

FOOTBALL

Story lines highlight new season

The honeymoon is over. A new football year is getting set to begin at FIU. New players have begun to earn respect and take over for ones that have graduated.

With a few story lines looming prior to Thursday's opener, it is finally time to see whether this team will be able to do it all over again.

T.Y. FOR HEISMAN

As silly as this campaign sounds, it has brought attention to the football program. With electrifying returns and elusive moves, Hilton has been the clear-cut focal point of the Golden Panther offense the past three seasons. The Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year has all of the intangibles that you look for in a star college athlete. With the team's success last year,

Hilton was able to showcase what he can do on a national stage.

In FIU's first ever bowl game, Hilton had three catches for 32 yards and a touchdown as well as a kick return for a touchdown. The senior has made a name for himself on ESPN and has a chance to bring even more attention to the program, especially with seven nationally televised games this year.

With all of this attention, however, comes a lot of pressure. He could very easily fall under the weight of the hype that our own athletic program has put on him. Although he's proved naysayers wrong for the past three years, it'll be a very difficult task to live up to such high aspirations.

OFFENSIVE LINE NEEDS SOME SOLIDIFYING

One thing was for certain in the past four years—Brad Serini was your starting center.

STORYLINES, page 5

Professor warns not to leave cell phones unattended

JESSICA LOPEZ
Contributing Writer

Faisal Kaleem says the inconspicuous hazards of the information technology era in the most least expected places: in our pockets.

Cell phone tapping has long been considered governmental intelligence, but Kaleem, professor in the College of Engineering, explains how now anyone with access to an unsuspecting individuals handheld and a couple of minutes to

spare can tap not only into a call, but into absolutely every aspect of their phone's activity.

About two years ago Kaleem began looking into one of the least talked about and perhaps most dangerous kind of application: spy ware.

Kaleem said he got into this research because of his love for information technology.

"Information Technology is my passion - especially the safety aspect of it," Kaleem said. "So of course, I wanted to see what

dangers we were facing wirelessly."

There exists dangerous software that can be downloaded onto cellular devices in the form of an application.

This software allows the person who installed it to listen in on conversations, as well as to access anything stored on the phone.

In other words, text messages, photos, emails and data use - none are safe from peering eyes.

In addition to gathering information from a device, this software also

remains questionable.

While international support for the rebels has been abundant, the NTC suffered a blow to their credibility when they reported their triumphant capture of Saif al-Islam, Gaddafi's son and most likely successor.

On the morning of Aug. 23 al-Islam arrived at a popular tourist hotel in Tripoli, where he interviewed with journalists, stating, "We are here. This is our

CELL PHONES, page 3

OUT OF THE GATE



BEACON FILE PHOTO

The Golden Panthers will kick the season off against the Mean Green of North Texas on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m. at FIU Stadium. Last season, the Panthers beat North Texas 34-10 and hope to have a repeat performance.

Students worry about events in Libya

BROOKLYN MIDDLETON
Asst. Opinion Editor

Seven months of rebel fighting demanding the end of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's regime culminated on Aug. 21 as rebel leaders charged Tripoli. However, even with a possible victory, University students professors expressed doubt.

"It has the potential to be a really, really good thing. But descent into authoritarianism again is possible," said Danny Bressner, senior international relations

major.

The rebel group, called the National Transitional Council, announced the presidential guard had surrendered. But a Libya without a leader is a concern for Bressner.

"There is a period of euphoria and an opportunity for change may be tangible but who's going to take Gaddafi's assets?" Bressner said.

The NTC has emerged as the potential future government of Libya, but their cohesion, credibility and competence

remains questionable.

While international support for the rebels has been abundant, the NTC suffered a blow to their credibility when they reported their triumphant capture of Saif al-Islam, Gaddafi's son and most likely successor.

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COMING UP | Life!

Check out the food column "Food For Thought" by Jasmyn Elliott for a review on the best coffee on campus.

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Tune in to Radiate FM on Sept. 1 at 6:30 p.m. for live coverage of the Golden Panthers season opener against North Texas.

WORLD

Rebels claim victories with NATO's help

LIBYA, page 1

country. This is our people, and we live here, and we die here. And we are going to win, because the people are with us. That's why we're going to win. Look at them - look at them, in the streets, everywhere!"

When reporters inquired about his arrest, he responded, "We are going to break the backbone of the rebels."

Events like this leave a level of general uncertainty about NTC's possible role in Libya.

"And the people in the NTC, no one really knows these figures [people]. They're academics and people in exile. None of them have really managed a country before," said Bressner.

The 40-year Gaddafi regime began to crumble in February when Libyan people began to demand a change to democracy.

Protests were met by acts of immense violence ordered by Gaddafi.

"There is a lot of push for democratic change because of the Middle East youth bulge," said Francisco Zamora, junior international relations major. "I hope it doesn't lead to another Gaddafi."

Despite tremors of embarrassment and uncertainty, the NTC soldiered on to continue garnering support.

Part of this success was because of the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In an interview with Student Media, Ronald Cox, associate professor and director of grad-



JEROME DELAY/AP IMAGES

Libyan supporters of Moammar Gadhafi, some of whom came from Tripoli, take part in a staged demonstration in Ban-Waled, home of the Warfallah tribe.

uate studies in the Politics and International Relations department, discussed the role of NATO in the revolution.

"NATO went well beyond what it was authorized to do. There was essentially 8,000 bombs dropped by NATO and various forces by NATO countries, all designed to

help rebels come to power. The mandate was to help civilians, that's it. They've clearly gone beyond the mandate."

Cox pointed out that NATO played such an integral role in this revolution that it could affect how much the West shapes future governments.

"I can't say I'm surprised by the fact that the media hasn't asked tougher questions but sometimes they operate more as cheerleaders than journalists," Cox said.

Despite the fact that the rebels' flag is being flown in Tripoli, it continues to remain unclear

whether the NTC has sustainable control of Libya. However, students continue to express hope for democracy.

"I am more optimistic than pessimistic not just for democratic change in Libya but in the entire Middle East," Zamora said.

MUSLIM LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Dinner brought together diverse cultures

JONATHAN SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

The aroma of a multitude of dishes from as many cultures mingled in the air of the Graham Center Annex on Aug. 26 at the first event held this year by the newly re-established Muslim Law Student Association.

The meal laid out on the tables of the annex was an iftar – the evening meal which breaks the daily fasts of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, during which observant Muslims abstain from food and drink from before sunup to just after sundown.

"The MLSA tries to approach shariah [Islamic law] from an academic perspective," said Mahira Khan, the Association's president, "we're more focused on Islam through an academic lens in a law school environment."

The month-long fast, unique among the major world religions, is enjoined upon believing Muslims in the Qur'an as a way of promoting self-restraint and a sense of empathy with the needy. The fasts are held during the daylight hours of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, the month in which Muslims believe the Qur'an was revealed by God to the Muslim Prophet Muhammad.

The fast of Ramadan, as well as daily obligations of prayer and the annual payment of zakat – a form of tithing in which Muslims who are financially stable

contribute a portion of their wealth to charity – are all aspects of what is generally referred to as shariah – generally translated as "Islamic law."

But the term "law" is perhaps a misleading characterization of the numerous, and at times competing, judgments and edicts of Muslim clerics and scholars that together define the rules of religious practice and righteous conduct for observant Muslims who attempt to live their lives in accordance with divine will.

The word "shariah" is related to the Arabic word for "path," and the shariah is popularly described by Muslims as the path by which a believer draws near to God.

To generate interest in the association, and Islam, among non-Muslim law students, the MLSA distributed invitations to the iftar event broadly at the College of Law.

The total attendance was around 50 students, with a roughly equal number of Muslims and non-Muslims – a situation which allowed Muslim students to share their understanding of the Ramadan fasts with non-Muslim classmates from outside the faith.

Many non-Muslims, naturally, expect that the fasts would simply be hard, a test of faith to be endured for 30 days until the holiday of Eid, which marks the end of the fasting month – with a feast.

Samah Abukhodeir, a second-year law student and vice president of the MLSA,

“**Ramadan was always my favorite time of the year. It brings family members together. It makes you think about every action . . .**

Samah Abukhodeir,
Vice President
Muslim Law Student Association

provided a different perspective.

"Growing up," she said, "Ramadan was always my favorite time of the year. It brings family members together. It makes you think about every action . . . it makes us appreciate the little things we have in life."

Mahira Khan spoke of the difficulty of the long summer fasts.

"Fasting while going through law school – it's very hard," said Khan who also mentioned that it provided an opportunity to focus on spiritual growth. "I've been reading the Qur'an more. Fasting makes you feel spiritually lighter."

Because the Islamic calendar is lunar,

Ramadan and major Muslim holidays circle through the seasons, sometimes falling in the short days of winter, when fasting is easier, and sometimes in the long, hot hours of summer, when the requirement to go without water, especially, can become a true test of fortitude.

Derrick Feinman, a third-year law student and current treasurer of the MLSA, converted to Islam in 2010 and was fasting his second Ramadan.

Feinman, who had studied the basic tenets of Islam as an undergraduate at University of Florida, converted from what he called "borderline agnosticism," after feeling a distinct call to the faith while traveling in Europe.

"It was one of those times," he said, "when something becomes very real. Revelation to anyone else is hearsay. But when you get something that speaks to you directly – you can't avoid it."

Feinman, a former Eagle Scout and state park ranger, is not one to shy away from a physical challenge. But the hours of abstention from liquids, he said, could make the Ramadan fasts difficult.

"I wake up extra early," he said, so I can have my two cups of coffee [before the fasting hours begin]." When asked about water, he said, "Oh, it's a three to one ratio, water to coffee; I've already figured that out."

"It's easier," said Feinman, "when you know you're doing it for God."

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Bachmann says she'd consider Everglades drilling

Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann said Sunday that she would consider oil and natural gas drilling in the Everglades if it can be done without harming the environment.

Bachmann said the United States needs to tap into all of its energy resources no matter where they exist if it can be done responsibly.

"The United States needs to be less dependent on foreign sources of energy and more dependent upon American resourcefulness. Whether that is in the Everglades, or whether that is in the eastern Gulf region, or whether that's in North Dakota, we need to go where the energy is," she said. "Of course it needs to be done responsibly. If we can't responsibly access energy in the Everglades then we shouldn't do it."

NATIONAL

FEMA sends Joplin money to East Coast after Irene

Some federal money pledged to tornado-ravaged Joplin and other disaster sites is being diverted to help victims of Hurricane Irene.

Bob Josephson of the Federal Emergency Management Agency said Monday that FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund is running low. He says individual aid to victims of the May 22 tornado that destroyed about one-third of Joplin will continue, but money for long-term public repair and rebuilding projects will be used for immediate disaster relief on the East Coast.

Josephson says it will be up to Congress to restore full funding to Joplin and other places hit by disasters earlier this year.

Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill tells The Associated Press she will work to ensure that Joplin gets the promised money.

— Compiled by Melissa Caceres

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 23, Issue 10 of The Beacon, the article titled "Lakovic, Egan strong in sweep over Fairfield to kick off season" in the Sports section, Jovana Bjelica's name was misspelled.

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

WEATHER

New tropical storm looms; Irene leads to at least 26 deaths

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tropical depression far out in the Atlantic is forecast to become a hurricane this week, but it's too early to know if it'll strike the U.S. or anywhere else.

The depression is forecast to become Tropical Storm Katia — the name that replaced Katrina in the rotating storm roster because of the catastrophic damage in Katrina's wake in 2005.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said Monday the depression south of the Cape Verde Islands could become a tropical storm later Monday and could reach hurricane strength Thursday, still far out in the Atlantic.

Hurricane Center spokesman Dennis Feltgen said it's too early to know if it would hit the U.S. and it will be more than a week before the system reaches the middle Atlantic.

Hurricane Irene led to the deaths of at least 26 people in eight states:

FLORIDA:

— In Volusia County, 55-year-old Frederick Fernandez died Saturday off New Smyrna Beach after he was tossed off his board by massive waves caused by Irene. The Orlando Sentinel reports the high school teacher had a large cut on his head, apparently from hitting the sea floor.

— In Flagler County, 55-year-old tourist James Palmer of New Jersey died Saturday in rough surf. Family members say they lost sight of him after he waded into the surf in North Florida. He was pulled to shore and his wife attempted

CPR, but he was pronounced dead at the hospital.

CONNECTICUT:

— In Prospect, 89-year-old Charlotte Levine was killed early Sunday when a falling tree limb pulled power lines onto her house and started a fire.

— In Bristol, 46-year-old Shane Seaver died after he and another man went canoeing down a flooded street and the canoe capsized. Seaver's body washed ashore late Sunday night in Plainville. The other man survived.

MARYLAND:

— In Queen Anne's County, Md., 85-year-old Anne Bell was killed when a tree knocked a chimney through the glass roof of the sunroom where she and her son were sitting. They'd gone out into the sunroom after the power went out in her Queenstown home. Bell was struck by debris, causing severe trauma.

NEW JERSEY

— Celena Sylvestri, 20, of Quinton, called her boyfriend and then 911 early Sunday seeking help getting out of her flooded car in Pilesgrove, police said. Her body was found eight hours later in the vehicle, which was about 150 feet off the road, police said.

— Ronald Dawkins, a 47-year-old postal worker, abandoned his vehicle when it became partly submerged in water early Sunday, Kearny police said. He then tried to wade through rising water, and witnesses said he stepped into a hidden drainage creek. His body was found about

two hours later.

NEW YORK:

— A man in his 50s was electrocuted in Spring Valley when he tried to help a child who had gone into a flooded street with downed wires. The child was in very serious condition at Westchester Medical Center's burn unit, said a spokesman for the Rockland County Emergency Operations Center.

— State police said they recovered the body of a woman who apparently drowned after she fell into Onesquethaw Creek in New Scotland, near Albany.

— Police in Suffolk County say 68-year-old Joseph Rocco of East Islip drowned while windsurfing in Bellport Bay.

— Two men were swept down the Croton River on Sunday evening after their inflatable boat capsized, and one of them died after being pulled down river by heavy currents, Croton police said.

NORTH CAROLINA:

— In Nash County, a man was killed after a tree limb fell on him outside his home Saturday morning as outer bands from the storm brought near hurricane-force gusts inland.

— Goldsboro police say a 15-year-old girl died Saturday afternoon after the SUV carrying her and family members collided with another SUV at an intersection where Irene had knocked out power to traffic lights. She was one of four family members thrown from the vehicle; the family was returning to northern Virginia from Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Spyware on cell phones a concern

CELL PHONES, page 1

it installed at all," warns

Kaleem.

"It makes sense; it's just like a computer," said Jennifer Garcia, a junior accounting and finance major. "I wouldn't leave my phone lying around either way because people could and would steal it."

However, Garcia isn't worried about her phone being tapped into.

"It wouldn't be a problem for me...but I can see how it can affect a lot of people," she said.

Upon hearing about this software and the dangers it poses, one of the first questions that arises is whether cell phone companies know about these security hazards.

Kaleem said his biggest fear is cell phone companies not knowing about the potential security hazards.

"If I can install this software, imagine what the companies can do," Kaleem said. "There is no guarantee that if asked to do so, by the government for example, they wouldn't install a spy ware device themselves, and we'd be faced with a 'Big Brother'

There is no guarantee that if asked to do so, by the government for example, they wouldn't install a spyware device themselves...

Faisal Kaeem,
Professor, College of Engineering

situation. Anything is possible."

There is no way to tell whether a phone is carrying spy ware, but some tell-tale signs of infection are false call-waiting signals, which occur when the spy listens in on a call, as well as unexplained heating of the device when it is idle.

"It's kind of creepy to think that you could have someone listening to you at all times without you even knowing it," said Roly Delgado, a junior information technology major. "It makes you wonder if any glitch your phone has is really just a glitch, or possibly something more."

Fortunately, there are ways to prevent this from happening.

"First of all, physical protection is key," Kaleem said. "It is necessary to keep your phone on you at all times. All it takes is a few minutes to fall victim to this."

Kaleem also advised to password protect your phone with a strong password, as well as to only download apps from reputable sources.

Anyone is at risk according to Kaleem.

"If you have a smart phone capable of downloading apps, it can happen to you," he said.

THE BEACON

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CLASS DISMISSED

Abstinence-only sex education futile

In October 2010, journalist Evan Smith asked Texas Gov. and current presidential hopeful Rick Perry about the effectiveness of abstinence-only sex education. Although the footage of this video is a bit old, renewed interest in Perry after his announcement of entering the 2012 presidential race has caused it to become popular again.



JASMYN ELLIOTT

Perry's difficulty in justifying abstinence-only sex education in Texas points to a larger struggle to reconcile the merit of this method in our country overall.

During the interview, Evans pointed out that even though Texas has the one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the country, abstinence-only sex education is the method the state has chosen to stick with. In a labored response, Perry says, "It works. Maybe it's the way it's being taught, or the way it's being applied out there, but the fact of the matter is it's the best form to teach our children."

Although Perry may personally believe abstinence-based sexual education may be the "best" way, statistics show that it is not the most effective.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, seven out of 10 teenagers report being sexually active by the time they turn 19. Unless these teens are married, this is already a strike against the commonality of abstinence. As for our nation's teen pregnancy rate, 750,000 girls

"I cannot help but think that these numbers would be significantly lower if comprehensive sex education were the norm."

between the ages of 15 to 19 become pregnant every year. Furthermore, cases of STIs in teens are on the rise - 15 to 24 year-olds account for half of new STI reports in the United States, approximately 9.1 million.

I cannot help but think that these numbers would be significantly lower if comprehensive sex education were the norm.

When I was in the fifth grade, it finally came time for the "human growth and development" section of the curriculum. Each of us has a folder in which we wrote in big, block letters the word "abstinence." Before each lesson, my teacher would have us recite the definition of abstinence, perhaps in hopes this ritual of sorts would embed this principle into our young minds.

Even as I grew up, I did not hear about condoms or oral contraceptives until I was about 17, and this information did not come from my biology teacher. As of now, many of my peers have either become teen parents or have fallen victim to a host of STIs, most likely because they lacked the knowledge of safe sex practices.

I honestly think my immediate and distant peers would have benefited much more from lessons on effective birth control methods and "How to Use a Condom 101," rather than reciting the definition to an abstract value that ultimately went unheeded. Furthermore, with the explanation of sex being limited to intercourse in abstinence-only sex education, the topic of oral sex remains ignored. While it cannot result in pregnancy, unprotected oral sex can still spread a host of painful STIs, which, with the exception of HIV/AIDS, are often not included in the curriculum.

As Perry illustrates, it is a struggle to argue that abstinence-only sex education is truly the best way, or at least the most effective. Instead of wasting class time promoting an often ignored ideal, sex education must evolve with teen sexual behavior. Leaving safe sex practices and a full lesson on STIs out of the discussion will only serve to create health problems among teens, which is the last thing they need to be worried about.

"Class Dismissed" is a biweekly column critiquing education in America.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For FIU football, the price is just right

I wanted to write this letter in response to the "High sporting event ticket prices unfair to alumni" piece written by Ben F. Badger in *The Beacon* on Wednesday, July 13.

Miami-Dade County is a global, international city. We are a city of major importance when it comes to trade, banking and so forth. With this, a higher cost of living is the norm. I'm guessing that Mr. Badger knows this information and then made a huge assumption that FIU must charge too much for football tickets.

If Mr. Badger would have done any research just within the Sun Belt Conference, he would be in agreement with

me that FIU Football is a deal!

As a fellow alumnus of FIU, I disagree with Mr. Badger's criticism of the Athletic Department and the price of season tickets to FIU football. The focus of his complaint is on how "Athletics is making it very hard for alumni like me to really get into the FIU spirit" due to prices of football season tickets. Mr. Badger's complaint does not paint a complete picture.

His major grievance is with the cost of the Club Level Premium seating at \$500. That is the highest-priced ticket. What he fails to mention is that there are six different options that alumni can take advantage of, ranging from \$42 to

\$500. By the way, a majority of other Sun Belt schools also require a donation component to certain level prices for season-tickets.

Secondly, to insinuate that the FIU Athletic Department is engaging in "some less than ethical practices" is just not correct. It is common practice in college athletics for a donation component to be a part of certain season ticket packages. In fact, there are season ticket options at FIU which do not require a tax deductible donation.

Throughout my tenure of involvement with FIU, I wear the mantle of Mr. FIU proudly. I have no problem being critical of my alma mater when I perceive mistakes have been

made; however Mr. Badger claim is off-base. FIU is very near and dear to my heart and I bleed blue and gold.

It is important for alumni to support FIU Athletics. Complaining about ticket prices and stating that the cost of them causes low attendance is ridiculous. We need to stand behind Head Coach Mario Cristobal and the football team as they continue to grow the Panther brand and put FIU on the national map.

FIU Football has to become an event in this town. With prices as low as these and quality of play as high as it is, let the events start! Go FIU!

-Eduardo "Eddie" Hondal, '88, '00, a.k.a. Mr. FIU Miami, Florida

VERBATIM

"I wanted to be president of the United States. I really did. The older I get, the less preposterous the idea seems."

- Alec Baldwin, actor

"America is a country ready to be taken, in fact, longing to be taken by political leaders ready to restore democracy and trust to the political process."

- Arianna Huffington, co-founder of The Huffington Post.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Homecoming concert inadequately planned

While *The Beacon* commends the Homecoming Council for booking a major recording artist for this year's concert, we believe that the limited number of seats, stage setup, poor effort in advertising, ticket distribution and cost has turned the event into quite the fiasco.

While Lupe Fiasco and Tinie Tempah will perform at FIU Stadium, a venue that holds over 22,000, there are only 7,000 tickets available for the show. The audience placement for the concert will only allow for a little over 15 percent of the 46,000 student population to attend.

Following Athletics' suggestion of using the football game layout, the stage will be placed on the 10 yard line to face the East end zone. However, this design does not accommodate the most amount of students.

The Beacon believes that placing the stage at the 50 yard line, facing the south side of the stadium, would give more students an opportunity to attend the event.

With this layout, more sections of the stadium are open for seating in the bleachers and on the field, and the committee can utilize the video board to project the concert.

A mere 5,000 free tickets are being offered for the event. Prior to the two weeks leading up to the event, tickets are only being offered once a week for one hour at the Campus Life offices at Modesto Maidique Campus and Biscayne Bay Campus.

Not only does this limit a student's chance to get their ticket, it can cause serious disturbance in already crowded student areas at both campuses. To alleviate potential issues, we believe that the tickets should have different locations throughout both University campuses to help control the demand and distribution of tickets.

The most troubling of the issues that the Homecoming Council faces is the weak promotion of the limited free tickets available. According to the Homecoming Overall Director Mercy Lavado, the council has promoted the distribution of tickets through their social media accounts, such as Facebook and Twitter. As of print time, the FIU Homecoming Twitter account only has 234 followers, and the Facebook page could not be found.

Using no other means to promote ticket distribution, we believe that the Homecoming Council should have taken the necessary measures to get the word out.

The University's official Facebook and Twitter pages have 26,697 likes and 3,503 followers, respectively. With these two web sites alone, the council could notify a higher percentage of students about the distribution of free tickets and give more students a better chance to obtain a ticket.

Unlike last year's concert, the best seats for the event are on sale. Currently, the tickets are selling for \$30 for VIP floor seats and \$25 for general admission.

We believe that University students should be provided with discounts for these tickets. These tickets are available to the public, so, basically, anyone can attend the concert. Since this happens to be an event that students have paid for previously with student fees, we feel that students should receive a discount.

The number of tickets and stage layout are set, unfortunately, but the Homecoming Council still has time to reevaluate and restructure their current promotion efforts.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (500 words maximum) in to neda.ghomeshi@fiusm.com. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year. The Beacon reserves the right to edit for space, content and clarity.



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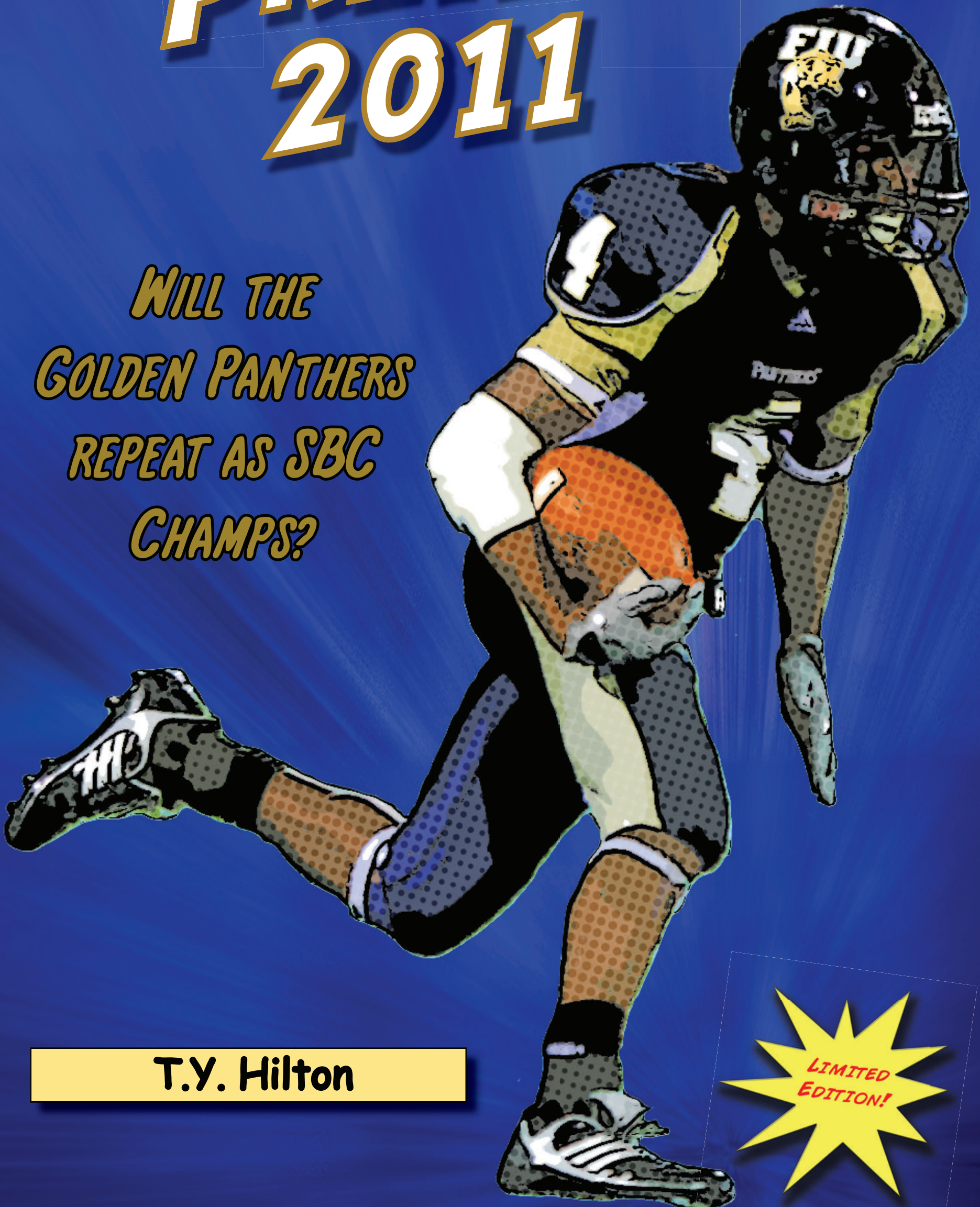
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AUGUST 31, 2011

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BY THE
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FOOTBALL PREVIEW 2011

*WILL THE
GOLDEN PANTHERS
REPEAT AS SBC
CHAMPS?*



T.Y. Hilton

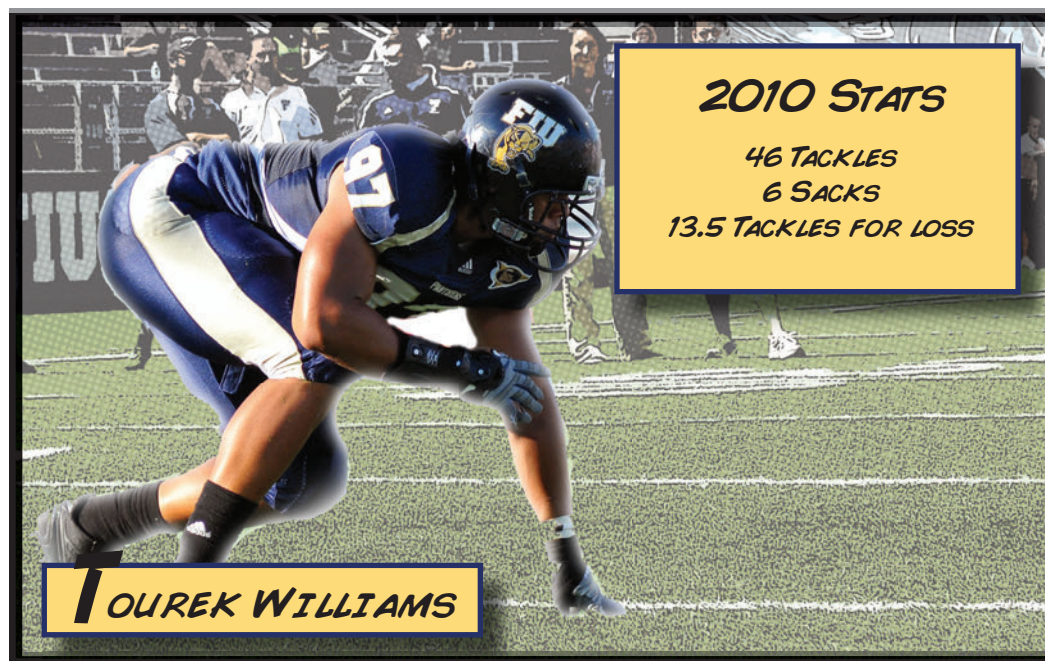
**LIMITED
EDITION!**

RETURN OF THE CHAMPS



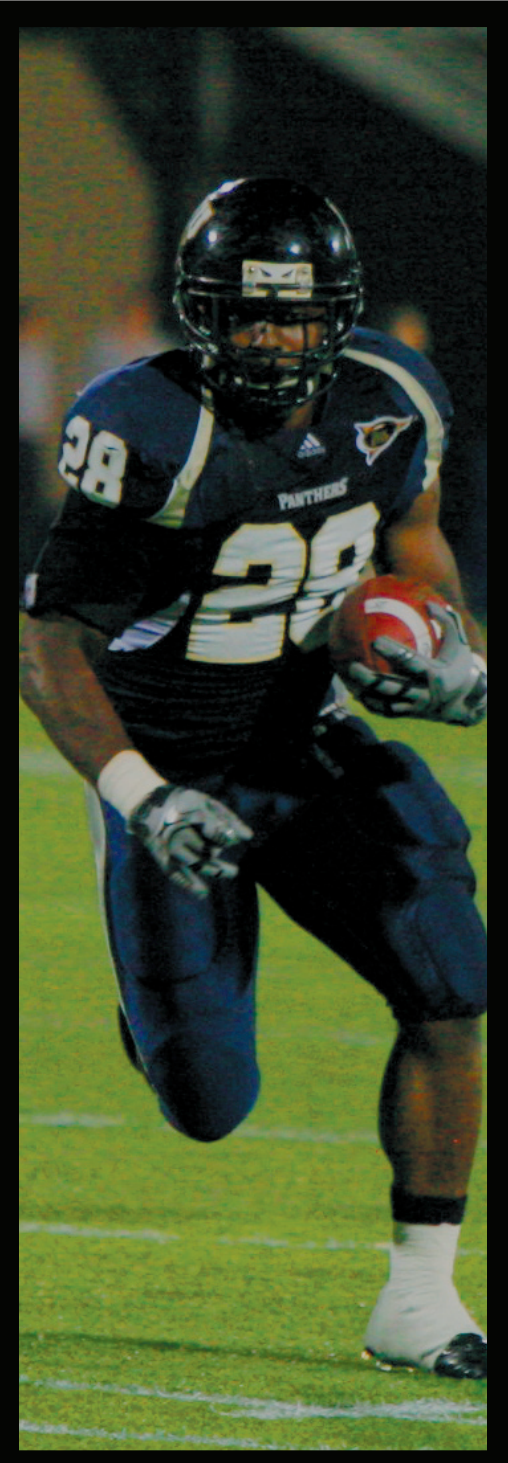
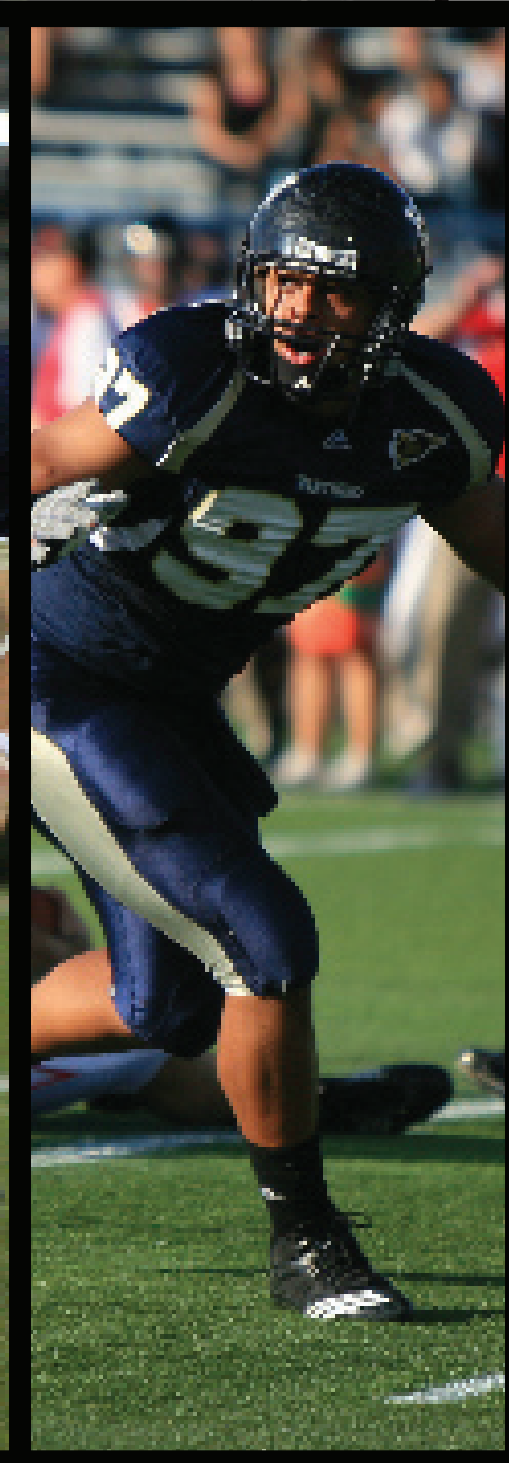
2010 STATS
16 TOUCHDOWN RUNS
865 TOTAL YARDS
4.9 YARDS PER CARRY

DARRIET PERRY



2010 STATS
46 TACKLES
6 SACKS
13.5 TACKLES FOR LOSS

TOUREK WILLIAMS




2010 STATS
2623 YARDS PASSING
16 TOUCHDOWNS
201.8 PASSING YARDS PER GAME

WESLEY CARROLL



2010 STATS
2089 ALL-PURPOSE YARDS
11 TOTAL TOUCHDOWNS
14.4 YARDS PER CATCH

T.Y. HILTON

GOLDEN PANTHERS READY FOR THE SEASON OPENER

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

After months of preparation and waiting over a long offseason, the Golden Panthers will finally be put to the test.

FIU takes on a once highly talked about North Texas football program in their first game of the 2011 season. The Mean Green at one point won three straight Sun Belt championships in a row in the early 2000's, but now they have fallen to the middle of the pack and this year the Golden Panthers are the ones who are starting out on top.

It will be the first time ever that FIU begins a season as the defending co-Sun Belt champions, so the added pressure on the players and coaches is there, pushing them to perform just as well or even better this year. It is always important for a team to get off to a fast start in any season, but this year they begin with a conference opponent, something they have not done since 2006 when they traveled to Middle Tennessee.

"They could have lined up anybody in the first game, we still have to get off to a fast start and in our minds the only game that's important is the game that we are

playing that week," said Cristobal. "It is the most important game of the season."

Someone who will be lining up against FIU on Thursday night is the second leading rusher in the conference, Lance Dunbar, who averaged 129.4 yards per game in 2010. Dunbar is now entering his senior season at North Texas, but was held to his worst performance last season against FIU with just 30 yards on 11 carries.

However, Cristobal does not see that as too great of an accomplishment, since North Texas had a large part of their team out due to injury for that game in Denton last fall.

"It's not a game tape that we're really spending much time on. It's more of what they did after that when they got a little bit healthier and they were able to play their quarterback," Cristobal said on his preparation.

Not only is Dunbar their leading rusher from last year, but he is now their leading receiver coming back as well. Before the summer, it would have been Darius Carey, who had 57 catches for 509 yards and four touchdowns, but he got dismissed from the team for not living up to expectations.

That will not help starting quar-

terback Derek Thompson, a sophomore who played in one game so far and has thrown just three passes. Nor will the losses of first team All-Sun Belt offensive lineman Victor Gill and Esteban Santiago.

New FIU defensive coordinator Todd Orlando and the defensive line are expected to have a field day against a depleted offensive line, but defensive lineman Tourek Williams ignores all the talk.

"Never, never, ever going to be easy," Williams said. "It's always going to be a fight and whoever fights the hardest will come out with the win."

FIU is going through a similar process that North Texas is dealing with on the offensive line, having to replace both Cedrick Mack and Brad Serini. What they have that North Texas does not is one of the best defensive lines Hauptman has ever seen.

"As far as our defensive line goes, there's nobody that can beat them," said offensive lineman Caylin Hauptmann. "They are a force to be reckoned with and I'll say that honestly because I've played the best and went up against the best and I think our defensive line is ready for whatever challenge steps in front of them."

PREDICTIONS



IGOR MELLO

Record: 8-4. The expectations are high, especially with how the schedule sets up. Look for this team to be bowling in Bourbon Street.



JOEL DELGADO

Record: 6-6. They will be playing with a target on their backs. The big question is whether or not they can handle the extra weight.



BRANDON WISE

Record: 8-4. They will have the best overall record in the SBC, but won't be able to win it. But it will be the best year in program history.



RICO ALBARRACIN

Record: 9-3. The FIU offense is capable of putting up points on anyone with players like T.Y.Hilton, Darriet Perry and Wesley Carroll.

DEPTH AT RUNNING BACK PROVIDES MANY OPTIONS

STORYLINES, page 1

Times have changed. Brad is gone.

And with that a huge hole at center will need to be filled. The Junior from Los Angeles led the team in penalties his first season as a Golden Panther.

the trenches, Hauptmann will need to eliminate the mental mistakes that held the offense back at times last season. The Junior from Los Angeles led the team in penalties his first season as a Golden Panther.

RUNNING BACK: TAKE A NUMBER, IT MIGHT GET CALLED

The offense goes as the running backs go. Last year, four running backs touched the ball at least forty times during games. The offense is dependent on three different running backs to pick up large chunks of yards for them. When an offense is forced to rely on a slew of backs at the position, the team normally suffers.

To have success at this level of football, an offensive line is a key characteristic. With a solidified offensive line comes a leader who can control his line. This can be more than just the center though.

For the Golden Panthers, Caylin Hauptmann will need to be that guy to take over and lead the offensive line. In order to become that leader in

able to make the most out of their running backs. Although those teams have not seen the results in the standings, Lance Dunbar (North Texas) and Bobby Rainey (WKU) are two of the best running backs in the Sun Belt Conference.

Darriet Perry should be the every down back.

But Head Coach Mario Cristobal likes to use a stable of backs to change the pace and make the other teams' game plan for that much more. But, with one player getting the bulk of the carries, it could only help to set up everything else.

With that being said, players like Darrian Mallary, Jerimiah Harden and Kendrick Rhodes will all see carries again this year. I could even see red shirt freshmen Robert Boswell seeing some time.

The running back by committee worked out last

PANTHER PULSE POLL

Which FIU Football home game are you most excited for this season?

✓ UNT 14 %	DUKE 3 %
UCF 59 %	TROY 3 %
UL 3 %	FAU 9 %

year; expect to see it yet again this year.

TRANSFERS TRANSITION

Over the past few weeks, there have been some interesting happenings with the football team. A couple of highly touted recruits have decided to bring their talents back down to Florida after trying to move out of state to play. J

ames Louis (Ohio State) and Daquan Hargrett (West Virginia) both chose to transfer back down to FIU. Both played in high school, Louis

at Atlantic High in Delray Beach and Hargrett at Miami Northwestern. Although they had many options coming out of high school to go wherever they wanted, their new lifestyle did not become what they expected, presumably for family reasons.

Although it is uncertain yet if they can play, both Louis and Hargrett may be granted eligibility for this season.

If so, Hargrett would then join an ever-crowded backfield, which is now up to eight players. To expect Hargrett to walk in and take Perry or

Mallary's position is naive, but it is not hard to see him getting the third most touches of the packed group. Of the lot, expect at least one of those backs to change positions because eight is way too much to carry in the stable at once.

Louis could definitely jump in and show what he has. With Senior Greg Ellingson leaving last year, a hole was left that still needs to be filled.

For the time being, Wayne Times has been able to garner the role of number two receiver, until Louis gets a shot on the field.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Golden Panthers blank Zips for first win of the season



BEACON FILE PHOTO

Kimberly Lopez [right] scored the lone goal of the match vs. Akron to give FIU its first win.

ANTHONY GUIVAS Staff Writer

After tough back-to-back losses at the hands of the Stetson Hatters and Florida Gators, the Golden Panthers looked to get back in the groove of things and nail down the team's first win of the season.

But to achieve this elusive

win, they would have to face off against the Akron Zips, who were coming off of an impressive win against Michigan.

So at exactly 7 p.m. on the dot, both the Golden Panthers and Akron Zips took to the pitch and the game was in full swing. It was clear from the start that FIU was not going to let this game slip

through their fingers.

The Golden Panthers quickly took control of the ball and soon the tempo of the game was squarely in their hands. Even though Akron's defense kept them at bay for most of the first half, the Golden Panthers continued to penetrate and kept Akron on their toes throughout the game.

Then, finally, with the first half dwindling down, a rebound off of an Akron defender allowed midfielder Kim Lopez to take a quick strike that made its way into the net, giving FIU a 1-0 lead.

"It felt great [scoring the goal]," Lopez said. "It came in the last ten minutes and I saw it coming; it was a lucky shot."

The first half concluded with FIU taking nine shots along with seven corner kicks compared to Akron's two shots and no corner kick opportunities.

Then the second half went under way and it was obvious the Golden Panthers were not going to let up on Akron as they continued to show off their offensive prowess. Despite the pressure, Akron kept up with a Panthers' team that was running on all cylinders off the board for the rest of the night.

But when the clock ran down and the final whistle

blew, the Golden Panthers finally got their first win of their young season with a 1-0 victory.

"We knew it was going to be tough to crack them and we kept coming and coming and to their credit they bent but they didn't break," coach Thomas Chestnutt said. "We finally got in off the rebound and Kim had a fantastic strike that proved to be very important."

The Panthers' defense also kept Akron from putting any points on the board as goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage helped FIU secure the team's first shutout of the year.

"With a shutout, everyone likes to look at the goalkeeper, but it was a team effort so it's always nice to get one and start off with a clean slate," Savage said.

Chestnutt added, "It feels good. We did a lot of good things tonight offensively. We controlled the game and we got the win and the shutout and that's where we wanted to be."

After dropping the first two games of the season, they knew this win was a significant one to pick up.

"This one was really important because we needed it to get this season rolling, and to get one at home is important, we just needed to start off right," Lopez said.

Even though this was a much needed win, Chestnutt still feels there is still room for improvement as he wants his team to execute more on the offensive side of the ball.

"We certainly broke them down, but we need to work on some things, obviously, because with 19 shots, one goal, 14 corner kicks... that's a little meager production," Chestnutt said.

"But we are happy with the result and it doesn't matter. We are at home and we found a way to win."

So now with the Panthers standing at 1-2-0, they have their eyes set on their next opponent, the Kansas City Roos, this upcoming Monday.

MEN'S SOCCER

Golden Panthers, Owls battle to a draw to close season-opening weekend

ANDRES LEON Staff Writer

Despite outshooting the Owls and forcing their veteran goalkeeper Jeremy Crumpton to make 11 saves on the night, the Golden Panthers did not finish the weekend with two wins.

The FIU men's soccer team would settle for a 1-1 draw in a heated game against the Florida Atlantic Owls on Sunday, Aug 28.

After beating Nova Southeastern on Aug. 26 to open their season, confidence was high for the team although they would be without key players being ready for Sunday's match, things did not look so bad without the talents of Nicolas Rodriguez and Jahbari Willis.

ALBRECHT SHINES

New players would emerge for FIU as Quentin Albrecht linked up with a pass from Joe Dawkins and put the ball in the net in the 10th minute to give the Golden Panthers the early lead.

Albrecht made his first start for FIU, not only scoring the lone goal for the team, but also recording six shots with five on target.

"We didn't finish the game the way we wanted to, but we have new talent showing on the team and I'm happy with Quentin's performance," said head coach Munga Eketebi after the frustrating tie.

In the 23rd minute, the Owls would strike back when Darnell King lobbed a ball into Lukas Simons., who finished the play and tied the game at 1-1.

After that point, the game got sloppy. With the pitch a bit muddy, both teams combined for 32 fouls and four yellow cards would be handed out throughout the

match.

With tensions building, starting goalkeeper Erick Reyes would make his best save yet after Owls' midfielder Deniz Bozkurt put a strike on goal, aiming for the low corner.

Reyes stretched out and made an acrobatic save.

"We had a lot of good opportunities in the game and we couldn't finish the ball, but I'm proud that the team only let the ball pass them twice. Luckily, I was there to make the saves," said Reyes. "But overall, it's not the worst result and we continue to work on things to get the success we want."

EXTRA TIME

After 90 minutes, both teams huddled up to try and dig something out for the 20th minute extra time.

In collegiate soccer there are no penalty kicks to decide a game, only two 10-minute halves of extra time.

FIU would record the only two shots in extra time, but were unable to break the tie.

"It's a tough one to lose," Eketebi said. "We out shot them 20-7, everyone played great, but we still need to work on finishing plays off."

FIU (1-1-0, CUSA 0-1-0) will return to action when they go to the Midwest to take on powerhouses Ohio State on Sept. 2 and Penn State on Sept. 4, respectively.

These two away games will be key for RPI rankings and overall confidence boosters for the season.

The Golden Panthers will return home on Sept. 9 to take on Stetson at FIU Soccer Stadium and kickoff is scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL

FIU splits double-header to end California tourney

EDUARDO ALMAGUER Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers (2-0, SBC 0-0) overpowered UC Riverside (0-2, 0-0 BWC) to capture its second victory in as many days, in another straight-set sweep (25-20, 25-15, 25-20).

Outside hitter Jovana Bjelica posted the team's first double-double of the season, notching 14 kills and 10 digs.

Andrea Lakovic, outside hitter, posted a season-best seven blocks and libero Chanel Araujo tallied a season-best 15 digs for the defense.

Head coach Danijela Tomic gave almost all of the playing time in the setter position to redshirt junior Renele Forde, who posted a career-best 32 assists.

Tomic said she still hasn't made up her mind about a primary setter. She will continue to deploy a timeshare between Egan and Forde.

"We have two setters that can step in and do a great job," Tomic said. "It's a great problem to have."

FIU quickly found itself in a hole against the Highlanders, falling behind 0-3 when the first set started.

After seeing UCR score three straight, Egan was then replaced by Forde. The teams exchanged 4-0 runs until the score was 20-19 in FIU's favor. Bjelica, on her way to her double-double, sealed the deal

with a kill to win 25-20.

The second set started, and two kills from Lakovic and a kill from middle blocker Sabrina Gonzalez and they took the lead 6-5.

There was no turning back as FIU built a 10-point lead with the set point at 24-14. Outside hitter Marija Prsa tallied a kill to take the second set.

The final set saw a back-and-forth battle to knot the score at 10-10. Bjelica and Gonzalez broke the tie and the team would not relinquish the lead for the remainder of the match. Similar to the night before, FIU won the match point on an error by the opposing team to win the set 25-20 and complete the sweep.

UC BERKLEY 3, FIU 0

FIU (2-1, SBC 0-0), accustomed to playing the role of Goliath in the first two matches, reversed roles to David as the Panthers dropped the match in three straight sets against No. 3 UC Berkeley (3-0, Pac-12 0-0) and their impermeable defense, (25-23, 25-16, 25-15).

Gonzalez posted a season-best nine kills and four blocks. Araujo spearheaded the defense with 12 digs, and Forde, who seems to have convinced Tomic that she is the best option for the setter position, had 28 assists.

The first set saw a lightning-fast seesaw battle where no team could pull away. An impenetrable defense and a 7-

2 run by Berkeley gave them a 20-14 lead. FIU battled back and came within one point at a score of 23-24. A kill from Correy Johnson, however, handed FIU its first set-loss of the season.

In the second set, FIU battled from behind for the entirety of the match. On the losing end of a 7-14 score, FIU rallied for with a 4-0 run. The team would only score five more points as the Bears took set two, 25-16.

The Panthers opened the third set in the same fashion as the second set: in a deficit. After being down 8-11, the team never shortened the gap, eventually losing 15-25.

Though a coach is never pleased when his or her team loses, Tomic was extremely satisfied with the effort her Panthers gave against Berkeley.

"The score doesn't show how hard we played," said Tomic. "Defensively, we played extremely good. That's something we wanted to get better in and we showed it."

After the game, Gonzalez and Forde were named to the Cal Molten Classic All-Tournament Team, marking a first for each individual.

"[Sabrina] is the senior leader we need," Tomic said. "I'm so proud of her."

FIU returns to action next weekend at the Blue Raider Bash in Murfreesboro, Tenn., Sept. 2 to 4.

Tailgating 101: from the gate to the grill



BEACON FILE PHOTO

A crowd of students [above] dances to a Lifehouse performance during last year's Homecoming tailgate. A new football season creates new opportunities for new and old students to experience tailgating for a Panther football game.

KENNETH DYCHES Staff Writer

The stands packed to capacity, the wild cheers from fans as the ball is passed from player to player until it reaches the end zone for a touchdown.

After coming off a 7-6 2010 season, with the Sun Belt Conference Championship and their first-ever bowl game win against Toledo, the Golden Panthers

are ready to hear their fans rattle the cage against their first opponent, North Texas, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. in the Football Stadium.

"I'm super excited for the game," said Anson Lewis, a senior and marketing major. "Coming off an amazing bowl game, I'm pumped to start this season off and hopefully make it to another bowl game."

While the game will be intense, the fans ranging

and the Dazzlers as dazzling as ever, not all the fun starts at kick-off time. If you get to the stadium just a couple hours before the game, fans will find that the party has already started.

By 5 p.m., just east of the stadium, the festivities will already be in full swing. From fraternities, to the Alumni Association, to a variety of clubs and students, everyone with team spirit will be decked

out in blue and gold and getting psyched up for the game.

"I'm trying to get ahead on all my homework so my whole day can encompass football," said Tiffany Disney, a junior and pre-law major.

Tailgating is not only a tradition, but it is a great way to kick off the Fall semester and get into the team spirit with great food, good friends and fans.

"Tailgating sounds like an opportunity to get away from the classroom setting and be able to enjoy the college experience with your fellow students," said freshman Bryan Villeta, a psychology major. "It is a big school, and we all have busy schedules, but we come together for events like these and stand up with our school to root on our team."

Being a part of a university like FIU means more than just going to class. The football games provide an opportunity to let loose, have a great time and build up some excitement while connecting with fellow classmates.

"My first tailgate was freshman year, and it was really something. There's a ton of people that go -- lots of food. There's music and free stuff," said Jennie Campa, a sophomore and TV production major. "During my first tailgate, one of the fun experiences was body paint and dancing to the music that you hear from all the different parties."

Sure enough, fans will always find plenty to do at the tailgates. One important thing to remember, though, is that when the time comes to do some tailgating, fans leave their worries, stress and inhibitions at the door.

"I expect to meet new people while tailgating and going bananas with them at the game, not caring how foolish we look, because

we're showing our pride," said Villeta.

Be sure to look out for Roary, the mascot, roaming the tents, high-fiving fans and striking poses for pictures.

The marching band, which is always out in their khaki uniforms, will also put on a show just before the game with the Dazzlers. There will be freebies and giveaways, so make sure to look out for those, too.

With all the excitement, do not forget the essentials every good tailgate needs.

"They should bring food, drinks, friends and dress up for their team to support them. Also, they should bring stuff like footballs and Frisbees -- any activity that you can do outdoors; if anything, bring music to dance to," said Campa.

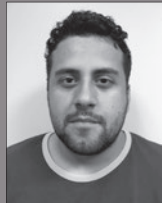
And of course, along with the festivities come the basics: students are not unfamiliar with the Miami heat, so while there will be plenty of shade under tents to hide from the sun, it is always a good idea to bring some water, a hat and sunglasses to the game.

Villeta may only be a freshman, but he seems to already have what it takes. "I've never been more excited about anything. I'm going to be attending every home football game, and going to be looking forward to meeting new people at each game and making friends that will last a lifetime."

RADIATE REVIEWS

Beirut's third album, "The Rip Tide," more personal, relatable

Lead singer of pop-folk group Beirut Zach Condon sings "sound will bring me home again," in the soft and steady building track "East Harlem" on a brisk 33-minute LP by Beirut called "The Rip Tide."



MICHAEL HERNANDEZ

The group's third LP puts the element of swirling, pumping horns with Condons' crooning vibrato. None of the instrumentation on the album is superfluous though, as this is a sweetly coaxed package.

Condon has crafted an elegant summer album that can feel airy and deep all at once, depending on what you want to discern from your listen.

From his aspiring debut "Gulag Orkestar" to the worldly, chanson-inspired follow-up "The Flying Club Cup," Condon has demonstrated wealthy amounts of

musicianship.

Now, at the ripe age of 25, his maturation in songwriting is increasingly apparent. "The Rip Tide" does not go for splash or something grandiose, but hones it back with its accordion and ukulele accompaniment.

It is rich in its simplicity and Condon knows how to craft charming songs. Triumphant trumpets and a rattling drum pattern layer "A Candle's Fire," which breaks into Condon's rich voice.

He sways back and forth through the track that leads to a soaring cacophony of sounds in the bridge and shuts down with the same rattling snare. There are varied levels of enjoyment on this album, but "A Candle's Fire" personifies the album.

The most jubilant song might be the pop-folk "Santa Fe." The trademarks of Beirut — horns, strings and piano — are retained but are now joined together in blissful merriment.

Condon declares in the chorus, "Sign me up Santa Fe," as the trifecta of sounds

that accompany his feel-good lyrics.

Go ahead and bob your head along with the repeating synths and sunny harmonies of the song, I will not judge you. Condon knows how to arrange it all, and with the third track in this entry, "East Harlem," that similar rhythm and punctuation on composition is intact.

These songs are instantaneously accessible and relatable since they are inspired after his homes; he grew up in Sante Fe and currently resides in New York.

Condon himself has called this a back to basics sort of album because he did not want his influences to be so bare and forthright.

With a clear direction, Condon has crafted an album with delicate melodies that are enjoyable, fresh and compelling.

"Goshen" showcases Condon's vibrato in a natural way with a teary piano backdrop that reaches the brass crescendo that is accustomed to Beirut. "Payne's Bay" and "The Rip Tide" carry on the pace of the album in a modest tone, but picks right

back up with "Vagabond," another up-tempo hooky song.

This album could have ended on the melancholic track "The Peacock," which would have given it a bittersweet sendoff but instead Condon closes it off with "Port of Call" where he encapsulates the album into one song.

It begins with a smooth ukulele, with him projecting his rich voice while the piano and brass progressively join the fray and sways you back and forth until it reaches its completion.

Condon has gone back and forth in the creative process and has reached a focal point in his career. At 25, I envy him.

Whether you listen to Beirut on the shore of the beach or when it is used as interpretive dance music on the reality TV show "So You Think You Can Dance" — this really happened — it will connect to you with its enchanting disposition.

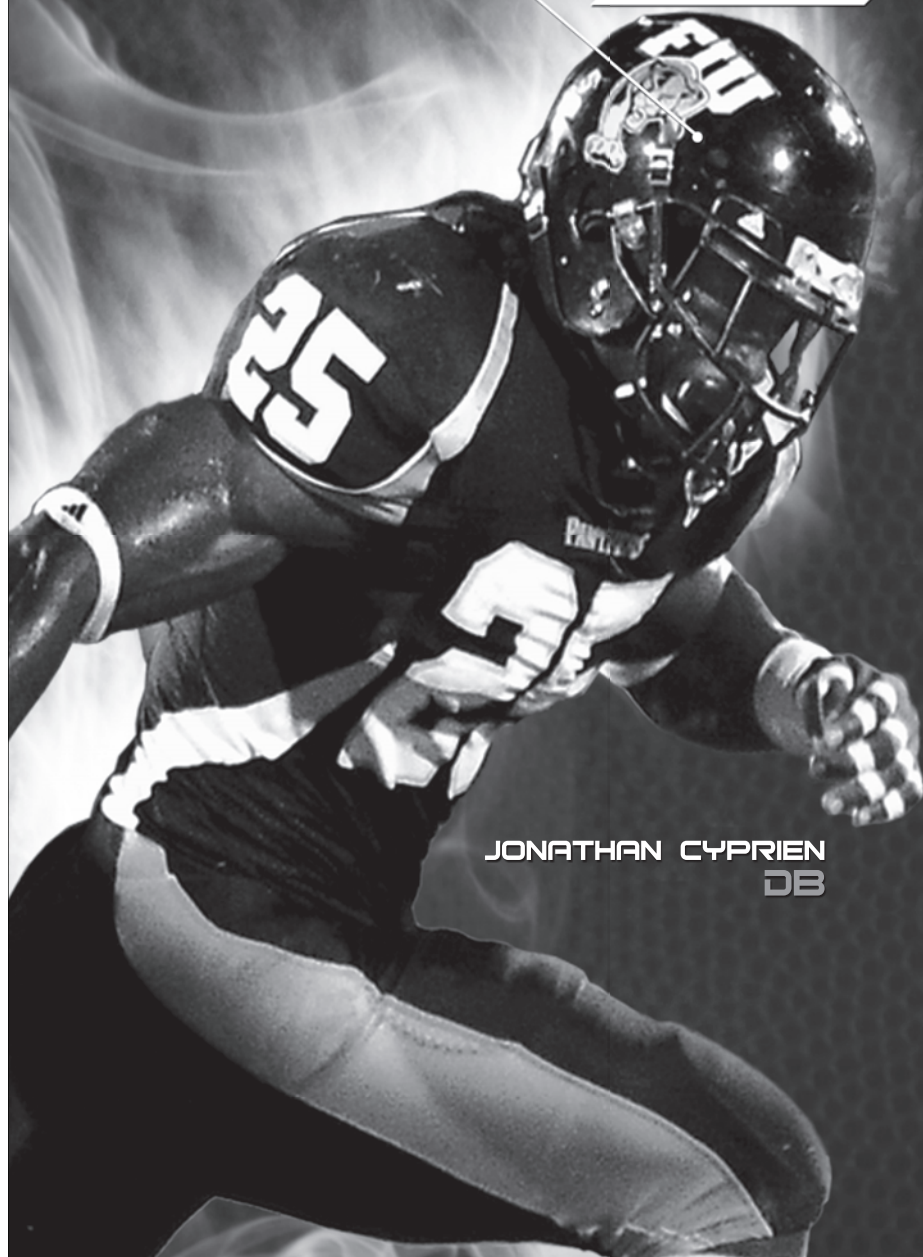
"The Rip Tide" is the most personal

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Growing interest creates new colony on campus

SANDY ZAPATA
Staff Writer

With a total number of 35 initiates, Theta Chi Fraternity is the newest member to the Interfraternity Council and Greek life at the University. Founded in 1856 at Norwich.

University, Theta Chi currently has 130 Chapters in the U.S. and Canada, with 10 colonies and interest groups spread throughout North America. One of those interest groups officially became a colony on Aug. 27.

Stephen Nuñez, a junior and advertising major, is one of the initial members who founded the interest group on campus in 2010.

“The reason I chose this organization as opposed to any other organization already established on campus is because its ideals connected with me. ‘Truth, temperance and tolerance’ will mold you into a gentleman, which ultimately is what I strive to be.”

Nuñez, along with two others, Adrian Espinosa and Aaron Bethencourt, started the initial interest group at the University and marketed the fraternity through word of mouth until they became an official interest group this past Fall semester.

By the time the semester ended, the interest group had a total of 27 members; because of academic requirements, 14 members were let go.

Theta Chi received 14 interests in the Spring semester and another nine this past Summer semester, bringing the total

number of pledges to 35 pledges. The 35 pledges made this the first official colony of Theta Chi on campus. With a total of 13 organizations as part of the Interfraternity Council, Theta Chi makes 14.

“**The reason I chose this organization as opposed to any other organization already established on campus is because its ideals connected with me.**”

“I believe we have the most eclectic and diverse minded group on campus,” said Nuñez.

Kevin Martin, a junior finance and management information systems double major, as well as the public relations and homecoming chair in the fraternity, was very emotional.

“The main thing that hooked me was the chance to change Greek life on campus

COLONY, page 11

Condon feels he has “found a musical home”



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIANNA SMITH

25 year old Zach Condon and his group Beirut released their third studio album, “The Rip Tide” on Aug. 8.

BEIRUT, page 9

and rooted as Condon will get, but it is exactly where he wants to be. As he told www.thequietus.com, “I feel like I have found a musical home with this record. And it was always there. I guess I was growing up.”

The sound has finally

caught up with him, and a little over half-an-hour spent with “The Rip Tide” shows that sentiment come into fruition.

It is nothing distinctively new or even as daring as past projects, but it feels more inspired than his last compositions.

It is a fitting album to end the summer with.

It takes you to a warm, free-flowing time that takes you to different locals as it goes through dramatic shifts, but in the end, it takes you where you want to be — home.

Radiate Reviews is a weekly music review column. Look for it every Wednesday this Fall.

HAUTE TOPIC

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

VMAs fashion: a few bright stars shone in the darkness

BEST

WORST

Everyone knows the only reason I watch any awards show is for the fashion.

With artists like Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry and Kanye West gracing the stage at MTV's Video Music Awards I knew I had to channel my inner Joan Rivers and dedicate this week's column to discussing what everyone was wearing.

COLUMNIST



ESRA ERDOGAN

The VMAs are the most appropriate venue for artists to put on the most outlandish and experimental outfits they can come up with. Unfortunately, the absence of Lady Gaga's usual scene stealing ensembles caused this year's black carpet to seem contrived and lackluster.

BEST DRESSED

Actress Zoe Saldana stole the show from some of the biggest stars of the music industry at this year's VMAs in a sleek black leather and tweed mini dress by Barbara Bui. Saldana's dress had amazing metallic bead detailing on the bodice that stood out on the carpet as well as the stage.

Her snakeskin sandals were the perfect complement to the dress. Saldana was stunning and the best dressed of the night. However, I can't say that the look was very memorable.



GREGG DEGUIRE/AP IMAGES

Kanye West is probably the most stylish man in pop culture. He couldn't top the crimson suit he had on at last year's awards but his Americana themed outfit was something I'd steal right off his back.

I loved his ombre denim shirt and slim fitting jeans paired with a wrist full of bohemian bracelets. This outfit was the right combination of casual but cool.

I will definitely be trying to recreate this outfit on myself, minus the \$1,680 Nike kicks.

Katy Perry was able to look graceful in her pin-up geisha look that would have appeared to be a costume on anyone else.

Her pastel colored Atelier Versace dress was probably the most beautifully designed and constructed dress of the night and definitely the most original choice.

The thing I loved about Perry was that she made the effort to accessorize everything around her dress; she had a cherry blossom tucked in her purple hair and carried a parasol to complete the geisha theme.

I'm going to try and ignore the strange Flintstones-inspired design she wore to accept her Video of the Year award because I have no words. Just because it was Christian Dior couture does not make it okay.

WORST DRESSED

There's nothing I can say to defend

the ridiculous dress covered with toys that Nicki Minaj arrived in on the black carpet. Not only did it seem like it was thrown together on an acid trip, it was also eerily similar to something that I've seen on Lady Gaga before.

Although the new queen of hip hop usually makes my jaw drop in a good way, her outfit choice to this year's VMAs seems to be a failed attempt at appearing groundbreaking.

The only redeeming quality was her colorful, cotton candy hair; it's too bad she couldn't have worn something flattering and imaginative to go with it.

Britney Spears watched as dancers reenacted her hit videos during a tribute segment wearing an unflattering and boring black romper by Moschino. Spears has not worn much other than a variation of the little black dress lately.

I would not mind if it was tailored to define her waist but instead she wore a belt around her hips, which did nothing but make the frock look ill fitting and uncomfortable.

Her peep toe boots were incredible but only shortened her legs in this romper. Somebody needs to get this woman a better stylist.

Miley Cyrus wore a semi-sheer sage colored crushed velvet dress by Roberto Cavalli that looks

like something Stevie Nicks donated to Goodwill. The floor

length dress was very unflattering due to unfortunately placed vertical panels down the sides and too long sleeves. The strange animal and flower print befuddled me; even in fashion these two prints don't play well. Either a lower neckline or shorter sleeves should have balanced the length of the dress out.

This dress, which made Cyrus look at least fifteen years older, had too much material and appeared to drag on the floor.

To age herself even more, she wore her hair in a bland bun and heavy looking earrings. Cyrus earned herself the title of worst dressed.

Although I enjoyed watching Lady Gaga's alter ego Jo Calderone make people uncomfortable on stage, I wished Gaga would have put on a dress or two to show the other stars who is boss.

Even if she had picked something unattractive like last year's meat dress, which overshadowed the incredible Alexander McQueen dress she arrived in, at least I would have something to remember this year's totally "blah" VMAs by.

An honorable mention for best-dressed must go to crooner Tony Bennett who wore a sparkly black tuxedo.



STEWART COOK/REX FEATURES

Haute Topic is a weekly fashion column. Look for it every Wednesday this Fall.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2011

SEARCH AND SCREEN COMMITTEE MEETING - NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

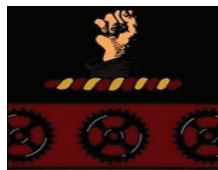


WHEN: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: AHC2 495

SGA DAY

WHEN: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Panther Square

THETA TAU- ICE CREAM SOCIAL



WHEN: 1-2 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Engineering Center Pit

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL



WHEN: 1-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU Modesto A. Maidique Campus GC 140

30 MINUTE LEXISNEXIS REFRESHER CLASS

WHEN: 4-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Computer Lab

IFC FRATURDAY BBQ

WHEN: 12-3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Ballroom Lawns

BSU & DEPT. OF HUMANITIES PARALLEL LIVES

WHEN: 7-8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 150

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

ICE CREAM SOCIAL GENERAL MEETING/ELECTIONS

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: FIU College of Medicine, room 160

FIRST NSE FALL MEETING

WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

WHEN: 3:30-4:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: DM 409 A

GENERAL MEETING AND INFO SESSION



WHEN: 3:30-5:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 305

MS IN ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: 6-8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Engineering Center

PRE-MED AMSA'S FIRST GENERAL MEETING



WHEN: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: WC 130

FIU FOOTBALL VERSUS NORTH TEXAS



WHEN: 7-10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Alfonso Field at FIU Football Stadium

Family and friends come support Greeks

COLONY, page 10

and in the midst of it be a part of a brotherhood that I never had a chance to experience. Something that I, along with my brothers want to do is unite everyone in each council," said Martin.

Frank Codina, a web programmer and mentor to Martin, came out to support the Theta Chi pledges with his wife, Marcela Codina.

"We are very proud of him [Martin] but, most importantly, that he could get his degree, so one day he could become the chief technology officer of my company," said Frank Codina.

Roberto Socorro, a junior and civil engineer and president of the colony, recalls his earlier decision to not be a part of any Greek organization because he believed in the stereotypes he had heard growing up.

Once he heard the creed of Theta Chi, however, that stereotype was broken.

"It's a stigma. People label groups by

a certain stereotype or a standard, but due to the major difference in personality and interests of each member, it has been very hard for the campus to do so," said Nuñez.

The ultimate goal for every Greek organization and its members is to graduate from the university and become involved citizens wherever they may reside.

Terry A. Johnson, the national treasurer of Theta Chi Fraternity, made a joking closing statement at the reception directed at the pledges: "Graduates, that is why you are here; for all the girls and fun will come with college but if you need to step aside and focus to do it, we are here to help."

After the ceremony was over, all the men were united with their family, friends and loved ones but all in all they seemed to flock right back to each other.

"We pride ourselves in adversity as a group and at the end of the day we love FIU and literally want it to be the best it can be," said Nuñez.

WEIRD SCIENCE



ANDRES BEDIYA/THE BEACON

FIU BBC Science President Club Dalton Steele [left], a sophomore, shows Roger Stephen Roth, senior art major, some of the supplies and chemicals involved in their experiments at the Club & Involvement Fairs in Panther Square.

Volunteer fair gives students many options

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

Finding a worthwhile cause at a commuter school isn't the easiest of tasks when the amount of time spent on campus is limited to the duration of a class period. To fill in this void, the Center for Leadership and Service is bringing together 30 different non profit organizations to assist students in connecting with their cause of choice.

The Fall 2011 Volunteer Fair will take place on Sept. 1 at the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to recruit students who are interested in contributing their time and efforts to providing assistance to those in need.

The fair will bring together 30 non-profit organizations from the community at large, and from within the university.

"This is a really good chance for students that don't have the time to travel, domestically or internationally, to get information on involvement opportunities throughout the community and abroad," said Tiffany Bromfield, graduate assistant for the Center for Leadership and Services and main organizer of the Volunteer Fair.

The fair will feature a variety of organizations including, but not limited to, medical research foundations such as Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; youth organizations including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami, Girl Scout Council of

Tropical Florida, Inc. and the Miami Children's Museum; and organizations for the advancement of the arts such as the Adrienne Arsht Center and Art Studio Inc.

Non-profit organization recruiters will be fielding students' questions and concerns while showcasing the different positions and responsibilities that students can fill within the respective organizations.

Bromfield sees this fair as a way of getting both students and volunteer organizations to come together in a centralized location to see how the two can best work with each other towards the causes that they feel passionate about.

"I would like students to walk away with the impression that there is so much more that can be done in the world. Everyone has two hands that can contribute to the greater good," said Bromfield. "Students coming to this realization is the main purpose of the fair."

VOLUNTEER FAIR

- Time: 11 a.m.
- When: 09/01/11
- Where: WUC Panther Square

Facebook update focuses on streamlined privacy process

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Asst. News Director

The main status box on Facebook has always asked its users "what's on your mind?"

For Facebook executives it seems to be more privacy. Last Thursday, Facebook launched new privacy settings that will give users more control over exactly who sees what is on their profile.

With recent innovations like the ability to tell people your exact location by "checking-in," to the use of facial recognition technology to identify people in pictures, Facebook has seemingly transitioned from a benign and useful method to keeping up with friends to what some have called the ultimate stalking tool.

Too often, many users have felt the website has fallen short of expectations when it comes to privacy; for many who have succumb to the cyber sharing culture, the consequences of sharing too much is often overlooked.

Facebook's new privacy settings aim to change that by allowing users to edit who can view their post even after it has gone live by using a box that appears on your profile called the

It makes it easier to access the privacy features. The only bad thing about it is that you have to constantly remember to change who sees what.

Daniel Cabrera
Senior, Fine Arts major

"inline audience selector," eliminating the need to navigate to a different page. The box features icons that replace the previous padlock menu.

This new feature is intended to make it easier for Facebook's more than 750 million users to control their privacy settings.

"It makes it easier to access the privacy features. The only bad thing about it is that you have to constantly remember to change who sees what," said Daniel Cabrera, senior fine arts major.

Facebook's move towards a streamlined privacy procedure comes in the wake of buzzing competition from a social network operated by Google, Inc. Launched on June 28 2011, Google+ garnered over 20 million visitors in the first 21 days, according to the research

firm Comscore Inc.

Google+ allows users to create "circles" of friends and with each post the user specifies which "circle" is able to view the post, giving users more control over who is viewing content on their profile.

"I heard that the privacy options are better on Google+ but no one I know is really on there, so I decided to stick with Facebook," said junior journalism major Latoni Perris.

"I also have a twitter. Adding Google+ would be too much social networking."

Although Facebook contests that the changes were not made in response to competition from Google+, the move towards more user-friendly privacy options couldn't have come at a more convenient time.

Aside from the option of

controlling which friends view the post thru the "inline audience selector," users can also manage what "tags" can appear on their profile.

Now when a user is tagged in a picture, it will not appear on the users page until the tag is approved.

However, the picture will still appear on the person's page that uploaded the image, allowing their friends to view it. The new settings also allow people that are not your Facebook friend to tag you in their posts.

There is also the option to tag your location in your status from a computer - a feature limited previously to the mobile facebook app.

Although Facebook is making strides towards giving their users more privacy, they continue to gather personal information from

its users. It recently came to light, for example, that if Facebook users had installed the Facebook app on their phone, Facebook syncs all of the contacts saved on the phone and stores them on their servers.

In a statement to BGR.com, an online technology news service, a Facebook spokesperson stated, "Rumors claiming that your phone contacts are visible to everyone on Facebook are false. Our Contacts list, formerly called Phonebook, has existed for a long time. The phone numbers listed there were either added directly to Facebook and shared with you by your friends, or you have previously synced your phone contacts with Facebook. Just like on your phone, only you can see these numbers."

Your contacts can be removed from your page, but whether they are removed from Facebook's servers still remains unclear.

Making privacy setting easier to control may provide more security for users but what is released into the cyber world is ultimately up to the user.

"If you're using Facebook, then you are wanting people to see what you say" said Cabrera. "If it's private, don't make it a status."