaning in toward the attractive bartender I said "Can I ask you an honest question?"

She smirked, slapped down the damp rag she was working with and leaned in toward me in that signature way that bartenders do when it's finally your turn and replied, "OK, sure. I'm going to give you an honest answer then."

"I lost my watch here. What are my chances of finding it in the morning?"

"Honestly, like 3 percent. People will take whatever

they find here. But you can try calling after 7 p.m."

I didn't call her the next day. The place is called

"The Vagabond" after all, and I could hardly imagine a vagabond returning anything as useful as a watch to its rightful owner. Such is the spirit of the place even as the lights went on and the last few

dance fiends let the beat of "Lookout Weekends" drift out of their minds. The motto is "You are no one, you are everyone."

And everyone takes what they can find. If you're not one to lose

things, then this works out just fine. The Vagabond, located on 30 N.E. 14th St., open Tuesdays through Sundays, is where you'll find all the 20-something hipsters shaking to the groove under the mirror ball inside or beside the bonfire outside.

The decor of the lounge room is artsy, and the works displayed are rotated throughout the year.

On Tuesdays, The Vagabond is home to Stone Groove where local talent showcases their latest work to indie lovers sipping on \$2 Corona limes.

Patrons nod knowingly to the jazz and spoken word artists who signed up early to get on the open mic. Friday and Saturday nights offer \$1 Pabst Blue

BRACY, page 7

COLUMNIST



BOBBY JOE BRACY

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Rosenberg's official induction held today

University President Mark Rosenberg will be officially inducted at a ceremony on Aug. 28. The ceremony will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Golden Panther Arena.

Rosenberg will participate in various events after that, including a luncheon and a campus tour.

Students will also be able to meet Rosenberg at an ice cream social in the Graham Center pit from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

LOCAL

Miami police officers accused of embezzlement

A Miami police officer was accused of stealing funds from the Crimestoppers, a department within the Miami-Dade Police Department that investigates anonymous tips about crimes from civilians.

Officer Wayne Fortella, along with two civilians, Kurt Burgess and Ainsworth Stanley, stole a total of \$14,000 from the program combined.

According to WPLG, if convicted, Fortella, Burgess and Stanley could face up to 20 years in prison per charge.

NATIONAL

U.S. Airways raises luggage check-in fee

Starting Aug. 27, U.S. Airways will be raising their luggage check-in fee by \$5.

According to CNN, the fee for checking one bag has increased from \$15 to \$20. However, the fee must be prepaid online. Bags checked at the airport will go up to \$25 for the first bag and \$30 for the second.

These prices exceed those placed by United, Continental and Delta, which charge \$15 for the first bag and \$20 for the second if prepaid online.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Aug. 24, 2009, the story titled "Schools look for new deans" stated that the School of Law was also looking for a dean. The School of Law, however, has a new dean – Michael Acosta.

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

THE BEACON

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Football game turnout hoped to rise

SGC-MMC, page 1

The elections committee was established thanks to a decision made by the University Wide Council, a combination of both Biscayne Bay Campus and MMC student governing bodies, when they met over the summer. At the UWC meeting, some questioned the need for special elections.

Speaking on behalf of both advisors, SGC-MMC Advisor Jose Toscano pleaded his case to the UWC that special elections, held after the spring general election, cost both University campuses more than \$1,000 in coordination and administration while only attracting approximately a combined 250 student voters. His suggestion was that the senate approve or reaffirm students seeking office without elections.

"To save all that time on both the administrative side and the student who wants to get elected or reelected into the senate, we are looking for you as the UWC to adopt the idea to have students come and be reaffirmed through the senate," Toscano said.

Rionda motioned to have the UWC eliminate special elections, but withdrew his motion when debate raised concerns of eliminating the democratic process from the student body. Rionda then motioned to create a committee to study special elections.

More specifics will be discussed as the UWC meets on Sept. 9 at MMC.

The purpose of the third committee is to work with Athletics to help communication between the Athletics department and the student body.

One goal SGA would like to reach is

to help advertise sporting events. Rionda aims to get at least 6,000 students to every football game.

"Students want to go," he said. "Our student dollars are funding these programs."

Rionda also announced a change in the way cabinet members report their work.

The cabinet will be now broken down into four subsections, with each subsection having a head whom cabinet members will report to. The heads of each subsection will then report to Chief of Staff Andrew Sanchez. Vice President Mykaelle "Myka" Figueiredo, Deputy Chief of Staff Nick Autiello and cabinet member Christy Flores will all be heads of subsections.

The meeting marked the first time the executive and legislative branches met together since the SGA summer retreat.

Med student gets award

DIANA JORDAN
Staff Writer

One of the 43 inaugural students of the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Kailee Imperatore, has been chosen to receive a \$25,000 scholarship.

The scholarship was donated by the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation and will cover the annual in-state tuition of approximately \$25,000.

Out-of-state tuition is approximately \$50,000 per year.

A graduate of the University of Florida and a Sarasota native, Imperatore applied for the scholarship when she first learned she had been accepted into the college.

"I applied for a scholarship through the school in my initial packet of information I received when I was accepted," she said. "The form was in

CREAMED



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

JUST DESSERTS: (Top) Katrina Fumagali, senior, left, pies SGC-MMC Vice President Mykaelle Figueiredo, right. (Bottom) Figueiredo, left, fires back at SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda, right, at the Involvement Carnival, a Week of Welcome event, held on Aug. 26.

MED SCHOOL, page 3

Program creates liaison with county

HIGH SCHOOL, page 1

advanced placement classes in the afternoon. Their schedule runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

By the time they finish the two years they will have approximately 70 to 80 college credits.

"They have the opportunity to mature in a way that cannot happen in high schools; they are going to grow up a lot faster," said Dennis Lindsay, one of the counselors for the program.

"It is a very good and liberating experience, you get a lot of freedom and independence," said Amena Payami, a junior from Miami Coral Park.

The college classes will be mostly University Core Curriculum requirements, but students will be able to take classes in areas of interest as well.

"It is a very demanding program for high level academic achievers, the program is not for everyone," Lindsay said.

The high school students will be able to attend pep rallies, prom, grad night and other activities from their high schools.

"They won't lose attachment to their home schools," Beesting said.

The students, however, will not be able to join sororities, fraternities, NCAA sports, Student Government Association or intramural sports.

"We hope they will stay here for the final two years," Beesting said.

Overall, the high school students are excited to be at the University, and said that most of their friends back in school were not so supportive of their decision to join the program.

"I like that you get to walk around school, and not see the same face twice; you get to reinvent yourself," said Kenneth Rich from Ronald Reagan.

Although most of the students see FIU as only a possibility after the two years are done, they said they might change their mind afterward.

Exchange program in Dubai delves into the Middle East

JULIAN PINHEIRO
Contributing Writer

Students will now have the opportunity to obtain their degree while studying abroad in the Middle East, thanks to a partnership between FIU's Middle East Studies Center and the American University in Dubai.

The Middle East Studies Center, an academic center that gives workshops, lectures and conferences pertinent to the Middle East, hosts the certificate in Middle East and Central Asian studies.

For one semester, eligible juniors can get dual certificates in Middle East studies at either campus. Students who participate will study in Dubai from Jan. 4 through April 19,

2010.

Students will take courses in Middle Eastern culture, politics, geography, history and language while students coming to the University will be taking courses that wouldn't be offered in AUD, such as "U.S. National Security in terms of the Middle East."

"The main purpose [of the exchange program] is to foster an understanding between the two areas and to give the students at both institutions a practical experience in their regions of interests," said Francesco Ortoleva, the program coordinator for the Middle East Studies Center at the University.

This exchange agreement will benefit both sides, Ortoleva said. FIU students will learn Arabic in a cultural, political and linguistic

sense while AUD students will gain an American perspective on the Middle East.

The program's cost is the same as FIU's tuition. However, the exchange program does not cover housing, traveling and personal expenses. According to Liza Carbajo, director of OEA, students can apply for financial aid to pay the tuition.

"Now is the time for FIU students to go abroad with FIU's initiative to turn our students into global citizens," Carbajo said.

Although the program allows up to 80 certificate students, the exchange agreement between FIU and AUD currently allows only up to five students.

The selection process will be based on academic standing. The students must be a

part of the Middle East Certificate Program, must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must go through an interview process with Majelissa M. Luna, study abroad coordinator of OEA.

"It gives our center a good visibility in the academic world as to what FIU is doing in Middle Eastern studies," Ortoleva said.

Some students are already showing interest in the program.

"It's a good opportunity for students interested in Middle Eastern studies," said Sarah Young, international relations major.

Interested students may visit the Middle East Studies Center at DM 369-A or visit educationabroad.fiu.edu.

The deadline to apply is Sept. 15, 2009.

Imperatore wins scholarship

JUMP, page 2

there, so I figured there would be no harm in filling it out."

Weeks before the beginning of classes, Imperatore received a call from Pemra Cetin, the college's director of financial aid, informing her of the scholarship.

"That was close to when school was starting so I had no idea that this was even a possibility," Imperatore said.

After the college received the donation from the Macdonald Foundation, its scholarship committee, composed of

student affairs directors and deans, decided the scholarship should be awarded to Imperatore based on academic merit and financial need.

"I am extremely grateful to the foundation for donating money to our great program, and also to my faculty for believing that I deserve this opportunity," she said. "This also means a great deal to my family."

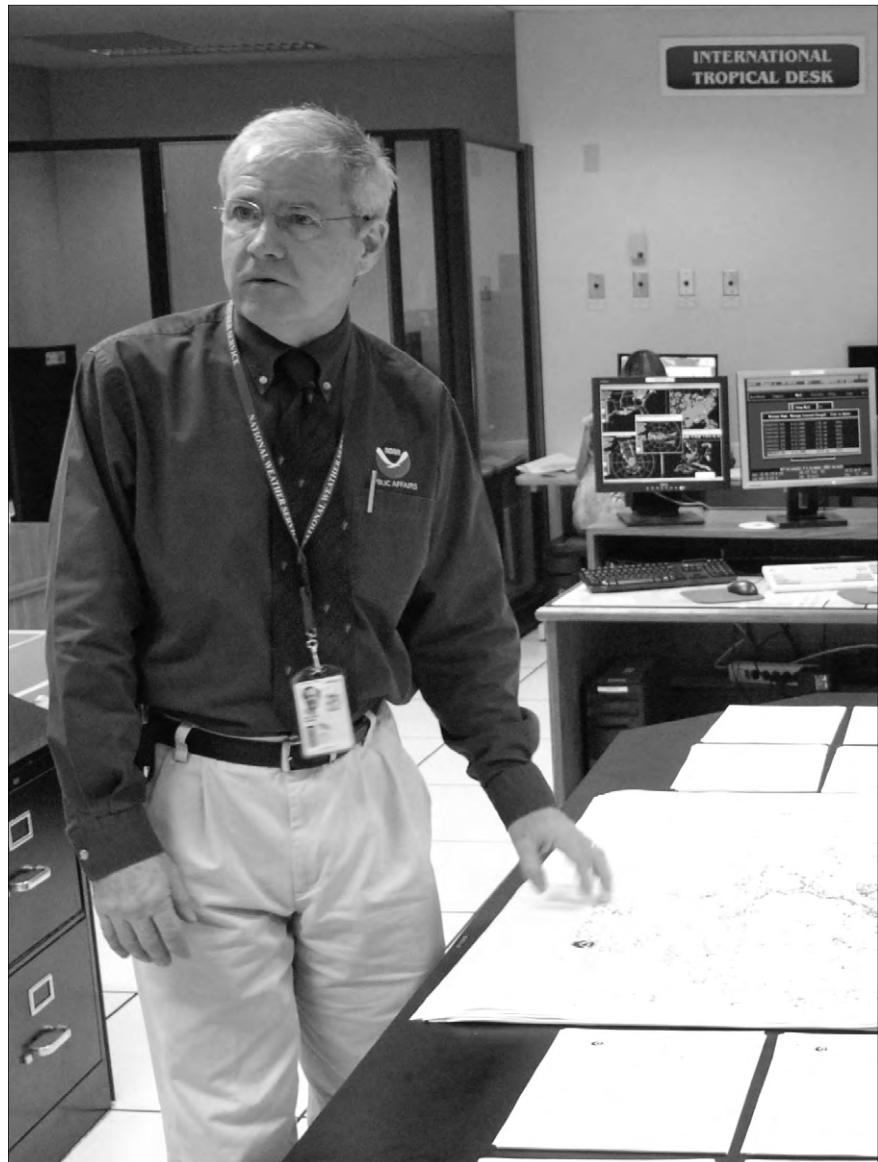
Founding dean, Dr. John Rock, expressed his gratitude to the foundation.

The Macdonald Foundation, which engages in community outreach through projects

of medical genetics and public school health throughout the South Florida community, also provides scholarships to nursing programs in the area such as the FIU School of Nursing, Barry University School of Nursing and the University of Miami School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Although the medical college's students did not receive full rides for all four years, such as inaugural medical students at the University of Central Florida, 12 of the 43 students have received full and partial scholarships.

FOREWARNED



JORGE VALENS/THE BEACON

SCANNING THE SEAS: Dennis Feltgen, National Hurricane Center Public Affairs officer and meteorologist, demonstrates how the center monitors weather over the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.



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SJMC project spreads word about HIV/AIDS

Student-produced Web series to air on local television station

PHILIPPE BUTEAU
Contributing Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication wants to remind the community about the social, emotional and medical consequences of HIV/AIDS.

They intend to do just that with a documentary about AIDS in Africa, a reality series about a woman living with HIV, and a Web site – all produced by students.

At the forefront of the entire project that focuses on HIV/AIDS are SJMC students, SJMC Interim Associate Dean Allan Richards, and Kate MacMillin, an SJMC adjunct professor of writing and multimedia.

Their work, a product of months of video recording and editing, will air on Channel 2 Oct. 15, the National Latino AIDS Awareness Day.

The one-hour show will air at 10 p.m.

“I didn’t expect all of this to evolve from that assignment,” Richards said.

In Spring 2008, Richards gave his multimedia journalism class an assignment to develop a Web site about HIV/AIDS.

“Because of media cutbacks and lack of public health and involvement, I thought it would be a good subject,” he said.

The Web site is now home to a trailer for “Lessons from South Africa,” a documentary made by Richards and two of his students, Jillian Simms and Tiffany Parkes.

Last year, the two students traveled with Richards to Africa. During the trip, which was paid for by different grants, they interviewed the media on their response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in that country.

One of the students said he learned the truth about African media, despite many misconceptions.

“South Africa’s media increasingly takes a strong stand against stigmas, taboos and the overall ignorance surrounding the pandemic – an approach that the American media could learn from,” Parkes said in an essay about her experience in the Fall 2008 issue of *FIU Magazine*.

After their 10-day trip, MacMillin reviewed the footage and thought it would be a good idea to continue spreading the word about the epidemic.

She then created a series of webisodes.

“I was deeply inspired by the footage that Richards took and the television production people he had interviewed,” she said. “They were trying to change behaviors and trying to educate people.”

Richards and two journalists from *The Miami Herald*, Rick Hirsch, the senior editor for multimedia, and Karen Burkett, a multimedia manager, were responsible for finding a place where the webisodes could be posted.

The task of finding someone with HIV/AIDS and documenting his or her life was given to MacMillin and the 12 students in her class.

The students spent September 2008 going to different locations throughout the city looking for someone to follow, until they found Damaries Cruz, a 38-year-old Hispanic woman with HIV. Cruz, who was diagnosed 11 years ago, is an educator of HIV/AIDS at the Miami-Dade Health Department.

The students recorded her life for more than three months.

Once finished, it was published on

HIV, page 6

SEMESTER KICKOFF

Students eat, sing for free



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

FROM TOP: Sabrina Buxo, a junior photography major, samples nachos with cheese from Miller’s North Miami Beach Ale House, part of the Restaurant Expo in Panther Square on Aug. 25.

(From left:) Jennifer Medina, a junior business management major, and Lorraine Henderson, SOC Event Coordinator, sings “Always Be My Baby” by Mariah Carey, part of the karaoke show in Panther Square on Aug. 26.

Yuliya Zhukova, a freshman hospitality major, makes a leather bracelet as part of the Welcome Week festivities in Panther Square on Aug. 26.



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, August 28:

- Games at Panther Square All Day
- Kayaking at Biscayne Bay 12 p.m.

Saturday, August 29:

- Tour of Miami 12:30 p.m. at Bay Vista Hall
- Dance Cruise 6 p.m. at Bay Vista Hall

Monday, August 31:

- Fall Fest 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

For more information, contact (305) 919-5804

Summer break-in leaves faculty members alarmed

Unknown individual steals minor items from three offices

ERIKA PEREZ
Staff Writer

A break-in in the College of Arts and Sciences during the Summer semester has raised some concerns about the effectiveness of campus security cameras.

On Aug. 6, Camilla Samqua, office manager in the dean's office of the College of Arts and Sciences, filed a police report after she noticed someone broke into the offices.

The break-in is believed to have taken place the night of Aug. 5.

She noticed someone had forced open her computer cabinet, according to the police report.

"But nothing was taken though," she said.

The event has not only raised some alarm among faculty, but has also created some doubt about the effec-

tiveness of campus security cameras.

Peter Craumer, associate international relations professor, was in the dean's office when two of the cabinets were opened. He believes the University needs to determine whether the cameras are working properly and review camera footage.

"I heard noise, like someone was going through things," Craumer said. "I came out of my office and saw a suspicious man, but I don't have any proof because I didn't catch him doing anything illegal."

When Mercedes Kuper, a secretary in the Advising Office in College of Arts and Sciences, came to work on Aug. 6, she also noticed the door to her cabinet was completely torn off its hinges.

"They were very nice about it too, because they

set the door to the side," said Kuper. "They moved my key box around, but nothing is missing."

Kuper believes that because this is a public university, everyone can walk in, jeopardizing safety on campus.

night's break-in was Terese Campbell, English department secretary.

She noticed some loose change, gum and pretzels were stolen from her cabinet.

Though only minor items were taken, the

"Someone suspicious was seen walking around, according to a maintenance worker."

Mercedes Kuper
Advising Office, Secretary

"Someone suspicious was seen walking around, according to a maintenance worker, but you never know," Kuper said.

And this is not the first time Kuper has been the victim of a break-in.

"More than seven years ago when I worked for the business department, my credit cards were stolen and my checks; they took everything," Kuper said.

The third victim of that

event caused the English department to take some cautionary measures.

Before the break-in, the staff would leave at around 5 p.m., but the doors would be left open for adjunct professors to be able to enter, according to Campbell. Now, the staff will close back doors.

The dean's office is also contemplating closing earlier, according to Samqua.

The department is considering closely monitoring those who enter the offices, which might affect adjunct professors, some of whom don't have keys.

"We're not going to keep being as open, which could be a problem for people in Arts and Sciences who need access, especially adjuncts," he said.

Although there are five security cameras installed throughout the college, no suspects have been determined in the case.

According to Captain Jesse Scott, Facilities Management already has staff members who are reviewing the cameras in each building, but future plans with the University involve installing more cameras and hiring additional personnel to review camera footage.

"There is a plan in place with the University to have more cameras inside and outside the buildings with police dispatchers looking over the tapes," Scott said.

As of the time of printing, Campbell and Samqua have not heard if any camera footage has been reviewed.

"I remember the officer said the tapes would be looked at," Samqua said.

Getting the community more involved with the police department by reporting any suspicious activity is essential to maintaining campus security, according to Scott, who also believes that "good community policing" could help reduce the chances people have to commit crimes.

"Crime equals motive plus opportunity," Scott said.

Web site to showcase student work

HIV, page 5

The Miami Herald Web site in March 2009.

The Web series is called "The Stigma Stops With Me" and is available on tellsomebodynow.com, the HIV/AIDS Web site that Richards and his students created.

After the documentary was published, Richards and MacMillin hosted a lecture in the Wolfe Center at the end of the Spring semester.

Students were able to watch the documentary about Cruz, and representatives of the Department of Health answered questions about HIV/AIDS.

Cruz was also present at the lecture to speak about her experience living with HIV, her struggle during the past years and how she got infected.

After the lecture, Richards thought they could take their work a bit further.

"The students at the end of the series asked many questions about HIV/AIDS, which revealed to us the level of understanding about the severity of the problem in South Florida," he said.

Clips of a question-and-answer session with the representatives and Cruz, along with "The Stigma Stops With Me" and a "Lessons from South Africa" trailer are available on tellsomebodynow.com.

Once the Web series and documentary were finished, MacMillin and Richards approached Channel 2 to debut the documentary, but Neal Hecker, vice president of program services of WPBT, proposed making an hour-long show with the footage.

"The project is significant because it brings together a journalism and mass communication school, with broadcast, newspaper and online service to the public," Richards said.

"[We want] to try and raise the awareness, and to educate students and everybody about the problems we are having in this area."

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THE SOAPBOX

Juanes concert sparks anger

JULIO MENACHE
Special to *The Beacon*

Thousands of young Cubans will be gathering in Havana, Cuba this September for the *Paz Sin Fronteras* concert series. According to Juanes, who will be performing, the concert looks to foster “peace” and “change” without a political message.

“This is not about politics,” he told *The Miami Herald*. “Our only message is one of peace, of humanitarianism, of tolerance, a message of interacting with the people,” he said.

Juanes should have the right to express himself artistically, yet the reaction to the concert has brought out anything but peace.

When news of the concert broke, many within the Cuban-American community were outraged. Here was Juanes, a Grammy award-winning artist, playing in a location with massive political undertones (the image of Che Guevara will be visible during his concert from the Ministry of the Interior building).

Most within the Cuban-American community have aired their complaints peacefully, while some have taken it to the next level. One exile group based in Miami, *Vigilia Mambisa*, smashed some of the singer’s CDs in protest. Juanes even claims he received death threats over Twitter because of this upcoming performance.

This is a major embarrassment for the Cuban-American community. While some may disagree with Juanes having the concert in Cuba, the destruction of Juanes’ CDs, as well as the death threats against him, reflect poorly on our community.

Juanes should not feel threatened in Miami, or in Havana, or any other part of the world. How will Juanes view the exile community after this mess?

The destruction of CDs, as well as the death threats being received, are tools rampant in dictatorships like Cuba’s and should have no place in Miami.

While Juanes has said his concert isn’t about politics, he has met with the youth group *Raices de Esperanza* (Roots of Hope), which advocates human rights for Cuban youth, where they discussed his concert in Cuba. The group has asked that Juanes execute the concert in a socially acceptable manner, by including artists who are regularly harassed by Cuban government officials.

He even asked the Cuban Ministry of Culture if he could include the word “freedom” in his songs, which they allowed, indicating how rampant censorship is in Cuba. Yet the fact that he is conducting his performance in *La Plaza de la Revolucion*, which contains the Cuban Communist Party headquarters, as well as the decision to sing with two ardent supporters of Fidel Castro, does make some in the Cuban-American community, including myself, wary.

Like it or not, Juanes will still play this September. He has the right to express himself without the fear of being threatened or censored. Sadly, the same can’t be said for the 11 million Cubans living on the island, still waiting for change.

Julio Menache is a junior majoring in political science. He also serves as co-president of the Free Cuba Foundation at FIU.

SOUR NOTE

Cuba performance calls for scrutiny

MARGARET CHEBAT
Contributing Writer

In a world where millions of individuals face oppression and devastation daily, people all around the world should feel blessed to have such valiant heroes like Juanes, a Colombian singer who is set to perform in the Havana’s *Plaza de la Revolucion* in Cuba on Sept. 20 this year.

Juanes, who believes he is doing Cuba a favor by performing a “peace” concert in the famous square, appears to be completely and strangely unaware of the trials that the Cuban population has faced under the regime for more than 50 years. Juanes should realize this and cancel his concert.

Under Fidel Castro’s reign, the Cuban people have witnessed many tragic events.

In the *Plaza de la Revolucion* Cubans have been forced to stand and watch helplessly while family members and close friends were violently executed for simply opposing the views of the oppressive government.

In addition to the many murders that have occurred in this plaza, a memorial of Che Guevara, an Argentine revolutionary who worked with Castro to overthrow the original government, incontrovertibly illustrates the stubbornness of the Cuban government in



The Cuban people are looking for freedom, not a concert for an intangible peace that will ultimately help its ... government

opening its doors to the outside world.

This concert raises many questions due to its rarity.

Why would a government that has controlled a country through dictatorship for over 50 years allow an outsider to advocate peace within its borders?

It is apparent that this “Peace Without Borders” concert is simply another ploy for the Cuban government to strengthen

itself and instill a toxic mixture of persuasion and fear within its people.

It serves as an instrument to manipulate and indoctrinate its population, proving that the government will protect and provide for the people.

This tour has caused controversy with many of the Cuban Americans living in the U.S., specifically the older generation of Cubans who have lived to see the plight and the suffering of their family and friends in the early stages of the dictatorship.

Perhaps Juanes is set on breaking barriers and is taking steps to promote peace, however, it is ironic that he wishes to do this in the very place where many innocent people have lost their lives.

The Cuban people are looking for freedom, not a concert for an intangible peace that will ultimately help its controlling government to justify its laws as well as its actions.

It is also odd that the government is inviting Juanes into its borders, while forbidding Cuban artists from performing their music and advocating peace.

Hidden agenda, anyone?

While the artist has received many threatening letters endangering his life, the concert will still take place, however, Juanes’ best bet in his “rescue mission” might be to abort.

‘Designer’ animals lead to increased euthanasia in shelters

ODETTE BARRIENTOS
Staff Writer

It’s difficult to imagine a world without pets. Americans take great pride in them – or at least, take great pride in showing them off. Photos of celebrities like Paris Hilton with their miniature poodles in their designer carriers and adornments grace the pages of popular magazines.

But celebrities aren’t the only ones who do this. Average, everyday people will go to great lengths to get a certain breed of a dog or cat (a “purebred”).

In the midst of fads and desire for what’s chic, it is no surprise that people want designer pets: engi-

neered creations mimicking exotic animals, like tigers or leopards.

A “toyger” kitten – a domesticated version of the tiger, complete with a signature striped coat – will cost you between \$800 and \$5,000.

While these animals are sought after for their aesthetics, there is something people often disregard when they decide to purchase a purebred companion: millions of displaced dogs and cats are dying in shelters each year, as well as out in the streets.

Animal shelters and animal control agencies constantly face the problem of homeless animals, especially now that so many are losing their homes and, consequently, getting rid of their

pets. These discarded animals are then victims to starvation and car accidents.

Euthanasia has become the major cause of death for companion animals in the United States, according to a report by the Humane Society. Exact figures for the number euthanized annually are difficult to obtain, but estimates range from nearly six million to more than 18 million dogs and cats.

Collectively, animal shelters spend as much as \$100 million a year to kill homeless cats, dogs, puppies and kittens in Florida – county funds that also pay for schools and law enforcement, according to data from the American Society for the Preven-

tion of Cruelty to Animals.

Miami-Dade County alone spent \$10 million euthanizing animals in 2007. Costs are rising dramatically because of the influx of unwanted pets.

Yet, designer and pure breeds become more popular every day. There is nothing wrong with wanting a specific breed or the act of breeding itself – there are people who genuinely love animals and dedicate their lives to preserving specific breeds.

On the other hand, there are situations in which it is only done for profit; female animals are bred to death and people end up committing atrocities like operating puppy mills.

While people pay in cash, home-

less animals pay with their life.

Is the breed of one’s pet that important? Is the luxury of owning a designer pet worth not saving a rehabilitated animal? According to the Humane Society, 25 percent of dogs in shelters are purebreds. If you look hard enough, you may get lucky.

However, there is more to a pet than the breed or the color of its fur.

It is a devastating time for people everywhere as well as the many overcrowded shelters and animal agencies in Florida – particularly Miami-Dade. It is even more devastating to the unwanted pets that are paying the ultimate price for our troubles, whether by dying in shelters or abandoned in the streets.

OPINIONPIECE

700K

The number of automobiles sold under the U.S. Transportation Department’s “Cash for Clunkers” program, which ended Aug. 25.

WINNER/LOSER



A Palm Beach County judge approved \$650 million in bonds to pay for the purchase of 73,000 acres of U.S. Sugar Corp. land for Everglades restoration. A sweet deal with a hefty price tag for Florida tax payers.



Chris Brown has been sentenced to five years probation and ordered to stay at least 100 yards away from his ex-girlfriend Rihanna. A sour deal for Brown who won’t be seeing his former sweetie pie for at least five years.

QUOTATION

“It’s quite remarkable for a person ... with no greater qualification for the office than his brother was president of the United States and the voters of Massachusetts respected that name.”

Author Stephen Hess
On Sen. Ted Kennedy, who died on Aug. 25

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.

FACULTY VOICES

Faculty members take the stage for a vocal performance

JANET CAREAGA
Contributing Writer

If you are looking for something different to do this weekend, the "Robert Dundas and Jennifer Snyder Faculty Voice Recital" is an option for those who enjoy classical music.

Associate Professor of music Robert Bryant Dundas, who has 30 years of professional singing experience, will be singing tenor, while voice and opera coach Jennifer Renee Snyder will be playing the piano. It will be an acoustic performance.

The first collection of songs by Robert Schumann is in German, the second collection by Francis Poulenc is in French and the last collection by Joaquín Turina is in Spanish.

"Schumann is famous for German art songs. The collection is not one of his most famous ones but it is exciting and interesting," Dundas said.

Dundas studied Schumann's work closely while he was on sabbatical last spring and he looks forward to finally performing it in the voice recital.

"Although the songs can be performed individually, the collection is intended to be performed together because the

songs take on a great significance together. It is like having one tiny gem which is beautiful, but when you string multiple gems all together it makes a priceless piece of jewelry," Dundas said.

Dundas is an associate professor of music and director of vocal studies/opera theater for the School of Music. Originally a native of New Hampshire, he sang for 12 years in Europe and then came to FIU in 1997. In Miami, he has performed frequently with the Miami Bach Society, the Miami Master Chorale and the Florida Grand Opera.

Snyder has been studying piano since she was five and has played her first concert as an 11-year-old.

Snyder joined FIU's School of Music Division of Vocal Studies as a coach four years ago. She has worked extensively as a solo and collaborative pianist in classical and musical theater settings.

"I haven't been to any of the School of Music's performances yet, but this sounds like a great opportunity to see the faculty in a different light and learn from them outside of the classroom," said Maria Rodriguez, a junior majoring in advertising.

There will be three more faculty voice recitals this

semester, as well as other piano and string recitals.

"We're very excited for this recital because it is the first concert of the season and it is a joint recital, not just a piano accompanying the voice," said Kristine Burns, associate dean of cultural affairs for the College of Architecture and the Arts. "Professor Dundas may be very well known because he often sings the national anthem and the alma mater so you may have already heard him, but now you have the chance to hear him in a solo recital."

The recital will be Aug. 28 at 8 p.m. and last about two hours, including a 15-minute intermission. Admission is \$5 for students, \$10 for faculty and staff, and \$15 general admission.

For information regarding tickets, contact (305) 348-1059.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Restaurant's great food worth driving the extra mile

Out of the many pizzerias that claim to serve authentic New York-style pizza in the Miami area, The Big Cheese is one for the books. While there are a few good pizza places near FIU, The Big Cheese is well worth the longer drive.

Having long ago established itself as a local hangout for a certain rival college (hence the orange and green memorabilia), The Big Cheese is usually just as crowded with customers as its walls are with autographed photos of celebrities. One should be very cautious dining there during weekends, as finding parking within their small lot can be a hassle. In the event that you have to wait for indoor seating, you have the option of dining on the outdoor patio or entertaining yourself with vintage Pac-Man arcade unit or pinball machine. Once inside, the service is fast and friendly with a bite; be prepared for some gentle ribbing from the wait staff.

This parlor specializes in serving up generous slices of pizza that come with

a bevy of toppings ranging from crowd favorites such as pepperoni, mushrooms and olives to offbeat options such as scalions, buffalo mozzarella and artichoke hearts. Specialty pies are also available, such as the standard vegetarian pizza.

One of the specialty pies worth a mention is the Miami Pie, an eclectic combination of pineapple, sweet ham, ricotta and cinnamon garnish. It may sound like an odd combination, but it tastes just right.

For those who aren't quite ready to extend their palates that far, I recommend the Big Cheese Supreme, a combination of three meats (including meatballs) olives, bell peppers, onions and extra cheese. In short, all of the elements that make a pizza delicious.

Although The Big Cheese is well known for its pizzas, its additional offerings are worth trying. Their pasta dishes are more than generous when it comes to serving size. Take, for example, their seafood pasta. This dish is loaded with shrimp,

mussels and clams laid over linguini in a savory white cream sauce. Also, their take on the classic stuffed shells – three large pasta shells stuffed with a liberal amount of ricotta smothered in marinara – will be sure to satisfy your pasta craving. Additional offerings, such as lasagna, veal parmesan and even chicken marsala, are also available.

Apart from the pizza and pasta, The Big Cheese has a somewhat extensive sub menu. Although the Big Philly Cheese Steak was a miss (the slices of beef were a bit too thick for my taste, and I could do without the mayonnaise), they did manage to do well with their Italian Sub, which layers salami, ham, mozzarella and the ever-present lettuce and tomato with a spattering of Italian dressing (a welcome break from mayo and mustard). Their take on the Meatball Sub held much more sauce than I was accustomed to, but perhaps the sub falling apart in my hands was part of the experience.

So, what about the prices? The individual entrées at The Big Cheese will

QUICK LOOK

LOCATION: THE BIG CHEESE

ADDRESS: 8080 S.W. 67TH AVE MIAMI, FL 33143

PHONE NUMBER: (305) 662-6855

rarely go over \$15. In fact, a slice of pizza and a drink can be had for well under \$10. If you're purchasing a pie, non-specialty pies are \$20.95 and under, while specialty pies may go up to around \$30, but only if you order one with seafood items and, by then, you should be splitting the cost with a few friends.

All in all, The Big Cheese is a budget-friendly option with a high-energy ambiance and great food to be had.

The Beacon reviewers do not receive free food in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.

COLUMNIST



JASMYNE ELLIOTT

THE SOUND UNDERGROUND

Campus radio station puts spotlight on the unknown

DAIANA KUCAWCA
Asst. News Director

Deep in the heart of the Graham Center, just past the student government office, lies the “Radioactive Underground.”

Since 1987, Radiate FM has been FIU’s student-run radio station. Billing itself as the “Radioactive Underground,” Radiate provides music and news to students in a forum where they can call in, making it an interactive experience for listener and broadcaster alike.

The station can be found at 88.1 FM, 95.3 FM and 96.9 FM. Students can also tune in online at WRGP.org. The station plays 24/7 and has news, music and sports during the day and specialty programming starting at 7 p.m., with different music genres every afternoon. Musical categories include old school hip hop, metal, 80’s rock and world music, among others.

“Radiate FM plays a diverse blend of music not played on mainstream radio,” said Jorge Valens, Student Media assistant news director. “No matter what time you tune in you will find unique songs from both familiar and unfamiliar artists.”

Valens is the host of PantherWire, a campus news program about University, local and national news which runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to noon.

“The show is for the students, so I try to have guests and programming that will interest them,” Valens said.

According to Radiate FM General Manager Pablo Penton, the station’s name and motto is “Radiate FM, the radioactive underground.” He said it was a play on words because they are an active radio music station whose music “radiates” from listener’s speakers. For Penton, the radio is

an essential part of the University because all major universities have one, which he said helps them develop their image.

“It is a university’s most immediate and visible liaison to the community,” Penton said.

According to Penton, the radio is more than a communication outlet. It is an art form.

“A radio station is an integral part of developing a university’s personality and character,” Penton said.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication is also a direct beneficiary of the station, according to Penton.

“It’s a good tool for students at the SJMC to learn how to really broadcast over the air so they can get an opportunity to learn before they get out into the world,” Penton said.

Students can also listen to the live broadcasts of many FIU sports games.

According to Sergio Bonilla, sports director of Student Media, students can benefit from these broadcasts.

“If students want to know what’s going on with the game as it’s going on, we are the sole providers of that,” Bonilla said.

While Bonilla admits the sports show,

which runs Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., sometimes features heated discussions, he thinks it’s a good thing for the radio.

“People can get into arguments and playfully fight each other but at the same time have fun,” said Bonilla, adding that segments in the show like “Crossfire,” where two hosts role-play a coach and a player who get into arguments are an example of the kind of fun sports are for students.

Another show that is interactive with students is “The All Gravy Show” with Hikmat Kilzi – a.k.a. DJ Drastic X – which runs Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The show features new hip hop not usually heard on commercial radio stations where students can make live requests, while including guest appearances of artists like Rick Ross and Pitbull.

“I think that my show is an open door for artists to come in and showcase their music,” Kilzi said. “I open doors for people to come and make themselves known, whereas in a commercial station if you don’t have label backing they won’t even take you.”

Radiate FM is currently working on a brand new Web site which will allow listeners to request songs live, see playlists of previous shows and download podcasts of talk shows. Students can participate in all music and talk shows by calling in. The number to call in is (305) 348-3575.

Radiate FM Schedule

Monday nights: Hip Hop/Funk

Tuesday nights: Electronica

Wednesday: Metal/ 80’s Classic

Thursday nights: Classic Rock/
Alternative

Friday nights: Industrial/Dance

Saturday nights: Street Hip Hop

Sunday nights: World Vibes

Wandering hearts may find a home in downtown

SUMMER, page 1

Ribbons and recreate the sounds of New York dance clubs in the ‘80s with modern electro remixes thrown in for a dance scene that will put rhythm into the stiffest of spines. And if that doesn’t work, there are always those drinks specials to get the sweat pumping.

My favorite night is Saturday night. The Vagabond hosts Backdoor Bambi, not a certain transsexual in the red light district, but an actual night of beat-driven moves.

This is the kind of place that welcomes a mix of crowds, and if you’re attracted to someone of the same sex you don’t have to worry about getting bashed: the people are generally tolerant and open-minded. Where else can a guy with teal pants do the running man to M.I.A.?

If you get hungry, the outside bonfire is where you can sit and grab a hot dog or burger because the owners of this joint wouldn’t have you leave the venue to pay too much for food. They’d rather you stay and pay too much for food.

Friday nights and Tuesday nights are open to our friends under 21, but Backdoor Bambi is strictly for those who can pay for their own drinks. Although I don’t believe that you, our clear-minded readers, need lecturing, I would be a bad citizen of humanity if I did not point out that you should always have a designated driver.

Accepting the fact that my watch was probably off in someone else’s coveting hands, I let myself believe the next owner would treat it better than I did. I walked back to the grass lot (where parking is \$7) and noticed some of my friends had befriended a homeless man named “Al.”

My friends were just as interested in Al as he was interested in their change. While shooing Al away — and hoping he wouldn’t pull out a crack knife on me — I was happy that tonight was sufficiently eccentric to call it a good night.

Lace up your boots, or pour yourself into some brightly colored pipe jeans and be like everyone and no one. It doesn’t matter who you are when you come to the Vagabond. Here, you are part of a nation of dancers.

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as you are.



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MOVIE REVIEW

A look back at August's best and worst in film

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

If you were too busy during the summer to check in to your local cineplex, here are some highlights from the movies that were released in August. Most are still in theatres, for better or worse.

DISTRICT 9

One of the most original science fiction films since *The Matrix*, *District 9* is set in Johannesburg, South Africa in an alternate reality in which aliens have been forced to live in a ghetto just outside the city. According to the film's version of history, aliens landed in Johannesburg 28 years ago and the South African government moved them to a messy, crime-ridden slum known as District 9.

After the local community is fed up with living with these "prawns" as they're called, an office drone (Sharlto Copley) is charged with the task of evicting the aliens so they can be moved to a camp farther away from the city. All seems to be going according to plan until a mysterious freak accident renders him an outlaw. Director Neill Blomkamp's story reflects South Africa's sad racial history while maintaining a gripping science fiction storyline.

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA

This movie is chock full of action-packed scenes, but the bad news is that it's also rife with choppy CGI scenes and bad acting. Based on the Hasbro action figure, TV cartoon series and comic book series, the film shows how Duke (Channing Tatum) and Ripcord (Marlon Wayans) joined the elite military team in order to stop a dangerous arms dealer (Christopher Eccleston) and his evil organization from destroying the world.

I can tell you this much: This is a lot better than director Stephen Sommers' last summer outing, the Hugh Jackman-vehicle *Van Helsing*. That may not be saying a lot, but it's worth mentioning.

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS

This is director Quentin Tarantino's sixth film that is a lot like his masterpiece *Pulp Fiction*, if *Pulp Fiction* were a revisionist World War II fantasy.

Brad Pitt plays former Tennessee moonshine runner-turned-soldier Lt. Aldo Raines as he hires several Jewish soldiers (aka "The Basterds") to kill Nazis, and take their scalps as macabre trophies. French starlet Melanie Laurnet plays a Jewish woman who puts a plan in motion to avenge the death of her family at the hands of "Jew Hunter", Col. Hans Landa (Christoph Waltz). Tarantino employs well-written dialogue for humor and dramatic effect in much the same way he did in *Pulp Fiction*. Look out around awards season, as Waltz's portrayal of the diabolical and charismatic Landa is likely to receive accolades and possibly an Oscar nomination.

THE GOODS: LIVE HARD, SELL HARD

Unfortunately for Jeremy Piven, he does not have the goods. Piven gives his character an Ari Gold-like personality, as if he was afraid to leave his comfort zone. It is like he just walked right off the set of "Entourage," and someone gave him a script and told him to do Ari Gold as a car salesman.

Though he is surrounded by a cast of hilarious actors, Piven is either not ready to take leading man roles or he's just not trying. Produced by Will Ferrell and Adam McKay, the movie is about a car salesman (Piven) and his group of associates hired to revamp a failing auto dealership. The movie has one silver lining in the form of a surprisingly funny performance from Ving Rhames as one of Piven's associate who has never made "real love."

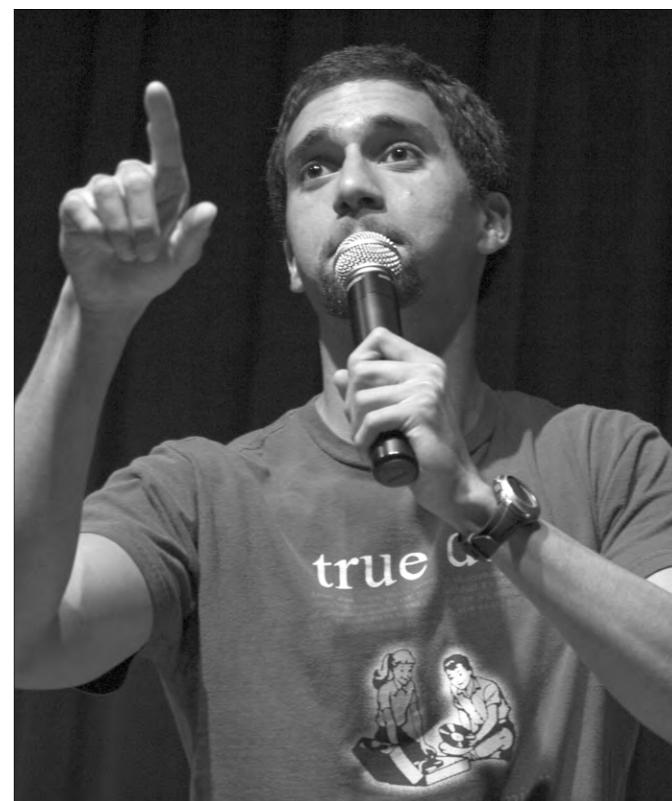
THE MARC PEASE EXPERIENCE

This movie is bizarre – and not in a good way. Jason Schwartzman plays Marc Pease, a former high school musical star who embarrassed himself when he ran off stage crying and wailing in the middle of a high school production of "The Wiz".

Eight years later, he stills drops by his old high school, has a successful limo service, bothers his former mentor (Ben Stiller) to produce his a cappella group's demo and dates a high school student (Anna Kendrick). If it doesn't sound very funny, that's because it isn't. Nearly every joke misses its mark.

For more movie reviews by Steve Mesa and friends, check out www.fusm.com.

STAND-UP GUYS



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

COMEDIC DUO: (Top) Hasan Minhaj and (bottom) John Creagh J perform in front of students at an SPC-sponsored Week of Welcome event in GL 100 on Aug. 26.

THE BEACON

Think you can improve the paper?

Prove It!

JOIN OUR STAFF

We are always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don't be shy!

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

WHAT: Friday Movies: UP!
WHEN: 5 p.m.
WHERE: GC 140
CONTACT: (305) 348-3068

WHAT: Jazz at Moca
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Museum of Contemporary Art
CONTACT: (305) 461-1161

WHAT: Laughing Gas Comedy Improv Show
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHERE: Main St. Playhouse
CONTACT: (305) 461-1161

WHAT: Bob Graham
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: The Wolfsonian
CONTACT: (305) 531-1001

WHAT: Fabulous
WHEN: 10 p.m.
WHERE: Mansion
CONTACT: (305) 695-8411

WHAT: Super Mash Bros.
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: Heathrow Lounge
CONTACT: (305) 534-7583

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

WHAT: Jamie Foxx
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: BankAtlantic Center
CONTACT: (954)835-7825

WHAT: Hot Tuna
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Revolution Live
CONTACT: (954)727-0950

WHAT: OAR
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Pompano Beach Amphitheatre
CONTACT: (954)946-2402

WHAT: The Harder They Come
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: Ziff Ballet Opera House
CONTACT: (305)949-6722

WHAT: Laughing Gas Comedy Improv Show
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse
CONTACT: (305) 461-1161

WHAT: Technique Miami: Get Funk'd Up
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHERE: Wynwood Social Club
CONTACT: (786)556-6492

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

WHAT: Can I Say II
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: Cinema Paradiso
CONTACT: (954)525-3456

WHAT: Progressive Vegetarian Pot Luck Social
WHEN: 4 p.m.
WHERE: Wallflower Gallery
CONTACT: (305)579-0069

WHAT: Mad Cat Theatre Company Benefit Concert
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: Churchills
CONTACT: (305)757-1807

WHAT: Mixed Culture
WHEN: 11 p.m.
WHERE: Jazid
CONTACT: (305)673-9372

WHAT: Airplay
WHEN: 9 p.m.
WHERE: Van Dyke Café
CONTACT: (305)534-3600

WHAT: The Harder They Come
WHEN: 2 p.m.
WHERE: Ziff Ballet House
CONTACT: (305)949-6722

Golden Panthers went from underdogs to goats

TOWERS, page 12

fate left to the whims of an unquestioned authority, but threatening to back out of a tournament put together to raise funds for cancer research sends the wrong message.

Hiring Thomas was a brilliant opportunity to create hype and buzz about a school many feel is on the verge of becoming a more important player in the South Florida market, but this type of action creates the wrong type of publicity.

NO LEG TO STAND ON

FIU is making demands where they don't have the

authority or the influence, and it perpetuates a negative image of Thomas as egotistical and afraid to face high-level competition, fairly or not.

Worse, Garcia's signature is on the contract, so despite seeking legal advice (at the time of printing, Athletics declined to comment because they were seeking legal counsel), it isn't clear they have any ground for their decision to attempt to opt out of the contract, and would unquestionably lose the home games they are hosting on Nov. 20, 22, and 23 for the tournament.

The inevitable end of this ordeal is FIU travelling to

Chapel Hill and playing North Carolina anyway, but now nobody's going to be looking for the upset. Any potential goodwill that could have been generated by this matchup is being erased by this.

If you are upset by how this was handled by the organizers, handle it in private. And if the plan is to pursue legal options, it might be best not to comment publicly in the first place.

While it was to be expected with the hiring of a controversial high-profile figure like Thomas, Athletics would do best to not create any extra negative publicity on their own.

Gazelle: Contract is with FIU, not Isiah Thomas

MEN'S BASKETBALL, page 12

FIU has the last 24 hours," he said.

Giles left Thomas a few messages on Aug. 26 but did not receive any calls back.

The Gazelle Group's decision to choose UNC and not Ohio State had nothing to do with Thomas being the Golden Panthers' head coach, Giles said in the same interview with Student Media.

"We thought it would be great for FIU to open the season at UNC and have it broadcast on ESPNU," Giles said. "It's our decision. We decide who plays who just like we decided Albany vs. Syracuse. The scheduling depends on what is best for the tournament."

"Our contract is with FIU, not Isiah."

-The Associated Press contributed to this report.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

GETTING READY: Defender Katrina Rose will face the Gators that managed to amass 13 shots on goal vs. the Miami Hurricanes.

Defense will face team with offensive firepower

SOCCER, page 12

players in her country, Jackson is hoping that the intensity of both camps will help her become an invaluable asset to the team.

"I'm trying to use what I learned and use it with the team this season so hopefully I can continue being a bit of an asset to the team," Jackson said.

NO EASY TASK

The University of Florida team is ranked No. 10 in the nation, and is coming off a season opening 1-0 win over

the University of Miami.

Even though the Gators were out-shot 15-13, goalkeeper Katie Fraine made five saves en route to her first shutout of the season.

For Coach Thomas Chestnutt, the match vs. UF is a chance to show some of his mentors what he is made of.

"For me, it's a little bit different experience because I'm a graduate student of UF and that's where I first got involved with college women's soccer," said coach Chestnutt. "I have a good relationship with Becky [Burleigh, UF women's soccer head coach],

Vick [Campbell, assistant head coach], and Alan [Kirkup, assistant coach] there, and they have been great mentors to me as a coach and I have great respect for them."

For Jackson, there is only one goal, and that's to enter the first home game of the season vs. Florida Gulf Coast University with a 2-0-0 record.

"We had a really strong preseason, so hopefully our fitness levels will be at our peak when we were playing UF and hopefully we can take it to them," she said. Then after a second, she corrected, "Actually, we will take it to them."

COACHES VERSUS CANCER CLASSIC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Date	Game	Location	Time
CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND			
Nov. 11	Syracuse vs. Cal	New York, N.Y.	7 p.m.
Nov. 19	North Carolina vs. Ohio State	New York, N.Y.	TBA
Nov. 20	Consolation Game	New York, N.Y.	5 p.m.
Nov. 20	Championship Game	New York, N.Y.	TBA
SYRACUSE REGIONAL			
Nov. 9	Albany vs. Syracuse	Syracuse, N.Y.	9 p.m.
Nov. 11	Robert Morris vs. Syracuse	Syracuse, N.Y.	7 p.m.
CHAPEL HILL REGIONAL			
Nov. 9	FIU vs. North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	7 p.m.
Nov. 11	N.C. Central vs. North Carolina	Chapel Hill, N.C.	9 p.m.
COLUMBUS REGIONAL			
Nov. 9	Alcorn State vs. Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.
Nov. 12	James Madison vs. Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio	7 p.m.
BERKELEY REGIONAL			
Nov. 9	Murray State vs. Cal	Berkeley, Calif.	11 p.m.
Nov. 11	Detroit vs. Cal	Berkeley, Calif.	11 p.m.
ALBANY SUBREGIONAL			
Nov. 20	Robert Morris vs. Detroit	Albany, N.Y.	6 p.m.
Nov. 20	Alcorn State vs. Albany	Albany, N.Y.	TBA
Nov. 21	Detroit vs. Alcorn State	Albany, N.Y.	4 p.m.
Nov. 21	Robert Morris vs. Albany	Albany, N.Y.	TBA
Nov. 22	Detroit vs. Albany	Albany, N.Y.	2 p.m.
Nov. 22	Alcorn State vs. Robert Morris	Albany, N.Y.	TBA
MIAMI SUBREGIONAL			
Nov. 20	James Madison vs. Murray State	Miami	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	N.C. Central vs. FIU	Miami	TBA
Nov. 22	Murray State vs. N.C. Central	Miami	5:30 p.m.

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Team seeks redemption after sour 2008 ending

VOLLEYBALL, page 1

matches to end last season.

"I didn't think we finished strong last season," Tomic said. "We lost in the semi-finals of the conference tournament, and even though we received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, we did not play well in that game. It left a bitter taste in our mouths."

HITTING AGAIN

"Finish strong" has been the team's motto all throughout the preseason practices and workouts, and the girls even have the words printed on their team shirts.

"Realistically, we should do better than last year, and it will depend mostly on how we finish the season," Tomic said.

Senior Olga Vergun, a 2007 First Team All Sun Belt selection, is coming off a season in which she was redshirted due to injury.

She is expecting to once again play a big role in the team's success this year.

"We felt we didn't complete what we started last year, and this year the Sweet 16 is a realistic goal," Vergun said.

After playing the right side hitter her whole career, she has been learning to play the middle now for this season, with all the talent that has been added and developed on the outside during the year she sat out.

"It's kind of different changing a position that you have been playing for four years, but I'm adjusting, and we feel good out there together," she said.

PRIDE OF PUERTO RICO

Then there's senior outside hitter Yarimar Rosa. There really isn't much left that hasn't been said about the three-time



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

LIBERO STRIKE: Sophomore libero Nina Colon is one of the players who gained experience in the NCAA tournament last season.

All-American.

Rosa led her home nation of Puerto Rico in several tournaments this summer, including the Pan-Am Cup held in Miami.

She has a chance to become FIU's first four-time All-American selection in any sport, not to mention to go down statistically as the Golden Panthers' most accomplished player in program history.

"I learned to be more calm out there, little details on hitting, to look for the block ... just to play the game smarter, to be more mature on the court and show some attitude when I have to show it," Rosa said. "It's a different game at that level."

Coach Tomic did not hold back when praising her superstar.

"The sky is the limit for Yarimar. She's

just so talented, and the experience she has now after playing the best teams in the world is priceless. I'm looking forward to her having a truly stellar year."

Coach Tomic said experience is valuable just as going to the NCAA tournament was last season.

"None of our girls had been to the tournament before, and you cannot teach experience. You have to see the atmosphere for yourself. It will make a big difference now."

ADDED DEPTH

For the Golden Panthers, it is a luxury to keep their best players and add more depth with five incoming freshmen.

The recruiting class is expected to be a factor this season, with several players ready to step in and contribute. One of those girls hoping to make a quick impact is libero Chanel Araujo.

"The freshmen are really pushing the upperclassmen, and the more competition we have the better we'll play," Araujo said.

"We have a very versatile freshman group, and we will be able to help at every position."

The Golden Panthers start the season on Aug. 28 on the road.

They won't be home until Sept. 10 to face the University of Miami, but that won't change their approach to the season.

"I'm happy that it's my senior year, but sad at the same time. Hopefully we'll win the Sun Belt Conference this season," Rosa said. "We always get to the finals, but could never get it. That's the main goal; stay focused, play at the same high level we always play at and win a championship."

Roster gained experience from last season's tournament

BONILLA, page 12

NCAA OR BUST

Over the past three seasons, the Golden Panthers have amassed a .755 winning percentage and fans are expecting nothing short of a trip to the Sweet 16 this year.

More notably, fans need to look past the conference trophy and banner and keep the Sweet 16 in their crosshairs. Yes, the Golden Panthers' season did not have the storybook ending last year and were ousted in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

But that crushing loss to Colorado did not stop senior outside hitter Yarimar Rosa from sharpening her game.

She dedicated herself this summer by playing against international competition in the Pan-American and FIVB Women's World Championship games.

But is it possible?

The nation's leader in kills per set went through the most rigorous offseason workout she's ever endured?

And she might be better than last season?

Sun Belt Conference champions don't have players like Rosa.

Perennial Sweet 16 caliber teams have players like Rosa leading their squads.

Rosa alone guarantees the Golden Panthers a winning record.

So fans, take your sight off the regular season and fast forward to the postseason.

EXPERIENCE SERVES WELL

When a program reaches the national stage for the first time, nerves just come with the territory. In what ended up being the team's last game last season, Rosa was one of the few players who showed up. She recorded 22 kills while the rest of the team combined for 23 kills.

No. 22 Colorado was no scrub, but the Golden Panthers seemed more overwhelmed by the game itself rather than their opponent. Before last season's tournament, the Golden Panthers had a roster with no NCAA experience.

Now, two-thirds of the team

lived through a high pressure postseason game. A coach cannot simulate that type of scenario for players. Luckily for Tomic, she managed to give her team an NCAA postseason crash course.

If the Golden Panthers receive another bid, they will lose some of those detrimental pre-game jitters to defeat a top-25 team.

Put it on the board, this team will win against another ranked opponent this season.

COMPETITIVE NATURE

For the first time since Coach Danijela Tomic became the program's builder, she signed an all-freshman class this summer. She had to sign many transfer students to quickly dig the program out of the ditch it was stuck in.

As the team became a winning program, Tomic was able to sign young players to complement the veterans.

These freshmen are fighting for their spot on the roster and this is invariably making sophomores and juniors protect their

position. Sophomore libero Nina Colon noted this summer how the incoming freshmen are sparking team competition.

So now you have the entire roster trying to do everything they can to prove to Tomic that they deserve the most playing time.

Making predictions or statements on the day of the first game of the season may seem preemptive, but the Golden Panthers should not be content with just being one of the top dogs in the conference.

Having a winning season should be a given for a team that has lost less than 10 games three consecutive seasons. They will reach the NCAA tournament and if all goes well, the Sweet 16.

These predictions are not outlandish. They are the result of a rebuilding process and years of player development.

Why would the Golden Panthers fail to meet these goals?

This is 2009, not 2004. These days, winning is expected from this team.

SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
Fri, Aug 28	WCU at Lexington, KY Kentucky Classic	6:00 p.m.
Sat, Aug 29	Northwestern at Lexington, KY	1:00 p.m.
Sat, Aug 29	Kentucky at Lexington, KY	8:00 p.m.
Fri, Sep 04	Creighton at Lawrence, KS Jayhawk Invitational	11:00 a.m.
Fri, Sep 04	Kansas at Lawrence, KS	8:00 p.m.
Sat, Sep 05	Lipscomb at Lawrence, KS	11:00 a.m.
Thu, Sep 10	Miami (FL) U.S. Century Bank FIU/UM Invitational	7:00 p.m.
Fri, Sep 11	Albany U.S. Century Bank	7:00 p.m.
Sat, Sep 12	Florida State U.S. Century Bank	7:00 p.m.
Fri, Sep 18	Florida A&M at Orlando, FL UCF Tournament	10:30 a.m.
Fri, Sep 18	Southern Miss at Orlando, FL	7:30 p.m.
Sat, Sep 19	UCF at Orlando, FL	3:00 p.m.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

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Athletics threatening to drop out from cancer charity tournament vs. UNC

JONATHAN DAVILA
SERGIO BONILLA
Beacon Staff

The Golden Panthers men's basketball team will commence their season against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels on Nov. 9, according to the NCAA champion's schedule, which was released on Aug. 25 by the Atlantic Coast Conference.

But Athletics Director Pete Garcia feels the Golden Panthers were "bullied" into the matchup by the New Jersey-based Gazelle Group, the organizers of Coaches vs. Cancer, a tournament Garcia signed to be a part of in November 2008.

Garcia wants to play Ohio State instead. When contacted by Student Media, Athletics declined to comment. The department told Student Media it is seeking legal counsel before making any more comments.

"Would they do what they're doing to us to Duke, or to North Carolina? No," Garcia said yesterday to the Associated Press. "But they'll do it to FIU and any other school out there like FIU."

A school spokesman for UNC told the Associated Press the school is not involved with making the tournament's schedule.

"We're being bullied into that game. I've told them today, we'll play Ohio State, we don't want to play North Carolina," Garcia said.

Garcia said the Golden Panthers are still committed to playing in the tournament, but they are still examining how to get out of the matchup with UNC.

The contract signed by Garcia stipulated the Golden Panthers would play Ohio State or North Carolina between Nov. 9-13.

Gazelle Group President Rick Giles told the Associated Press that the contract

gives the group "the sole authority" over sites, dates, times, teams and opponents in the tournament.

In a phone interview with Student Media, Giles said he contacted Garcia on Aug. 6 letting him know FIU was going to play UNC. Garcia told Giles on that day that he preferred the Golden Panthers play vs. Ohio State and that he would opt out of the contract if FIU played against UNC, according to Giles.

"All of the teams are cooperative in adjusting to the time and scheduling," Giles told Student Media.

If the Golden Panthers refuse to play against UNC and pull out themselves out of the tournament, they will also forfeit games vs. James Madison, Murray State and North Carolina Central.

Throughout his 15 years of working with Gazelle Group, Giles said no team has ever boycotted a scheduling decision.

"We've never had a team react the way

Athletics' poor choice leads to bad publicity

There is a time to take a principled stand. Sometimes you're not gonna take it. No, you ain't gonna take it, anymore.

Sometimes, in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve political bands which connect them together.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

Sometimes you have to get up out of your chair, open your window, stick your head out, and yell "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it anymore."

"Would they do what they're doing to us to Duke, or to North Carolina? No," Pete Garcia said in an Associated Press story. "But they'll do it to FIU and any other school out there like FIU."

I agree. That is absolutely a valid point. I'm ready to throw open my window and shout.

"We're being bullied into that game," Garcia said. "I've told them today, we'll play Ohio State, we don't want to play North Carolina."

Absolutely! I feel your pain, as does the head coach and athletic director of every single university in your situation. Kyle Whittingham has night terrors about this stuff.

But this is absolutely not the right time or place to be taking a principled stand, despite having a legitimate gripe here.

PICK YOUR BATTLES

Going to UNC was going to be a win-win scenario for FIU. The hiring of Isiah Thomas as head coach has put somewhat of a target on FIU now, as there are many people out there who would like to see him fail, and this was a rare opportunity for Thomas to play the lovable underdog in a high profile game.

Going in with some humility would have engendered the type of public support FIU and Thomas need here.

Instead, FIU is trying to throw around its insignificant weight and make demands they don't have any place to make.

I understand and sympathize with the sentiment expressed by Garcia on behalf of Athletics.

Nobody wants to be jerked around. Nobody wants their

TOWERS, page 10

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Following season opener, team faces No. 10 UF

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women's soccer team wanted to start its season in a way no player on the roster had experienced at FIU.

"It was really upsetting going through so many losses so fast in the beginning of the year [in 2008], but it's great to start off with our first win," goalkeeper Melanie Raimo said.

Coming off their first opening game victory in over eight years against Stetson on Aug. 21, the Golden Panthers are looking to carry their momentum on to a tough road game vs. the University of Florida Gators.

"We're practicing really hard," said freshman Thaisa Moreno. "It feels better [after the win] because we believe in ourselves."

RISING INTENSITY

After only allowing one shot on goal during the game, the sophomore goalkeeper

Raimo said that clear communication is key to the upcoming matches.

"If I can communicate with my defense and we're on the same page, then nobody can get by us," Raimo said.

Senior midfielder Mayara da Fonseca Bordin was able to communicate with her team to score the first goal of the year.

"Being a midfielder, you always expect that you're serving people instead of scoring goals," said Bordin. "I'm always there if they need me, so I and the opportunity and I did it."

In addition to the intense preseason camp and exhibition schedule, FIU standout Amy Jackson received some top-level advice over the summer when she was invited to participate in the multi-day training camp with the Australian national team.

Being able to play with some of the greatest

SOCCER, page 10

VOLLEYBALL

It's Sweet 16 or bust for Golden Panthers' season



CHRIS GREEN/BEACON FILE PHOTO

SOARING: Three-time All-American Yarimar Rosa spent the summer competing with team Puerto Rico in international tournaments.

It now seems like a distant memory, but the Golden Panthers volleyball team could barely win a game in 2004. Their 3-23 season was harder to stomach than the opening scene from *Saving Private Ryan*.

Five years later, the same program is expected to not only be the Sun Belt Conference contenders, but to receive another NCAA Tournament bid.

Five years later, the team has a three-time All-American senior and a coach with a career 86-36 record.

Five years later, as the Golden Panthers open their 2009 season on the road today, anything other than an NCAA tournament run should be considered an absolute failure.

COMMENTARY



SERGIO BONILLA

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