

Discovery lab attempts to create real-life robocop

ALEX CRONIN
Contributing Writer

Disabled police officers and military veterans may now have a chance to get back into action.

The University's Discovery Lab, under the School of Computing and Information Sciences, is partnering with Lt. Cmdr. Jeremy Robins of the U.S. Navy Reserve to bring this plan to realization.

Called the "Telebot Project," Robins donated \$20,000 to the lab and borrowed two robots from the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. The plan is to use the robots to bring thousands of disabled police officers and mili-

tary veterans back into the workforce.

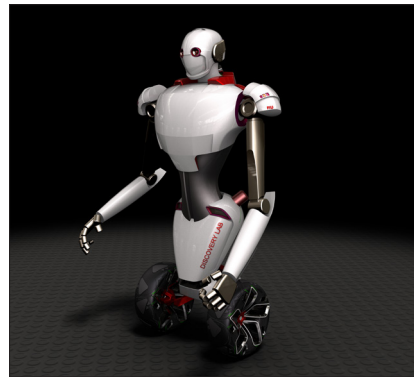
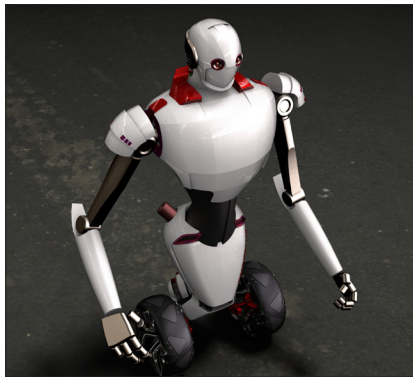
The project is led by the heads of the Discovery Lab: Jong-Hoon Kim, Nagarajan Prabakar and Sundaraja Sitharama Iyengar. The student developers are Irvin Cardenas, Lazaro Herrera, Frank Hernandez, Leo Shao, Uwe Cerron, Daniela Sanchez, Francisco Peleato, Mangai Prabakar, Fernando de Zaya, Justin Rodriguez, Eduardo Dennis and Jorge Andrade.

The first version of the plan, which started on July 1, is dubbed "0.1" and will be ready by the end of the year. The second version, "1.0" is expected by the end of 2013

SEE ROBOT, PAGE 2



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IRVIN CARDENAS



The Discovery Lab is currently working with the two-wheeled, military grade IHMCs as a prototype, but the design may change as the developers decide what is the best look for the robot in an urban environment.

College Republicans united by 'common goal'

ALEXANDER SUAREZ
Contributing Writer

The College Republicans are representing once again.

Picking up the initiative is freshman and president of the organization, Dennis Parr.

"At the Freshman Orientation I realized there was no Republican group," Parr said. Soon after, he found out what was needed to start the organization. According to Parr, in only a short time, the

College Republicans were official.

According to Parr, the College Republicans currently have 107 registered members. About 25 to 30 people attend general meetings, according to Jesus David Borrero, the organization's executive director.

"The one thing that unites us is our vision for this country," said junior political science major and member, Jessie Lee Browning. "Our members represent a

majority of the various ideologies in the Republican Party and we are an extremely diverse club, but we all want the same thing for this nation."

Parr said the group "appeals to conservatives, not just Republicans."

According to Borrero, the first issue that brings this organization to action is "to get Obama out."

"We are very close in line with [the] Romney campaign and are doing everything we can to get him in office," Browning said.

To help accomplish this task, Borrero said, "Basically, we're registering voters, phone banking, [conducting] street operations and taking the conservative message to students."

One way the College Republicans are bringing the conservative message to students is by inviting

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College Democrats gear up for elections

MARIA BRITOS
Contributing Writer

With presidential elections around the corner, the College Democrats are experiencing a busy season.

The organization's president, Leonardo Curiel, an international relations student and one of the founders of College Democrats, explained the purpose of the organization.

"The main purpose

of the organization is to promote the ideologies of the Democratic Party and to basically show the students what the Democratic Party is all about and what it promotes," Curiel said.

Curiel also shared his concern with the number of people currently registered.

"There are a lot of people that are not registered to vote on campus, mostly freshmen," Curiel

said.

One of the organization's main goals is to help qualified students register to vote. Curiel said he is not registered to vote because of his residency status. However, he believes that being involved in the community and encouraging others to use their power to vote shows what being a true citizen is all about.

"Members are a weird topic here," Curiel said about the member's role within the organization.

The organization has around 500 members. Some members recruited during summer freshmen orientations. According to Curiel, 20 members attend general meetings and participate in events for the organization because it's hard to accommodate all members and their schedules.

SEE DEMS, PAGE 2

“There is no denying that college can sometimes seem overwhelmingly liberal and College Republicans is there to remind students that, in fact, there is a strong conservative movement on campus.”

Jessie Lee Browning
Member
College Republicans

“The main purpose of the organization is to promote the ideologies of the Democratic Party and to basically show the students what the Democratic Party is all about and what it promotes.”

Leonardo Curiel
President
College Democrats

Telebot Project aims to give disabled vets second life

ROBOT, PAGE 1

and a field test version is expected in early 2014.

“Many policemen become injured while patrolling unsecure areas,” said Cardenas. “Those sort of jobs have a lot of demand in the community. Disabled veterans have useful skills, can take these jobs and make the community feel safer.”

The problem, however, is making a robot that can intimidate and display a sense of authority.

The robot is remote-controlled by the disabled officer but the voice that comes from the robot is the officer’s.

The Discovery Lab is working on making the robot intimidating while also approachable enough that a small child would not be afraid to interact with it.

Remote-controlled robots are currently used by the military and business applications. The developers’ goal

is the eventual ability of the robots to write parking tickets.

Cardenas does not think these robots will take the jobs of police officers.

“Disabled veterans have their pensions and can get an extra job and more money and serve the community as well. Most veterans want to get into the workforce and the hope is that with this robot they can.

“Usually, robots take away jobs. This one will give jobs back,” Cardenas said.

The goal of the project is to get these robots to be mobile enough to venture into unsecure areas that are dangerous or otherwise impossible for a human officer to enter.

The Discovery Lab is currently working with the two-wheeled, military grade IHMCs as a prototype, but the design may change as the developers decide what is the best look for the robot in an urban environment.

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BACK AND FORTH



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE MASON/THE BEACON

University students gather around the Graham Center TV to watch as presidential candidates Barack Obama and Mitt Romney debate during the first presidential debate on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at a watch party organized by the University’s Debate Team.

College Democrats taking active role during election time

DEMS, PAGE 1

However, Curiel said active members participate in other activities, such as registering students to vote, tabling in the Graham Center, community service, marathons and beach clean ups. Most of them also take part of another branch of the organization called Panthers for Obama where they are in charge of promoting everything dealing with the Obama campaign.

When elections are over, the organization participates in activities and members participate in community service events in the city and on campus.

The president also meets elected city officials and met

U.S. President Bill Clinton last month. Going to Washington D.C. to represent the University’s College Democrats and meeting White House officials are also part of Curiel’s agenda at College Democrats.

Curiel explained his reason for supporting Obama. He said that the hard work the president has put in favor of students, in regards to the loan programs, passed during his four years in the White House, has impacted students and is the reason why students are willing to vote for him. “Students are a big part of his re-election,” Curiel said. “I believe that he should be president again next year.”

Curiel encourages students to join the organization, not just for the politics but for the experiences gained.

Members of the organization participate in community service activities, build their resumes if an executive position is acquired and have the opportunity to meet elected officials, such as former presidents, governors and mayors.

“It just gives you so many unique opportunities,” Curiel said.

The organization does not have a place or date on which it meets regularly. However, the president contacts the organization’s members through email, Facebook and text to inform the members of meeting dates, times and locations.

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Conservative block present at FIU

REPS, PAGE 1

current political figures to speak to the organization during their general meetings.

Borrero said this is important in “providing education to the group.” In a general meeting, the former City of Doral Vice Mayor Robert Van Name spoke on economics. According to Borrero, the College Republicans desire to invite political figures like Sen. Marco Rubio to speak on immigration and Gov. Rick Scott to speak on education.

As for the College Republicans’ work on campus, Browning said, “This isn’t a just campaign, it’s a group of people who want to get together and share ideas. We all have an objective and a vision for this nation.... we aren’t just united for Romney, we are united because we all have a common goal and, election year or not, we will pursue

that goal.”

Parr said he sees that the participation of the group after the presidential election is going toward “supporting all representatives of the Republican party” when it comes to other “local elections.”

“We are not bad people. We want what is best for America. If people think otherwise, they should do more research,” Parr said. For those who want to learn more, Parr invites them to “come and learn from us.”

According to Browning, “There is no denying that college can sometimes seem overwhelmingly liberal and College Republicans is there to remind students that, in fact, there is a strong conservative movement on campus.”

The College Republicans meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays in the Graham Center, room 150.

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You have to market your brand accordingly

JENNA KEFAUVER
Contributing Writer

Some advice:

I know we're all young and cute and like to party, but that doesn't mean it needs to be posted on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Especially not the pictures where you're falling over drunk on some random guy or girl.

That's not cute. It's not going to get you any admirers, or jobs for that matter.

In case you haven't been informed, your potential employers will check your Facebook and they will find that most incriminating picture of you, the one where you're drunk with the sombrero at that party. If there are pictures of you from the same party where you look sober, post them. But if it looks like the kid standing next to you has been your crutch for the last 30 minutes, leave it off.

And definitely don't post that picture of you holding/using some kind of illegal drug. It's -- wait for



CARL FREDERICK FRANCOIS/THE BEACON

Like most University students Kristy Lynn Shore takes a minute to play on Facebook. As students become more and more active on Facebook, they need to be mindful of what they post and the future consequences that this content can have on their employment opportunities.

it -- illegal. If you're doing this on campus or in your dorm, the cops can arrest you.

No employer is going to look at these pictures and think, "Wow! Let's hire that person!"

And do you really want to

embarrass yourself that badly?

And, if you have a small child and you are in your twenties, stop posting pictures of yourself half naked and drunk on Facebook, especially when your kids are involved. After creating statuses

about how difficult it is to be a single parent, and about how you have no money, to then show that you can afford to go out and get trashed goes beyond being a questionable parent. Child Protective Services would probably

disapprove.

Also, if the majority of your photos on Facebook are of you in bathing suits or less...switch it up a bit. Try something with some clothing, maybe. That could work.

Which brings me to my next point, which I know has been beaten into all of you enough times. Be safe on the Internet. Please. If you meet someone online and they want to meet you somewhere, bring a friend. And tell people where you're going. The Buddy System may sound lame, but it's a good idea.

And no, I'm not all that experienced, but I've watched enough Dateline and SVU to know that anything you put on the Internet stays there forever. And a lot of it can get you into all kinds of trouble.

So, whatever you decide, just please be safe. Or just don't be friends with me on Facebook, where I have to see it.

-jenna.kefauver@fiusm.com

UCCs are more of a burden than necessary

ALEX SORONDO
Assit. Opinion Editor

I am a senior and trudging, still, through the University Core Curriculum; digressing from grad school applications and their requisite writing samples to do my homework for Spanish I.

In the evenings, I work on a critical essay examining motifs in the later works of Philip Roth, and then in the mornings, three days a week, I write single-paragraph essays explaining to Pedro why he can't bring his dog into the biblioteca.

These are the consequences of my own procrastination, of course. If I'd only buckled down and sacrificed the will to live, I could've capped this thing off in two years. Que razonable.

But after three failed attempts to satisfy the UCC's math requirement (the biggest obstacle for most English majors, and for which I all but washed my professors' car to finally pass), I feel pretty justified in my resentment toward The Core.

There were other classes I wanted to take, other things I wanted to study that might have helped me out as a writer, a journalist, a human being; and I don't

think I'm alone in feeling that if I can show aptitude, passion, and dedication for a particular field of study that I should be able to pursue that subject with all of my effort and energy and strengthen my skills and earn my degree in the name of Roth - amen.

Pero no. The UCC, and its surrounding network of bureaucratic confusion, is here to stay.

Not because it's pleasantly vindictive for the administration, or even necessarily because it might seem pretty lucrative to have a single teacher, and maybe one or two Teaching Assistants, hosting a class of 200 students who all need a \$140 textbook.

The unpleasant fact, the painful justification for the tyrant's rule, is that the UCC does teach us something pretty profound.

It teaches, as Bob Dylan would put it, that you're gonna have to serve somebody.

Not that this is foreign practice to anybody of college age. High school is essentially a pulsating embodiment of servitude and drudgery.

But you aren't actually paying for your high school education; at least not

directly.

It's a rich learning experience when, at the age of nineteen, you have to hand over \$600 for the "opportunity" to take Finite Math for the third time.

I would rather pay \$1,000 to be flogged each morning for a semester. But you don't get to pick your poison in college; it's handed to you. The question is whether or not you can stomach it.

Because that's all your undergraduate degree really says. It doesn't mean that you've mastered the material in your field, it doesn't even suggest a formidable intellect.

Your bachelor's degree is a testament, above all else, to your work ethic. Maybe it took you five years, maybe two: the point is, you got through it.

Not only did you study and do the work and, ostensibly, learn some stuff along the way; you made the necessary sacrifices.

You juggled jobs, skipped meals, dealt with advisors, pulled all-nighters, scrounged up the money for textbooks and tuition.

You overcame the bureaucracy's hurdles of how much money to pay this person in that office on either end of their

four-hour lunch break.

Es muy difcil, it really is. And while it provides -- or tries to provide -- a rounded education, with a few credit-hours in almost every field, the real value of the UCC resides in its godforsaken misery. Enlightenment through suffering.

"In the beginning," it tells us, "you will do as told. You will work at what you hate; you'll spend dozens, maybe hundreds of hours laboring over subjects that will not only yield no benefit in your career but will, in fact, be promptly forgotten after the final exam. You'll buy the experience for more than it's worth and, if you don't earn a C, you'll buy it again."

I'm not trying to downplay the ulcer-inducing contempt and impotent rage it evokes on a regular basis.

Believe me. I despise the Core with the passion of a thousand Spanish dances and I can't think of a single benefit or a lasting lesson learned from any of its classes. They've brought nothing but frustration, anxiety, boredom and lament.

That being said, it has its perks.

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Panther Wire

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GO GREEN

Panther Dining works with Aramark to bring back composting initiative

KATHERINE LEPRI
Contributing Writer

Miami is known for exciting nightlife, white sandy beaches and beautiful people, not composting.

In nature, nothing is waste - everything is food for something else. Composting is nature's process of recycling decomposed organic materials into rich soil. It is the combination of greens and browns - like fruits, vegetables, kitchen scraps, and old leaves - that mature together through a curing process.

"There is an activation period for the first three weeks, where a lot of the breaking down happens," says Celia Izaguirre, sustainability coordinator for Panther Dining. "In the beginning, there are bugs breaking it down to start feeding. And after that, there is a slower breaking down towards the end of the process."

At the University, Izaguirre is working with Aramark, the Agroecology Program and the Office of University Sustainability, on a large scale composting initiative.

"The nutrients that naturally feed us -

either food waste or cuttings - can go into producing more food," Izaguirre says. The project began two years ago for an environmental student who wanted to know the best timing time for compost composition. He worked with dining services to give him organic food waste.

When Izaguirre took the position as sustainability coordinator for Panther Dining last fall, she decided to get the project up and running again.

"I'm trying to show how two different departments of school can work together to reduce waste and provide a resource for another," Izaguirre said. "The plan is to expand the [Organic] Garden's composting and make the process useful for a company like Aramark."

Aramark provides residential dining, retail operations and grounds maintenance. One of the company's corporate values is sustainability. Patricia Williams, marketing manager for Aramark, oversees multiple initiatives at the University to decrease our environmental footprint.

When the project began years ago, only the Fresh Food Company was involved.

“Environmental sustainability is important because it provides services vital for human survival and improves the quality of our lives and for future generations.”

Celia Izaguirre
Sustainability Coordinator
Panther Dining

Since then, Jamba Juice and most of the retail coffee locations, such as Starbucks and Café Bustelo, have joined in on the effort.

Izaguirre is working with Miles Medina, the manager of the Organic Garden, and students of the Agroecology Program to expand their composting efforts so Aramark can eventually utilize it as a fertilizer for its projects.

"We are excited about finding a way to make this a win-win situation," says Williams. "The success is based on everybody doing their part; if something happens and someone forgets to pick up something, the chain is broken."

According to Izaguirre, in the spring semester the garden composted about 1,622 pounds of pre-consumer organic waste per month. This projects to approximately

19,000 pounds of food waste a year.

"The 19,000 pounds can fill about three dump trucks," said Izaguirre. "The final product is probably twice or three times that amount, since mulch and dried leaves are added in at higher amounts than the food waste."

The food waste has helped in soil building for the Organic Garden's quarter acre expansion of their fruit grove, which

includes papayas, bananas and other fruit trees.

Both Izaguirre and Williams agree that the Organic Garden is one of the main reasons they are able to go through with this project, since it provides the land required.

The next step will be a batch test of the natural fertilizer on a different part of campus to see how that works for Aramark grounds. Trials begin this December.

"We are in the process of determining how much we can use as compost and as a fertilizer," said Williams. "You really don't know how it is going to work until you actually do it."

She does not suggest that it will replace all of the fertilizer, but she feels this initiative will grow with time. William's goal is for this to be the foundation to build and embed sustainability at FIU.

"This is the future," says Izaguirre. "Environmental sustainability is important because it provides services vital for human survival, and improves the quality of our lives and for future generations."

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REEL TO REEL

Rian Johnson's time-traveling "Looper" packs a punch



Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Joe, a looper, next to Bruce Willis, who plays Joe's older self, in this sci-fi action movie about time travel.

With a third feature film and two impressive "Breaking Bad" episodes, "Fly" and "Fifty-One," under his belt, it's safe to say Rian Johnson is one of the best and most original filmmakers around.

The low budget neo-noir "Brick" was a shocking debut, and "The Brothers Bloom" proved to be a fun take on the caper subgenre, but it is with "Looper" that Johnson takes a huge leap at creating a sci-fi film that is both intelligent and entertaining.

Although the marketing would have many thinking it's nothing more than your average action flick with a time-travel twist, "Looper" turns out to be much more than that.

In the year 2072, time travel has been invented and outlawed, only to be used by powerful criminals when a body needs to be disposed of. Back in 2042, assassins, known as loopers, are hired to dispose of anyone sent back at a designated time and location.

Johnson's film follows a looper named Joe who hesitates to kill his older self, sent back with a large sum of gold to serve as Joe's retirement funds for the next thirty years. His hesitation leads to the escape of his older self, kicking off a chain of events that threaten the entirety of the looper system.

Nothing in Johnson's future reality feels implausible, to the point where even time travel feels normal. Nothing is entirely unfamiliar, and even the few changes to the world keep it as realistic as possible, be it new drugs, machinery and weapons, or a society that is notably split between the rich and the poor, with massive skyscrapers and the tiny tents across the street.

Rather than focus on making a complex, action-heavy screenplay like many recent sci-fi films have, Johnson's writing sticks to keeping his characters in situations that are as reasonable as they are surprising and darkly humorous.

There are more than enough twists and interesting concepts presented, but each character has a reason for being where they are, even when they seem to be straying from the path the audience expects.

One might expect plenty of action from a film co-starring Bruce Willis, and rightfully so. Gunshots and blood-spatter galore will leave plenty of people pleased, but there's plenty of emotion and drama underneath it all for those who want more than violence, even in Willis' solid work as Joe's older self.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt delivers an impressive performance, as Joe, that mirrors Willis' entire career. Makeup and hairstyling make the two actors look similar. It was unnervingly impressive, but Gordon-Levitt adopts the same mannerisms and quirks that Willis is known for to complete the role.

Even the supporting performances add a lot to the film, from Emily Blunt's convincing American accent, to Jeff Daniels playing against type as a crime lord. Surprisingly enough, it was child actor Pierce Gagnon, five years old at the time of shooting, who managed to quite literally blow everyone away.

"Looper" may not be redefining sci-fi, but it's a smart and endlessly engaging film that, alongside Duncan Jones' "Moon," proves to be one of the best additions to the genre in the last decade.

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LECTURE

Violence in theatre will be discussed at the University

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

The ethical implications of violent acts in theatre will be at the forefront of Stephen Di Benedetto's lecture, an associate professor in the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Miami, on Oct. 10 at 7 p.m. in the Green Library 220.

The topic of violence emerged from a conversation that Michael Patrick Gillespie, the director of Center for Humanities in an Urban Environment, had with Seth Boren, CEO of the Sister Emmanuelle Hospital. Boren helped bring Sister Helen Perjean to the University, with the Genesis Foundation, during last year's lectures on the death penalty.

"Every year, I try to sponsor one or two themed events," said Gillespie. "Seth [Boren] said it would be interesting to do something involving the violence in rap lyrics, but I wanted something bigger and more inclusive."

Gillespie decided to discuss theatre and graphic images specifically because of its strength as expanding media.

"Theater is something that everyone is familiar with, and there is a strong theatre scene in South Florida. I felt that music might be too exclusive, depending on genre, but everyone goes to the theater or has, at least, read plays," said Gillespie.

The lecture is a continua-

tion of a Sept. 12 panel discussion on representations of violence in the theatre, which featured Joe Adler, producing artistic director of the Gable Stage, Daniel Castellanos, a professor and founding chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Phillip M. Church, an associate professor in the Department of Theatre, and Christine Dolen, drama critic of the Miami Herald.

"I was very glad this semester that we were able to have the panel discussion off campus," said Gillespie. "It was a risk, in terms of audience, but the support has been great. We were able to have a wide range of panelists who each brought something different to the discussion and who are busy but continue to support us. The faculty and students who go and encourage others have also made this a great experience, as well as the administration who has given me the freedom to develop the center."

The location has also provided CHUE with the opportunity to expand its conversations with the community, which forms a part of one of its central missions.

"We don't try to act like missionaries, but rather it's about being aware of how many people have a great deal to say that aren't part of the university community, and this was their chance to present their views and exchange ideas," said

Gillespie.

The panel also generated discussions on the different representations of violence and the difference between staged violence and violence experienced in everyday life.

"What was really striking were the questions people had about the effects of representations of violent behavior in film, games, theater, etc.," Gillespie said. "It's not a topic I want to dismiss, but it needs to be put into context: violence has been a part of us forever, since the Greek play. When you go into a museum, you can see very graphic images that are now revered as great works of art."

The upcoming lecture will provide a new opportunity for community integration by welcoming everyone back, those who attended the panel discussion as well as anyone new that wishes to attend.

"It's a good idea to have exchanges with students and faculty and be able to hear from the community at the same time," Gillespie said. "[CHUE] wants to continue to expand, and we are taking it one step at a time."

Channel WPBT 2 will be in attendance, recording the lecture, which will be available through humanities.fiu.edu within the week in the archives section.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

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This week: National Coming Out Day



DEAR NICK,

My friends told me about "National Coming Out Day." What is that, and should I do it?

T.Y., Junior, Religious Studies Major



Nick Scheidt, M.S. is a Doctoral Psychology Intern at FIU Counseling and Psychological Services. He is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral Candidate from Carlos Albizu University. Once he completes his internship at FIU, Nick plans to work as a Psychologist, Writer, and Professor.

Do you have questions you would like to Ask Nick?
Send an email to: Nscheidt@fiu.edu

DEAR T.Y.,

Every year on Oct. 11, FIU and colleges all around the country celebrate "coming out" for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals. On this special day, people decide to disclose their sexual orientation to close friends, family and even to the public. This day is important as it demonstrates how much progress has been made, especially recently,



with regards to LGBT equality.

Whether you should or should not come out that day, is a deeply personal decision about who you are with yourself and with others. Each person will confront this challenge differently.

Many feelings emerge during this process - from confusion, uncertainty, fear, to excitement, freedom and empowerment. Some people come out to improve their relationships and others to breakdown and overcome barriers and stereotypes that have kept them in the closet, making it easier for others to follow along. Whatever you decide to do, know that the decision

Be Well,

Nick

CALENDAR

FALL 2012 EVENTS



MONDAY, OCT. 8

PANTHER PROWL

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Ticket required
WHERE: MMC U.S. Bank Century Arena

STACY LONDON FROM WHAT NOT TO WEAR

WHEN: 2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC 9700 Collins Ave. Bal Harbour, FL 33154

TUESDAY, OCT. 9

LXV LOUNGE

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: BBC Kovens Conference Center

KICKOFF BY THE BAY

WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: BBC

MEN'S SOCCER

Offensive struggles begin to slowdown strong start

FRANCISCO RIVERA
Staff Writer

FIU traveled up to Orlando on Oct. 3 to face the University of Central Florida for their second conference game of the year.

Coming into the game, the headline was the battle of two high-scoring forwards in FIU's Quentin Albrecht and UCF's Deshorn Brown.

Each forward lead their respective teams with seven goals this season.

The first half of the game was a defensive battle between the Panthers and the Knights. FIU (6-2-2) got off nine shots on goal while UCF (4-3-2) collected five. However, the Panthers goalkeeper, Robin

Spiegel, stood strong with a scoreless first half and two saves. The Knights goalie, Sebastian Evers, did not go unnoticed either, holding FIU to a scoreless second half.

Upon entering the second half, both teams looked to assert their dominance and leave the game with a win.

It wasn't until the 65th minute when a foul was called on forward Colby Burdette, giving the Knights a penalty kick opportunity. UCF's leading scorer, Brown, sank in the first goal of the game while adding his team-leading eighth goal of the season.

The Panthers answered with the equalizer from two shots by forward Daniel Gonzalez, but it was all-for-none as Evers ended

up having his second straight shutout game.

SLOWING DOWN

With the loss to UCF, the Panthers have fallen to 1-2-2 in their last six games. The main reason for this is that the Panthers have begun playing conference games whose record was 1-5-2 last season.

The more shocking stat is that the teams the Panthers have either drawn or lost to, have shot less than FIU.

Over the past six games, the Panthers have had 76 shots to their opponents 65. However, the Panthers fall short to their opponents when it comes to shots on goal. Over the past six games, FIU has had 19 shots on

goal while their opponents have had 26.

FIU must also look into finding a second scoring option on their team. Of the 15 goals, the Panthers have this season, seven have come from Albrecht, three from Burdette, two from midfielder Gonzalo Frechilla and goals from midfielder Daniel Gonzalez, midfielder Patrick Ramdial and forward Nicolas Rodriguez. Coming into this season, both Burdette and Gonzalez were looking to be the team's first or second scoring option; however, both have struggled to get off to strong offensive starts.

FRESHMAN STRUGGLES

Coming into the 2012 season,

the bright point of this team was all the young talent that came to play for FIU. However, after 10 games, only two freshmen have scored for the Panthers.

Gonzalez, FIU's number one signee, has had only one goal and three assists so far this season, while Ramdial has one goal and one assist. Other freshman like forward Andrew Mattek have gathered zero goals and assists.

FIU will need its young guns to perform better and get on the scoreboard more often this season if they are to achieve their goals and Head Coach Kenny Arena's goal of reaching the Conference USA tournament.

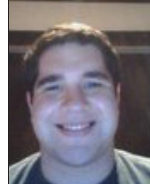
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FOOTBALL

Thanks seniors, but it's time to prepare the freshmen

It's easy to call this Panther football team a disappointment.

COLUMNIST



LUIS D. GUTIERREZ

A squad picked to finish first in its own conference is currently ranked dead last, sporting an abysmal 1-5 record. Its lone win came in a squeeze-out effort against Akron in overtime, a game where FIU was favored by 23 points. A defense thought of as "relentless," "aggressive," and "one of the Sun Belt's best," has surrendered roughly 418 yards and 38 points per contest.

Injuries have also taken their toll on the team, as quarterback Jake Medlock and running backs Kendrick Rhodes and Darian Mallary have all missed substantial time, nursing a left foot fracture, a high ankle sprain, and a concussion, respectively.

A season filled with expectations that are as tall as the Green Library, have come crashing down like the old bleachers at FIU stadium.

But it isn't so easy to have the patience to keep up with the 2012 batch of Panthers. FIU is headed toward its first rebuilding project in program history — the 0-23 years don't count — since they involved

a lot of building in the first place. A slate that includes six more conference games and trips to Troy and South Alabama won't make it any easier for the Panthers. To add, FIU faces much-improved Sun Belt foes: Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky and Louisiana-Monroe at Alfonso Field. And judging by attendance, "the Cage" has hardly rattled.

Results have not bode well for the Panthers this year, and there is little reason to believe that they should be favored in most, if any, of their upcoming contests.

Still looking for their first conference win of the year, it's time for the Panthers to throw in the towel.

This doesn't signify losing the will to win, but gain the will to improve and learn from collective miscues. A lucrative recruiting class, according to ESPN, where the Panthers signed three-star stand out recruits including Darrian Dyson, Deandre Jasper, and Patrick Jean among others sign with FIU, should see its fair and even bigger share of playing time within the coming weeks.

Considered the best recruiting class in program history, there wouldn't be a more suitable time for these young bucks to find their way onto the field than right



JASON DELGADO/THE BEACON

Redshirt freshman Loranzo Hammonds is just one of the young players that should begin to see more playing time this year.

of stick'em. It would have also been foolish to assume that Head Coach Mario Cristobal, one of the pioneers of FIU football, would not have had his eyes on other head coaching vacancies. However, after reportedly rejecting a job offer to become the 25th Head Coach of the 143-year old Rutgers Scarlet Knights over the offseason, Cristobal opted to continue

Patience is essential. It would have been foolish to assume that T.Y. Hilton would have been replaced with a couple of slabs

building the tracks to the train he once called "unstoppable" and in turn, made a firm commitment to FIU, a commitment that has brought upon two bowl appearances in just the span of a decade.

It would be unfair to slam the door on the Panthers after a tumultuous start to an expectation-laden 2012, without waiting to see what Cristobal and staff does to

rebuild. But, the time has come to call it a season and move on. It's time to find the next pioneer of this program.

He could already be walking the campus halls of Southwest 8th Street and 107th avenue. But, it's going to take patience to find him.

That patience has to start now.

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AP WIRE

Bears linebacker Briggs not slowing down

ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Writer

Lance Briggs sure doesn't look like he's slowing down.

The Bears' Pro Bowl linebacker still has plenty of spring in his step, and that was clear during Monday's game at Dallas.

Briggs hit the pedal when he picked off Tony Romo, returning an interception 74 yards for a touchdown, and Chicago's defense again went full throttle in a 34-18 victory.

For all the questions surrounding an aging core, that unit has for the most part kept its foot on the gas so far. They'll try to keep it there against an offense that ranks at the bottom when they visit Jacksonville (1-3) this week.

"We're going to play how we play because we're the star football players that we are," Briggs said. "I love to play the game at a high level, and I want to play this game at a high level as long as we can play it."

The Bears' defense was certainly in gear against the Cowboys, picking off Tony Romo five times in a dominant

performance. Two of those interceptions were returned for touchdowns, with Charles Tillman taking one 25 yards in the second quarter and Briggs running his back in the third to make it 24-7.

It happened after defensive tackle Henry Melton hit Romo as he apparently tried to deliver a shovel pass. The ball popped out to Briggs, and he burst through a crowd, outrunning everybody on the way to the end zone.

It was a play that possibly could have been ruled a fumble. Briggs, however, insisted it wasn't. Either way, it was his fifth touchdown and first interception for a score since 2005, and the Bears (3-1) were still talking about that play on Thursday.

"Man, he took off," defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli said. "Great play. Great ball skills, and we had so many guys turn and try to block, which is important."

He called Briggs "an extremely gifted athlete" and "truly one of the great 'backers."

It's hard to argue, considering he became just the fourth Bears linebacker to make seven straight Pro Bowls last

season, joining Hall of Famers Dick Butkus, Bill George and Mike Singletary. He led the Bears with 147 tackles and got a renegotiated contract that runs through 2014.

Clearly, Chicago was depending on him. The question was: Could he keep it up? And, for that matter, could Tillman, Julius Peppers and Brian Urlacher?

All four players are in their 30s. Urlacher still is trying to shake off a knee injury and isn't quite wreaking his usual havoc. But so far, the rest of the defense is holding up. And it's not just the core players doing their part.

The Bears are getting big contributions from the defensive line and areas of the secondary that were major question marks.

They lead the league in interceptions (11) and takeaways (14), and their 15 sacks trail only Arizona and Cincinnati with 16 apiece. Cornerback Tim Jennings already has a career-high four interceptions to lead the NFL, not to mention six pass breakups, two of which led to touchdowns for other players.

Then, there's Briggs still going strong with 27 tackles and four pass breakups

even though he's in his 10th season and turns 32 next month.

"Best outside linebacker in the NFL. He does it every week," Urlacher said. "He shows up. He makes big plays. He stresses me out sometimes because he moves around so much before the snap, I don't know if he's going to end up in the right spots. But he always does, makes big plays, tackles for losses. He's always there."

He was certainly in the right spot against Dallas, when Melton hit Romo. Then, he showed just how much power he has left in his legs.

"I guess I was just a really old guy, on his last leg," Briggs joked.

Well, not quite. And even if he slows a bit, Marinelli said Briggs has the know-how to remain productive.

"Guys with brightness and understanding will usually play at that same high level (a long time)," Marinelli said.

Notes: The Bears held Peppers out of Thursday's practice because of an ankle injury, while Urlacher (coach's decision) and FB Evan Rodriguez (knee) also sat out. RB Matt Forte (ankle) and WR Earl Bennett (hand) were limited participants.

AP WIRE

McGahee keeps proving the doubters wrong

ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Writer

Willis McGahee wasn't supposed to make it to the NFL, much less pinball his way through defenses for a decade.

So said the naysayers after he tore three ligaments in his left knee in his final college game at Miami and again and again as he piled on the yards and years.

McGahee is still proving the doubters wrong 10 years later. He just recorded his 32nd 100-yard rushing game, more than any active NFL running back and one for each candle that will soon decorate his birthday cake, plus a spare for good measure.

"My whole career people said I'm slow, I'm old, I can't do this or I can't do that. I use that for fuel," McGahee said. "You tell me I can't do something, my goal is to prove you wrong."

McGahee joked this week that he quit counting at age 29.

Thirty-something tailbacks are rare in a league that spits out ball carriers after just more than two seasons on average, and rarer still are those as productive as McGahee after 30 trips around the sun.

McGahee is only the 29th running back in league history to top 1,000 yards in his 30s and if he does it again this season he'll join just a dozen others — half of whom are in the Hall of Fame — who've accomplished the feat multiple times.

Since he first donned the orange and navy uniform in 2011, McGahee has topped 100 yards rushing nine times, tied with Houston's Arian Foster — who is five years his junior — for the most in the league.

McGahee sat out his first NFL season in Buffalo before a solid career with the Bills and Baltimore Ravens, where he was Ray Rice's backup, thus saving wear and tear on his body, which paid off in a big way in Denver last season.

He helped the Broncos lead the league in rushing by gaining 1,199 yards and earning his second Pro Bowl appearance, a testament to how well he adapted to quarterback Tim Tebow and coach John Fox dusting off the old read-option at midseason.

This year, it's Peyton Manning stuffing the ball into McGahee's belly or throwing it in between the 2 and the 3 on his chest, and he's even more productive, averaging 81.25 yards rushing a game, up from 79.9 a year ago. He's already scored three touchdowns, one shy of his total from last year, and he also caught a 2-point conversion.

Bill Belichick, whose New England Patriots host the Broncos on Sunday in a pivotal game between 2-2 teams, certainly sees the McGahee of old.

"Real talented player coming out of Miami. Big, strong, fast guy that has good run instincts and is tough. I think you still see those qualities," Belichick said. "You see him running over people and breaking tackles. He has good run vision and can find the holes and has good patience, knows how to use his blocking when he gets in the open field or when guys start to tackle him, he does a good job of breaking tackles, getting his pads down, running with power."

"And he's elusive in the

secondary. So, he continues to perform well. I have a lot of respect for Willis."

So does Broncos running backs coach Eric Studesville. He was McGahee's position coach in Buffalo from 2004-06 and was instrumental in bringing him to Denver last year.

Studesville said he sees an even better running back in Denver than he had in Buffalo.

"The core things that he is and had at that time he still has now: a tremendous work ethic, a tremendous passion for the game, incredibly competitive personality," Studesville said. "And all those things haven't diminished with time. They've stayed the same."

What is different, Studesville said, is his leadership, as evidenced by his teammates voting him a captain this season.

"He's much more vocal, he's much more out front," Studesville said. "When I had him in Buffalo, he just kind of came and worked every day. It's difficult for a young player to be a leader, but he's not a young player anymore. He's developed leadership qualities that have been good for us."

That's taken time for McGahee, a gregarious personality, sure, but one who prefers to lead by example.

"I'm one of those guys, if you ask for the help, I'll give it you. But if you don't, I won't," McGahee said. "You know, certain running backs don't want to get help from another running back that's in front of them. They try to do it on their own. That's what I did. So, you can't take it to heart if they don't ask."

Ronnie Hillman, a rookie from San Diego State in the mold of Darren Sproles who is learning that at this level the holes close lickety-split, certainly isn't shy about hitting him up for advice.

"He'll tell me what I'm doing wrong or how to look at this play the right way," said Hillman, who also learns plenty by just watching McGahee go

to work: "You get the same result out of him every day. Just watching him go to work every day, you see why he's a 10-year vet." With an average pro career of about 2½ years, most running backs don't stick around the league long enough to become locker room leaders like McGahee has.

"It's a testament to the physical condition that he's in, and

I think there's a burning desire to compete that's inside there, too," Studesville said. "He loves this game."

That passion rubs off.

"He makes coaching fun," Studesville said. "Because he's what you want. He's what you want as far as a guy that gives it to you physically all the time and mentally, too. I love coaching this guy."



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OIL, WATER DON'T MIX

Presidential candidates ignore climate change

SELIMA HUSSAIN
Contributing Writer

From a staggering economy drowning in debt to gay marriage and abortion rights being fiercely debated on, the problems the United States is facing right now are foreboding, controversial and endless.

But a particularly “hot” topic is missing. Climate change and other environmental concerns are rarely being discussed.

“Obama used to say that he would bring the climate into the forefront of his campaign, but he hardly has mentioned it,” said Neptune Srimal, an environmental science professor at the University. “Neither has Romney. But this is understandable because Republicans are by and large anti-climate change.”

While it is true that many Republicans are anti-climate change, Dennis Par, the president of College Republicans, takes a different standpoint.

“There’s a difference between being a Republican and being stupid,” said Par, who is double majoring in biology and chemistry. “Global warming does exist.”

Par said that although tackling environmental issues is important, America’s main concentration right now should be improving the

economy.

“I understand it’s important to protect our planet, but we want to focus more on our economy and job rates now. Companies like BP would definitely make more profits, hire more people, create new jobs. For the moment, we need to focus on jobs and the well-being of our citizens. Then, we can worry about the environment,” said Par.

Shuli Mishali, a sophomore majoring in political science and philosophy, believes otherwise.

“I think politicians should be paying more attention to environmental issues, especially when we look at events like the oil spill that happened four years ago and resources becoming more expensive,” Mishali said. “Every car needs oil, and by now, we should have our cars running on environmentally sound fuel. We have the technology, and we need to be addressing it.”

Christian Chavarro, a sophomore majoring in public relations, thinks environmental problems have not been heavily discussed in the campaigns because people don’t see the long term effects.

“This is due to the fact that they take a while to compound. People are more pressed with the issues they can see at hand now, like the economy,” said Chavarro.

“Obama does not want to be identified as a ‘bleeding heart liberal.’ He wants to consummate as many votes as he can. And Romney also has nothing to gain by raising these issues. They’re thinking about being shed in an unfavorable light.”

Neptune Srimal,
Professor
Environmental Science

According to National Geographic, sea levels have risen faster on the U.S. East Coast than in other regions around the globe, about three to four times higher than the global average.

This phenomenon is due to the melting of Arctic ice, which is happening as a result of the gradual warming of the planet. According to the Union for Concerned Scientists, June 2012 was the hottest month ever recorded.

David Ullman, a senior majoring in international relations, acknowledges why it hasn’t been a strong topic during the campaigns.

“In terms of importance, the environment is pretty primary. It

affects everyone. It affects our agriculture, water, droughts, food...” said Ullman, who hopes to receive a certificate in agricultural studies.

“At the same time, the goal of each candidate is to get elected. And in order to do that, they have to appeal to the issues people care about. A wide mass of people don’t care that much about the environment, so that won’t factor in as much as issues like abortion, gay marriage, the economy, and other issues people seem to care more about.”

Srimal agrees with this view.

“I think both candidates are weary about climate change, but since votes are so polarized—the undecided makes up around 7

percent—neither candidate wants to tip the boat,” said Srimal. “Obama does not want to be identified as a ‘bleeding heart liberal.’ He wants to consummate as many votes as he can. And Romney also has nothing to gain by raising these issues. They’re thinking about being shed in an unfavorable light.”

There is, however, one environmental topic that has been attracting political attention. Fracking, or the process of blasting underground rocks to release natural gases, is something that has positive and negative aspects.

“Fracking is causing problems because when you send chemicals into underground water, that water can get mixed with the aquifer. Many of those chemicals could be carcinogens,” said Srimal.

While fracking has the potential to create cost-efficient fuel and natural gas for America, it can also pollute groundwater reserves.

“None of the oil companies will tell you exactly what chemicals they’re pumping into the ground, so you don’t even know exactly is contaminating the water. But, it’s giving the U.S. much more energy independence, and cleaner fuel than burning coal.”

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Print out the resumes; Career Fair nears

CONSUELO NARANJO
Contributing Writer

Put on that ironed shirt and straighten that tie.

This year’s Career Fair is taking place on Oct. 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center Ballroom.

There will be more than 80 employers from public and private industries, educational, non-profit organizations, local and federal government, the military and law enforcement, searching for future employees and interns.

Every semester, more than 15,000 students from over 200 degree programs, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral, take part in this event as well as others.

“Career fairs are fabulous opportunities where students can experience for a couple of hours the real professional world. They will meet colleges, future competitors and 2012 employers’ expectations,” said Harold Clayton, associate director of Career Services.

Career Fairs are free and exclusive to students and

alumni. Participants are required to register the same day of the event by providing their FIU One Card or their Panther ID number.

Career Services members give tips on how to prepare for a successful experience to all students who are planning to attend.

According to the Career Services, preparation is essential for success at a career fair. The fair has to be treated as a job interview.

Formal dress with a polished and professional appearance will provide a good image. Bring multiple copies of your résumé with no typos or inconsistencies.

Leave backpacks and book bags at home. A briefcase or portfolio is necessary to hold résumés and any other material that employers may provide.

Follow up with employers. Pen and paper are necessary to take notes, contacts and important information.

Efigenia Gonzalez-Duran, assistant director of Career Services brings up the importance of students participating in the event.

“FIU is well known for having exceptional students. Most of them are able to work and study at the same time,” said Gonzalez-Duran. “Recruiters like responsible and dynamic students. Attendees get hired or obtain internships at Career fairs every semester. They cannot miss this opportunity.”

Career Services also offers professional development events and workshops year-round such as Cyber Cafés, where students receive résumé critiques and cover letter recommendations.

“The BBC Career Fair is not just an opportunity to obtain a job or an internship offer. It also allows students to improve their networking skills,” Clayton said.

Information on internships, strategies in researching, oral presentations, salary negotiations, international student job regulations and government employment are given to students during Career Services’ events.

“Students are future employees who need to understand their audi-

ence, competition, and job options. They need to interact with employers and colleges while creating professional bounds that will help them in the future,” said Clayton.

Yeiniz Nevarez, an adver-

tising major was thankful for Career Services. At an internship fair at Modesto Maidique Campus this semester, she was able to meet with UPLYTE, Event Lighting & Décor recruiters.

“I received a call from

them offering me to be onboard as a new intern at their company. I was very excited, especially considering they only took one intern,” she said.

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FIT FOR HOMECOMING



SANA ULLAH/THE BEACON

Anthony Ramirez, a senior studying criminal justice and front desk receptionist for the Recreation Center, adds some finishing touches to the homecoming decorations outside of the Recreation Center.