

9-30-2004

# The Beacon, September 30, 2004

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## President Uribe to address local Colombian community

By **CESAR GUTIERREZ**  
Contributing writer

Alvaro Uribe Velez, president of Colombia since 2002, will be at the University Park's Wertheim Performing Art's Center on Sept. 30 to discuss issues affecting the South Florida Colombian population.



URIBE VELEZ

According to Victor Uribe, director of FIU's Colombian Studies Institute, the president's visit will offer Colombian citizens residing in the area a venue for the discussion of many important issues relevant to their community. Colombia, which for the past four decades has been engaged in a civil war between Marxist guerillas and a succession of conservative governments, has experienced such an economic slump and an increase in kidnappings that many citizens have chosen to leave their country. South Florida has, for the most part, the greatest concentration of expatriates.

"It will be a sort of 'Town Hall meeting' where people will be able to ask the president about different problems ranging from migratory issues, trade, the validation of degrees, money transfers, the new ID cards for Colombians living in the USA, the payment of social security coverage in Colombia from the USA and so forth," Victor Uribe said. The institute's director also says that the public can expect the president's visit to answer a list of specific questions for the future consideration of Colombian officials, with a chance for Colombians living abroad to interact with their president.

"In addition, by hosting Uribe's visit, FIU intends to let Colombians and the media know about the Colombian Studies Institute which is dedicated to the study of that nation's economic, social, political and cultural issues," said Victor Uribe.

Participants will include Colombian groups, professors, elected city officials and students. Anyone wishing to attend may receive free tickets at the Latin American and Caribbean Center in UP, DM building, room 353. Although the event will begin at 9:30 a.m., students are advised to arrive early due to security measures.

Sponsors include the Colombian Embassy in Washington, the Miami Colombian Consulate, the Latin American and Caribbean Center, the Colombian Studies Institute and the Colombian Students Association at FIU.



**SETTING A FOUNDATION:** (From left to right) Engineering Dean Dr. Vish Prasad, Solar Decathlon Director Rick J. King, Faculty Advisor Nathaniel Q. Belcher, Project Manager Josh Freese, Engineering team leader Ted Natsui, Architecture Associate Dean David Bergwall, SJC Dean Lillian Kopenhaver and President Modesto A. Maidique set the first cornerstone for the solar house to be built at the East Lawn of the Engineering Center as part of the 2005 Solar Decathlon. In the fall of 2005, the house will be transported to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. COURTESY PHOTO

## BREAKING SOLAR GROUND

By **ALEJANDRA DIAZ**  
Editor In Chief

The FIU community along with sponsors and supporters from the Miami community celebrated a milestone in the construction of an 800-square foot solar-powered house as part of the 2005 Solar Decathlon.

"It is an ambitious project...the team seems to be able to get a lot done in a short period of time and do very good work in the process," said Ryan Moreno, a fellow mechanical engineering graduate student and Ph.D. candidate. "The team has a good design and I see them placing very high [in the competition]."

On Sept. 24, the College of Engi-

neering held a groundbreaking in which President Modesto A. Maidique, along with team members, sponsors, and college dean's, set the first cornerstone for the solar-powered house to be built on the East Lawn of the Engineering Center.

"This is the first participant team to have a groundbreaking and what it does is help to keep our sponsors engaged so they think there is a sense of something really happening," Nathaniel Q. Belcher, faculty advisor and architectural professor, said. "The spirit of this is that it is a student run project and people see that when they come [to the groundbreaking]."

The groundbreaking, which represents a year's worth of work and dedication by students and faculty members from across

the disciplines, has team members feeling that they are headed in the right direction.

"I feel that it's a very important milestone in the competition...it gives us a chance to feel that we have accomplished something and it gives us a chance to show the community what we have done. We have some models, a plan and a direction we are going in," engineering team leader Edward Natsui said. "We have a lot of work yet to do, but once the details are worked out, and we get to [Washington], we will prove that we have a lot of potential."

As part of the Solar Decathlon,

See SOLAR, page 4

## Convocation to honor faculty

By **ADRIANA PEREIRA**  
Contributing Writer

This week FIU's faculty members, who have sometimes been forgotten in the crowds of students, are running the show.

Friday, the Tenth Annual Faculty Convocation will bring Faculty Convocation Week to a close, assembling FIU's finest scholars and recognizing their efforts. The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, President of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

"The faculty are quite curious about

medical education and that is our next big major effort. There should be a discussion of that sort and there is no one better to lead it than him," Mark Rosenberg, provost and executive Vice President of Academic Affairs said.

The week has focused on gathering faculty together to promote discussion of the university's future and its current strengths and weaknesses. It also has given the professors a chance to compare FIU to other urban research universities.

Rosenberg says this week allows faculty members to step back and be more contemplative about the university and their own careers and it gives them the

opportunity to honor those who deserve recognition.

The largest event of the week will take place on Fri., Oct. 1, when 30 faculty members, selected by a committee comprised of one member from each college, will be honored at the Faculty Convocation.

"Recognition of faculty is key in what we do," Dr. James Sutton, faculty convocation chairperson and English professor, said.

Twelve undergraduate teaching awards will be given along with 11 for research,

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### INSIDE

#### Book lovers unite!

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## NEWSFLASH

## OTHER UNIVERSITIES

## UCF's foreign students hit with tracking fee

Foreign students will face a new \$50 fee each semester at the University of Central Florida to help cover the costs of tracking international students on campus and to inform them of new rules for studying in America.

A wave of new travel-visa rules imposed after the 2001 terrorist attacks have delayed foreign students who come to U.S. universities to get an education. Foreign enrollment has dropped at nearly all schools, including UCF.

Last year the university spent \$1 million on "increased requirements for international student tracking" of about 1,000 foreign enrollees, or roughly \$1,000 per foreign student.

In and out of Florida, universities have installed similar foreign-student charges, from \$40 to \$125, a UCF survey found. Among them are the University of South Florida and the University of Florida, UCF's chief state competitors for foreign students. Both charge a \$50 fee.

Part of the cost stems from workshops for students put on by UCF to explain employment, immigration, travel and tracking rules associated with international studies. But the costs also cover, for instance, extra work UCF must do to notify federal authorities that a student is indeed attending classes there.

## SCIENCE

## Scientists downplay global warming as cause for hurricanes

As hurricane after hurricane strikes the southeastern United States, many people wonder whether the rash of storms is the result of global warming.

The answer from scientists: Probably not.

Although many experts think global warming could increase the number or the intensity of hurricanes 50 years from now, they say this year's storms were caused by natural changes in the ocean and atmosphere. These include a multi-decade cycle of warm water moving through the Atlantic Ocean, and the unusual mildness of the hurricane-suppressing patch of warm water in the Pacific called El Nino.

In a letter last week to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was holding hearings on global warming, 10 climate researchers urged him to be cautious of "the erroneous claim that hurricane intensity or frequency has risen significantly in recent decades in response to the warming trend seen in surface temperature."

Even environmental groups say it probably isn't a factor in the current storm season.

"The general consensus is it's unlikely," said Benjamin Preston, senior research fellow at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, which advocates reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping pollutants. "We can actually explain an active hurricane season using natural variability."

## CORRECTIONS

In the article "Meth and Red get ready to crash FIU stadium," which ran on the Sept. 23 issue, Frank Perez is the concert chair, not the SPC president.

In "Party-goers Rock the Vote at local nightclub," the name Lincoln Diaz-Belart was misspelled.

In the same article, Bob Martinez should be described as the former governor.

The Beacon regrets these errors. If you would like to report errors please call us in UP at 305-348-2709 or in BBC at 305-919-4722.

## Faculty receive awards, recognition

From FACULTY, page 1

two for service, one for advising, one for librarianship and three for adjunct professors.

Among the winners stand political science Professor Astrid Arraras, who will be given an award for teaching.

"I feel very honored for receiving such a prestigious award at a very early stage in my career," she said.

Religious studies professor and associate dean of the Honors College, Lesley Northup is also being recognized for her service to FIU and the community.

"The truth is that many, many of our faculty deserve awards for their service to the university and the wider community," Northup said. "To be honored for service is really just to be one of the lucky few who represent many others."

The most prestigious honor being given is the Council of 100, Outstanding Faculty Award that brings with it a \$10,000 cash prize. The winner has been selected by FIU President Modesto Maidique, Provost Mark Rosenberg and the Council of 100 and has been FIU's best kept secret of the week. No one, with the exception of this selection committee, knows who the winner will be.

Aside from the award ceremony, faculty will hear the thoughts of Cohen, who has been chosen as keynote speaker and is expected to offer his perspective on FIU's pursuit of a public medical school.

The university submit-

ted its proposal for the school to the Florida Board of Governors in July.

"Dr. Cohen's address is certainly of central relevance as we continue to refine and develop our medical school initiative," Bruce Hauptli Faculty Senate chairperson said. "I am confident that the faculty will find his remarks instructive."

Hauptli, who serves on the Faculty Convocation Week committee, says the opportunity to reflect on this major initiative is an

perspective.

Representing the student body at the event will be University Park Student Government President Jorge Rosario and Biscayne Bay Campus President Ruth-Allyson Webster, who will both take part in the procession and will be seated alongside faculty members.

"We will be there to show that the student body supports the faculty," Rosario said. He encourages students to attend the Convocation because

members since January to successfully put on this event.

"Convocation creates tradition and consistency in FIU and it's an important reason to take a break from the grind of university life," stresses Sutton.

Though the events increase as the years go by, Sutton also states how Convocation is only made possible with the help of many sectors, including the Office of the Provost, the Graham Center staff and University Publications.

On Monday, The Honors College kicked off the week with its Parade of Nations and States and the Honors Convocation.

At the Honors College events students play their biggest role in Faculty Convocation Week.

Other events included a Tenure and Promotion Reception, a folk concert and the Provost's Dinner. On Tuesday, the Biscayne Bay Campus hosted the first of the two Convocations at which Carolyn Roberts, chair of the Florida Board of Governors, spoke about the challenges facing Florida's urban universities.

Organizers say Convocation will be a success if the 450 seats in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center are filled with faculty.

"I find it frustrating that some faculty blow off Convocation as unimportant or tiresome," Northup said. "I suspect the ones who do that are the ones who have never gone and seen how much Convocation can do to build community and remind us why we're proud to be FIU faculty."

*"The truth is that many, many of our faculty deserve awards for their service to the university and the wider community."*

Lesley Northup

Associate Dean of the Honors College

important aspect of this year's Convocation. Apart from the many other purposes of the week, the faculty have focused all week on discussing the medical school initiative and what it means to the university's future.

Many of the faculty are aware of the importance of a medical school and are supportive of the idea.

"I believe FIU faculty feel that the medical initiative is a natural step in our evolution to becoming a top urban research university," Hauptli said.

The university faculty members are not the only ones with an opinion on the medical school proposal. Students have also had plenty to say and are being encouraged to take an active role in the discussion by attending Convocation on Friday and listening in to Cohen's

he believes it will serve as a great opportunity to network and meet the deans of each college and the university's vice presidents. It will also allow students to interact with professors beyond the typical classroom setting.

FIU students are known for voicing their opinions and being involved. Sutton says that students play an important role in the decisions made at the university and they have a place in faculty life.

This is why Sutton encourages them to attend the Convocation: to listen in on the medical school talk and pay tribute to their professors.

"I do this because events like these are very important," Sutton said.

This is his third year chairing the committee. He has been working with 16 other faculty and staff



**THE GREAT DEBATE:** Nathaly Charria a Democrat, and Elizabeth Ratman, a Republican, share their organization's views during the SOC Club Fair. JOHN LOVELL/THE BEACON

# THE BEACON

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# UP career fair set to help students find right jobs

By **EVELYN MARTINEZ**  
Contributing Writer

Get your resume, portfolio, and business attire ready because the Fall Career and Internship fair is here.

All FIU students and alumni are urged to attend the free fair on Monday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m at the University Park Campus.

The fair, organized by Career Services, usually features 150 through 165 companies and 1,500 - 2,000 students who come

together to meet, interact, and make professional connections.

The purpose of the career fair is to network your way to a job, according to Dulce Ramirez Damon, fair coordinator and assistant director of career services.

"The event allows the students to gather information regarding the company, sign-up for on-campus inter-

views if the company has scheduled them, find out about current job openings and simply network with companies that may interest them," says Damon.

Although the fair does not guarantee that you will get a job on the spot, students can land jobs or internships as a result of the networking and follow-ups made on the

students access to FIU's online interviewing system, Pantherlink. Pantherlink allows students to view positions and submit their resumes online.

However, Golden Panther Services is not mandatory.

Students and alumni are encouraged to attend the fair and gain the experience of meeting with

potential employers and practice their networking and interviewing skills.

For those students unsure of

what supplies to take, Damon advises on several important choices. "I can list a lot of things...proper attire, professional demeanor, resume...But I think the single thing that will give you a competitive edge is confidence!"

For more information regarding the fair, go to [www.fiu.edu/~career/student/fairs](http://www.fiu.edu/~career/student/fairs), or call (305) 348-2423.

*"I can list a lot of things...proper attire, professional demeanor, resume...but I think the single thing that will give you a competitive edge is confidence!"*

Dulce Ramirez Damon  
Assistant director of career services

student's part, she says.

In addition, certain companies offer on-campus interviews that take place shortly after the fair. To take part in these supplementary interviews students must purchase Golden Panther Services. It costs \$20 and should be purchased prior to attending the fair.

Purchasing Golden Panther Services gives



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## POLICEBEAT

### SUNDAY • SEPTEMBER 19

An FIU housing student returned home and discovered that an unknown person had punctured his right rear tire with a sharp object. An area search was conducted for suspicious activity, but met with negative results. No suspect was found.

### WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 22

Police responded to Lot 6 in response to a vehicle on fire. Upon arrival, the officer tried unsuccessfully to put out the flames with an extinguisher. Fire Rescue then arrived and successfully extinguished the fire. Officials were unable to determine the cause of the fire. There were no damages to other vehicles in the vicinity.

A female student parked her car in Lot 11 and went to the Fitness Center to exercise. When she returned she discovered that an unknown person had broken her passenger window and accessed property inside the car. The victim reported many items missing, including books, cash, credit card, cellular phone, driver's license, and social security card. The property was not recovered.

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The Beacon is seeking applicants with media layout/design experience in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Pagemaker. Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 to apply.

# Team to fabricate house, gain experience

From SOLAR, page 1

FIU students and faculty will compete against 18 teams in ten contests over ten days. The event itself, which started in the spring of 2003, challenges students to build a completely solar-powered house that is not only livable but energy efficient.

"The team wants to establish FIU, our school of architecture and our school of engineering as forerunners in the advancement of design and research technology," said project manager and student leader Joshua Freese. "We want to create an innovative, sustainable design that represents [FIU and Miami] as a microcosm of the global community by uniting a vast array of students and professors to research, design and build tomorrow's solar home."

According to Richard J. King, the director and creator of the Solar Decathlon from the U.S. Department of Energy [DOE], the Solar Decathlon prompts students to work together in a competition which he hopes will have an impact as global as the Solar Decathlons' participants.

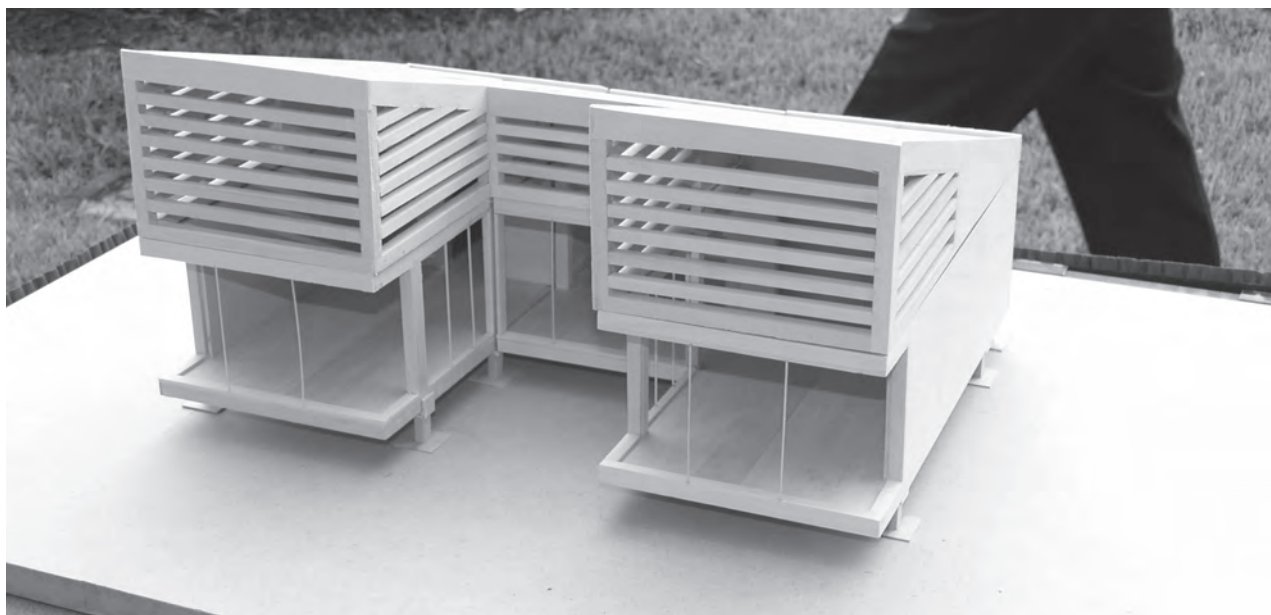
"FIU will do excellent. They've got to finish the house but on paper they look like a very strong contender. It is a tremen-

dous opportunity for the school and the university and [the DOE] is excited to have [sunny] Florida represented in the Solar Decathlon," King said. [The project] really has the vision of the future...some day the oil will run out and we will have to make due with the good old sun."

Working alongside the School of Architecture and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, students from the College of Engineering will complete the two-year project in the fall of 2005. In order to reach the final step of the event, the FIU team must build the house in Miami, take it apart and load it onto a tractor-trailer in route to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Once there, students must rebuild the house in seven days thus creating what the DOE, the event's main sponsor, has nicknamed the "Solar Village."

"This is a competition where everybody wins. You show up; you've got a house...the students have learned and if they have a failure, that's some of the best experiences learned," King said. "It will be a historic event on the [National Mall]...there has never been anywhere in the U.S. an entire Solar



**A MASTER PLAN:** The FIU Solar Decathlon team exhibited a wooden replica of its 800-square foot completely solar-powered house as part of a groundbreaking ceremony held on Sept. 24. COURTESY PHOTO

Village built."

During the 21-day event, local visitors, congressman and senators will join the countless Solar Decathlon judges as they evaluate the 19 houses and determine the most suitable design, build and energy efficient house on display.

The winner, to be determined at a date not yet set by the DOE, will be the team that best combines the conveniences and style of a modern home with the energy needs of daily life.

Despite the enormous challenge of finding funding and acquiring the resources needed to build

the house, team members are confident that the house will get built.

"It has actually been a pretty smooth ride. To get where we are today is amazing. When we started...we didn't think it could happen. Of course, there is always something that we need but we are off to a good start," the team's post-student and School of Architecture representative Jordan Trachtenberg said.

While the planning, research and building of the house seems overwhelming to some of the over 300 students working on the project, many say the outcome is worth the

effort.

"During a project like this you interact with so many people that you begin to make connections and establish yourself as a leader not only in the project but also in your profession. [The project] is a really good predecessor for your career," Freese said.

"It's a big project and it's something that really spoke to me... it is something I wanted to do," Natsui added. "We have had a lot of students come and go but it is something I think is very good for society, mankind and everything in general."

Although the FIU team

is up against competitors from Cornell University, the University of Michigan and the University of Texas at Austin, event organizers feel that the Solar Decathlon is set to show the world that solar energy is a viable resource that is becoming vastly more important.

"This event will do a tremendous amount to prove that solar energy really works and that energy efficiency pays off," King said. "It's a wonderful educational project and no matter where [the teams] place they will all get something very valuable out of this experience."

## Aid workers warn of epidemics from Haitian flooding

By MAMIE WARD  
and MICHAEL A.W. OTTEY  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The trail of homeless Haitians left by Hurricane Jeanne earlier this week huddled under tarps and scrambled for food earlier as relief workers warned of epidemics from floodwaters made fetid by the bodies of human and animal victims.

According to the latest statistics, at least 1,113 people were confirmed dead and 1,251 remained missing, mostly in the northern port city of Gonaives, while more than 900 were treated for injuries and 300,000 were homeless.

About 30,000 children under the age of 5 also have been affected, some of them orphaned when Jeanne killed their parents and many of their siblings. UNICEF will dispatch 30 staff members to find orphans and provide them with support and counseling.

Argentina sent two cargo aircraft with food, water and medical supplies, and the Red Cross was sending four more carrying blankets, plastic sheeting, water purification equipment and cooking utensils from Panama, Canada, France and Spain.

But the planes were land-



**TRAGIC AFFAIR:** Haitian citizens struggle to find food and shelter after massive floodings caused by the recurring hurricanes and other massive storms devastated the area. COURTESY PHOTO

ing in Port-au-Prince, a six- to eight-hour drive from Gonaives on roads cut at several places by floodwaters and mudslides unleashed by Jeanne when it struck Haiti on Saturday.

The few clinics in the city are being manned by doctors from Mediciens San Frontieres and Mediciens Du Monde, two French-based volunteer organizations, 14 Cuban doctors and Argentine military officers.

New mass graves were dug Thursday at a Gonaives cemetery to dispose of the stacks of bloated bodies that have accumulated in the city's three morgues.

But relief officials said their prime concern was delivering food and potable water to about 300,000 Haitians who have had little of either in the past five days.

The U.N. World Food Program delivered 71-1/2 tons of

food to Gonaives, and peacekeeping officials said they had reports that some families are managing to cook rice on their rooftops while staying out of the floodwaters below.

Scuffles broke out among Haitians as relief workers tried to distribute emergency supplies in Gonaives, and police reported overnight shootings by property owners trying to fend off looters.

"In terms of the security situation, it has not been controlled yet," Fritz Fougy, deputy chief of mission at the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C., told The Miami Herald. "As for the distribution of food, it's been known that people are very hungry and these things could happen."

After days of complaints about the meager \$60,000 in U.S. emergency assistance to the island nation, the Agency for International Development announced Thursday that it will provide an additional \$2 million in aid to help flood victims in Haiti.

"The administration has now promised significant aid to Haiti. However, it does sadden me that the United States, as leader of the free world, took so long to come to the plate," said Rep. Kendrick B. Meek, D-Fla.

Aristide issued a statement from exile in South Africa mourning the deaths in Haiti, which is celebrating its bicentennial anniversary of its independence from France.

"Condolences and courage to an entire nation that has seen much pain and suffering in this tumultuous bicentennial year," Aristide said. "We continue to stand in solidarity with all Haitians who suffer."

# OPINION

Alejandra Diaz Editor In Chief • John Lovell Managing Editor • Alicia Bustamante Opinion Editor

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**In tribute to the Dalai Lama's appearance at FIU, how spiritual would you say you are?**

• My spirituality is a part of my everyday life; I use it to make most of my decisions.

**51%**

• I practice some spirituality through organized religion once a week.

**10%**

• I rarely find time for spirituality/ I don't find it important.

**27%**

• Spirits? I don't believe in ghosts.

**12%**

Total participants: 49

Cast your vote at [www.beaconnewspaper.com](http://www.beaconnewspaper.com)

## WINNER & LOSER

### WINNER



**Conan O'Brien:** It was announced that the late night host will be taking over the coveted "Tonight Show" in 2009. Time will tell if mainstream audiences will accept late night staples like Triumph the Insult Comic Dog and his need to poop on them.

### LOSER



**Starbucks:** The bigger-than-life coffee chain has decided to increase prices on all of their products by 11 cents. That's 11 cents that won't be going into anyone's tip jar.

## QUOTEABLES

*"Rude, vile pigs! Do you know what that means? Rude, vile pigs! That's what all of you are!"*

– **Elton John**, singer and songwriter, to the pushy photographers and TV crews that greeted him in Taipei.

*"I had very little in common with and knew even less about a generation that I was supposed to be the voice of."*

– **Bob Dylan**, singer and songwriter, from his new memoirs discussing his role as a musical hero for the 1960s counterculture.

*"I'm thinking between the ground and his knee, my water is going to break and I'm going to have a miscarriage or something."*

– **Sakinah Aaron**, on being handcuffed and forced to the ground by transit police for cursing loudly into a cell phone.

*"You bet your boots I know what I'm talking about."*

– **John Kerry**, democratic presidential candidate, on his promises to be more fiscally responsible than his rival, President Bush.

## SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to [beacon@fiu.edu](mailto:beacon@fiu.edu). Letters must include the writer's full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. *The Beacon* reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

## The Candidates RESEARCH for the DEBATES...



## Lack of help plagues student

By **CESAR GUTIERREZ**  
Contributing Writer

Should students from overseas consider FIU to complete their education? Maybe they should think about it twice.

Not only do we have to pay quite a bit of money (\$514 per credit), but by immigration laws we must enroll full time, meaning we need to take 12 credits per semester (\$6,384), plus buy a medical insurance that costs nearly a \$1,000 per year. In addition, there is rent, food, gas and don't forget books. By the way, we aren't allowed to work.

But, that's okay. What's discouraging is the unwillingness of FIU's different departments to help international students when it comes to us asking for assistance. Whether it is either professors' refusal to give us an override so we can meet the number of credits immigration demands, or the International Student Department's refusal to make an exception to not report us because we aren't enrolled fulltime thanks to FIU's lack of organization.

For instance, for this term my online appointment to register was on Aug. 10 at 11 a.m. Knowing that a minute can be vital to getting the last seat in a class, I was careful to be on time in front of my laptop to enroll for classes.

Oh, surprise! When I got

the last class in the list my advisor had given me two months before the computer kept saying "Error found." In plain English that meant that the class was already full. It didn't make sense to me. I had been on time to my appointment. I thought that if FIU gave a set time to enroll, it knew how many students were going to take the class.

Immediately, I started calling the advising office to talk to my advisor, but as every student knows, no one ever answers the phone. Then, I went to the office looking for some advice. However, neither the advisor nor her bosses knew what I could do.

I decided to go to the International Student Department to explain what happened. They suggested that I take another class. But since I'm in my last year, the classes that I was trying to take were the only ones I needed to register.

After a few minutes of going back and forth, they told me they could do nothing and that I knew that if I didn't enroll fulltime my student visa would be suspended. I didn't understand why they would not help me. I had done nothing wrong. I wasn't my fault that for the time my appointment had been scheduled, the class had already been full. Frustrated as I was, I asked them to write a letter explaining the situation so I could show the professor proof

that I desperately needed an override for that class.

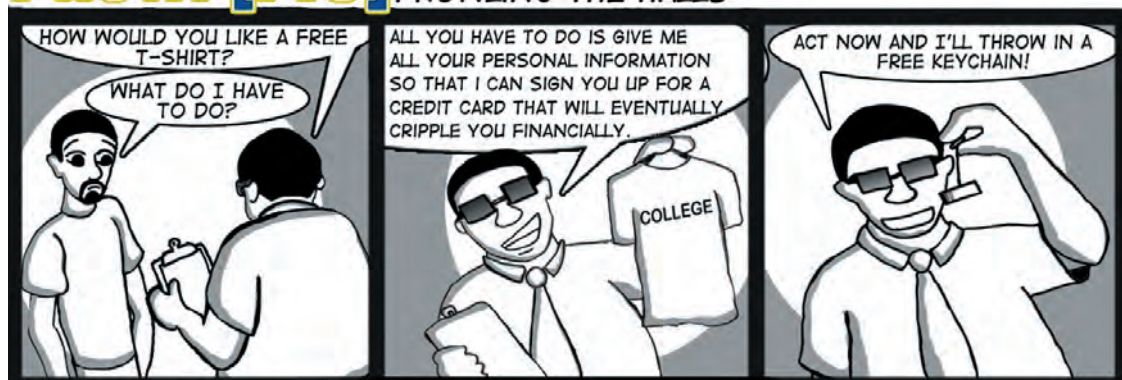
To my dismay, after explaining myself and showing proof to the professor, his response was a definite "no". To him it didn't matter that I didn't have any other classes I could take, or the fact that not taking that class meant my graduation would be delayed. Or, hey! If I didn't register for that class, my status as an international student would be taken away and that all the money and time invested in my education was at risk. All he could do was suggest that I to take any other class. Gee, thank you! I guess for him \$1,542 is just loose change.

After many tries, I finally enrolled in the class. Now, I'm meeting all the requirements FIU and immigration stipulates. However, I still don't understand the professor's refusal to give me the override. Half of the class is empty and it's not even a core class. It is just one of those classes that's a requirement.

FIU should have a better idea of just how many students can register for each class, and the amount of international students that need to, by law, enroll in classes. Or if that is too difficult, FIU could be more flexible with its rules. Maybe we should not have an appointment to register. It rather be on first come, first served basis. Then, if we don't register on time, it would really be our fault.

BY LUIS NIN

## Phew! [FIU] PROWLING THE HALLS



# literary POWER!

## 21st international book fair makes way

By SHANE HOWARD  
Contributing Writer

For all the cynics out there who think Americans are reading less and less, it is obvious they have yet to visit the Miami Book Fair.

The Miami Book Fair International in its 21st installment will set up shop at Miami Dade College's Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami from Nov. 7-14. The week-long event, free and open to the public, will conclude with its street fair the weekend of Nov. 12-14.

"Tons of local people have been invited who are writing a bit about everything: Holocaust education, Florida election politics, New South Florida cuisine, family issues, plus fiction and poetry," said Lisa Palley of Palley Promotes. Palley handles the public relations for the fair as well as the film festival.

The highlight of the fair, Congress of Authors, takes place all day Saturday and Sunday. Over 300 authors will have panel discussions and readings. There is also a segment called The Evenings With ... that allows readers to spend an evening with one of their favorite authors.

First known as Books by the Bay in 1984, the two-day fair has evolved into the largest and finest book fair in America. Attracting more than 500,000

literature fans every year, the fair enables both readers and writers to come together. Readers can listen to authors' new work, participate in personal, question and answer sessions, or get authors to autograph their work.

The Street Fair offers outdoor exhibits by nearly 300 national and international booksellers and publishers, plus author presentations.

An interactive environment known as Children's Alley allows young readers to join the festivities, while a lifestyles section will feature presentations on health, wellness, gardening and home improvement.

Authors from all over the globe will be in attendance covering a wide range of topics and literary genres.

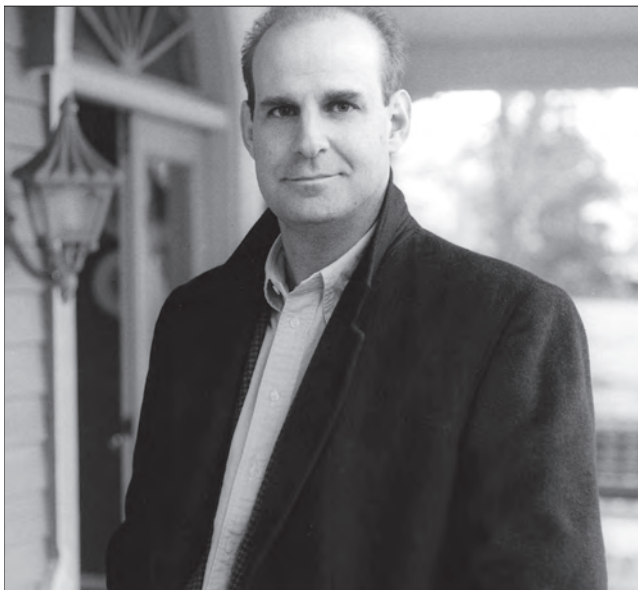
Writers such as Bell Hooks, Maureen Dowd, Edwidge Danticat, Brian Weiss, Alexander McCall Smith and Florida International's own Dr. Carol Boyce-Davies will be present. Dr. Davies will also head the Africa Diaspora Panel.

A Spanish language program with readings and panels with authors from Spain and Latin America is available. The annual Caribbean Authors Panel will discuss their craft and literary experiences.

All fair events will take place at the Wolfson Campus and the surrounding downtown area.



Miami Book Fair International  
Nov. 7-14 at Miami Dade College



**AUTHORITATIVE FIGURES:** The 21st Miami Book Fair International will feature key speakers such as authors Harlen Coben (left) and Art Spiegelman (center), author of the holocaust-inspired graphic novel, "Maus" (right). COURTESY PHOTOS

## Ben Folds: *Super D*

Folds' new EP, final installment for full-length album



**PIANO MAN:** Ben Folds will compile his last three EP's onto a full length album in 2005. COURTESY PHOTO

By **SUE ARROWSMITH**  
Contributing Writer

For rocker Ben Folds, his latest EP, *Super D*, is a personal affair. Even his wife, Frally Hayes, makes the cover as she appears sprawled on the hood of a 1964 Buick Electra. The widely anticipated EP, the final of a trilogy, was released last month and is only available on the internet. A full-length album including the two previous installments, *Speed Graphic* and *Sunny 16*, is expected for release in early 2005.

The release of the album has been delayed due to his collaboration as co-writer and producer on "Has Been," William Shatner's upcoming album. (That's right. You read correctly).

Folds mentioned that he chose to market the EP on the internet to prevent Big Media control and to deliver the music directly to his fans without the high prices. In the competitive, market-driven music business Folds' self-promotion is as admirable as his musical stylings though it does not promise to make him a huge star. *Super D*, like most of his other contributions to the music

world, will not sit well with mainstream music, but Folds and his faithful fans don't seem like they will mind.

Three of the five songs on the EP are originals. "Kalamazoo" showcases his silky piano playing and skills with the strings and is easily the best of the three. In this particular song it is obvious why some people compare him to Billy Joel. Folds has an honest way of presenting music; he pays attention to mundane things some of us might overlook.

"Rent a Cop," a song about a security guard whispering nasty things to young girls at a mall, has that sort of insight. He wrote his other song, "Adelaide," right before catching a flight to Adelaide in Australia where he now lives. The song is a deep admiration of his home.

Unfortunately, the best song on the EP is not an original. It's a cover of The Darkness' "Get Your Hands Off My Woman," which Folds endearingly calls, "heavy metal on piano." There is also a moving live rendition of the Ray Charles tune "Them That Got." About

two minutes into the song he abruptly stops and casually tells the audience that he doesn't know the rest of the song. "Maybe one day I'll learn the rest," he says.

On *Super D*, Folds juggles the roles of songwriter and producer. He also plays piano, bass and drums on some of the tracks, earning him a solid place in the rare world of serious musicians.

Like fellow rocker Tori Amos, whom he toured with in 2003, he has mastered the art of piano rock.

With songs that can easily begin as blue-like ballads and suddenly slip into funky beats somewhere along the way, it is difficult to classify his music.

While some tend to over analyze Folds' style, others simply accept it.



## Stewart's 'Daily' genius on display in new book



**NO JOKING AROUND:** Jon Stewart's new book, "America" pokes fun at politics. COURTESY PHOTO

By **DAVID HINCKLEY**  
New York Daily News

Despite his occupation, Jon Stewart says he doesn't instinctively see all world events as slightly absurd jokes just sitting there waiting to be told.

"Sadly, I tend to take everything pretty seriously," says Stewart, host of Comedy Central's topical satire, "The Daily Show."

"We spend most of our time trying to take things that aren't very pleasant and turn them into something playful and entertaining."

It seems to be working. Stewart and "The Daily Show" walked off with Emmy awards Sunday for Best Comedy or Variety Show and Best Writing — both for the second year in a row.

Emmy Awards lately have been migrating from broadcast to cable shows, leading to the widespread suggestion that cable's comparative lack of content restrictions has fostered a higher level of creativity. Stewart isn't buying it, at least with "The Daily Show."

"I sort of think that if you analyze our show, we'd fit within FCC limits," he says. "We're not out to get publicity by exposing our right teat. We're just trying to do the funniest show we can."

"At 8 o'clock on network TV, you can watch girls in bikinis eating meal-

worms. By that standard, we're good."

"The Daily Show" can, however, lob the occasional crudity when it fits the joke, and its writing team takes that same liberty in its first book, "America" (Warner Books), which grafts the TV show's tone of straight-faced absurdity onto a textbook about the country.

It's hard to miss the page that shows the nine Supreme Court justices naked, but the general tone of the book is more verbal satire than slash-and-burn.

"The Republican party is the party of nostalgia," reads one passage. "It seeks to return America to a simpler, more innocent and moral past that never actually existed. The Democrats are utopians. They seek to create an America so fair and non-judgmental that life becomes an unbearable series of apologies."

While "The Daily Show" is sometimes characterized as tilting left — John Kerry dropped in after he got the Democratic presidential nomination — Stewart says the premise isn't partisan.

If many of the shots land on Republicans, that's largely because Republicans hold many of the power positions.

But with another set of Emmys, attention must be paid, Stewart said backstage after the ceremony.

"I think we're king-

makers, it's clear," he said. "I would not be surprised if, in this election, tens of people change their votes."

All politicians who appear on the show, he notes, realize they will probably be part of some joke. And, no, he's not surprised many of them do it anyway.

"They realize we respect the process," theorizes Stewart. "But also, politicians are salespeople and we're another place they can slap a campaign ad."

Dating back at least to Richard Nixon's "Laugh-In" cameo of 1968, some politicians have also felt that appearing on a comedy show can humanize their image. Stewart agrees, though his perspective is a little different.

"Sometimes you hit a moment that gives you hope there's a real person there," he says. "Maybe it's just a fleeting instant when something darts across the back of their eyes. But you hope that person someday will win out."

Stewart, who turns 43 in November and became a dad for the first time this summer, started with "The Daily Show" in 1999 and is signed through 2008. The show's four-day-a-week schedule is "just right," he says, to keep its creativity fresh. And in his spare time?

"Bikinis and mealworms," he says. "That's what I do."



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# “Shaun of the Dead:” Romance, comedy, zombies; what more could one ask for?

By **JOSE APARICIO**  
Contributing Writer

In 1979, George Romero came out with the B-movie cult classic “Dawn of the Dead.” While “Dawn of the Dead” might not appeal to everyone, it did inspire a cult following.

Shaun (Simon Pegg), writer and main character, and Edgar Wright, writer and director, are two people greatly influenced by Romero’s creation.

And in their homage to Romero, they have created a movie that can appeal to a much wider fan base than the original.

Shaun is a 29-year-old appliance store senior clerk. He trudges around in his daily life much like the undead.

His girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield) is fed up with Shaun’s lack of creativity in their dating life. He is always going to the local pub, the Winchester, with his best friend Ed (Nick Frost) and makes little effort to romance Liz.

In all his misery and hung-over glory, Shaun hardly notices what the local news is calling “Z-day.”

Sitting on his couch with Ed, flipping through the news Shaun doesn’t realize that London is being taken over by zombies until the hapless pair stumble upon what they at first think is a drunk girl in their garden.

Finally wise to what is happening to the local London neighborhood (and indeed the world), they must come up with a plan. The plan being, of course, to save their loved ones and head to a sanctuary (where Ed insists he must be able to smoke) which is, of course, the Winchester. Shaun and Ed head



**DANCE OF THE DEAD:** In Kerry Conran’s first film, “Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow,” Jude Law faces an army of gigantic killer robots. The film, made entirely using computer graphics, took Conran six years to develop. **COURTESY PHOTO**

off to rescue Shaun’s mom, Barbara (Penelope Wilton), his step-father, Philip (Bill Nighy), Liz and her two flat mates.

Along the way they smash their car into zombies, at times stopping to make sure their victim is indeed a zombie, not some poor innocent bystander.

Now, I have always thought of a zombie coming to bite me and eating my bowls while groaning like someone with a bad hangover and three hours of sleep, as somewhat comical. It’s not something that at first

thought really sounds like it could be that terrifying. But by metaphorically suggesting that we are all going about our lives as zombies, this movie does a spectacular job of playing off that premise.

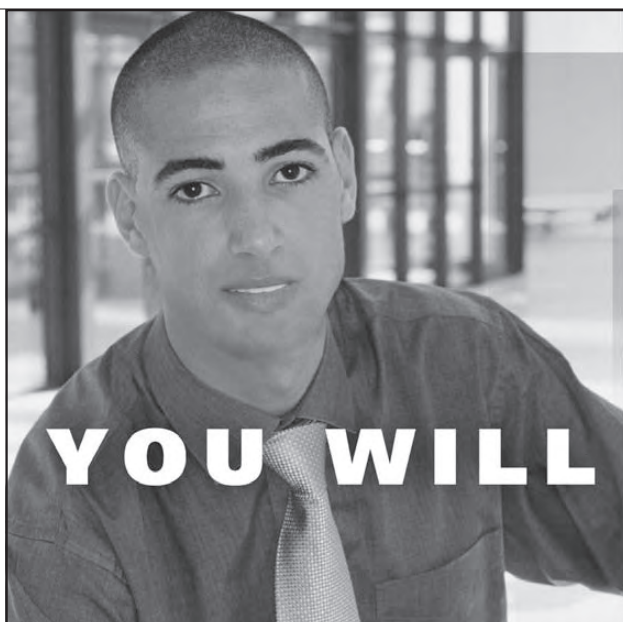
Of course it’s all fun and games until there are too many of them around to be outrun, and then someone gets disemboweled and their innards become a scrumptious buffet for all the ravenous undead.

This is a satire that becomes its own driving force. It even

has Romero’s seal of approval. At times the comedy is so much you almost forget that it is also a horror movie. Especially when it uses all the horrot to help Shaun put the groove back into his relationship with Liz.

I would have to say that this might be the funniest movie of the year.

As the tag line says, “A romantic comedy. With zombies.” I think another way to look at it as a romantic dramedy with guts. And again, no pun intended.



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# Volleyball team struggles with 1-10 record

By **XAVIER VILLARMARZO**  
Contributing Writer

The FIU lady Golden Panthers lost 3-1 in a Sun Belt Conference match up against the lady Trojans of Arkansas-Little Rock on Sept. 25 at the Trojan Fieldhouse in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The young FIU team put together this summer dropped to 1-10 this season and 0-2 in Sun Belt Conference play. The Trojans improved to 7-5 (1-0, Sun Belt).

Coach Cookie Stevens says she knows her team has had troubles against Sun Belt opponents.

"Through two conferences opponents we have been struggling," said Stevens.

Junior Anna Dmowska finished with 16 kills to lead the Golden Panthers. Freshmen Alyse Santisi and Dyonna Smith added another 15 and 13 digs, respectively.

Set one of the match was a back and forth battle that was eventually won by the Trojans 30-28, but not before a total of four lead changes and eight tie scores. FIU managed to tie the score at one by winning the second set 30-27 in a set that featured nine ties and three lead changes.

Freshman Ruth Fleming and sophomore Oksana Zabalueva led FIU during the set by finishing with five and four kills, respectively.

Dyonna Smith added seven digs and seven assists during the set. Set three was a 30-21 win for the Trojans; however Dmowska added five kills for FIU. Game four, the clincher for the lady Trojans, was another dominant 30-19 victory.

With a new group of players, part of the Golden Panthers struggle has been chemistry. Stevens is confident the players will come together.

"We have not found a group of players but in this game [against the Trojans], we did find a group of players connecting but we need to finish games," Stevens said.

Stevens says doesn't want to hear excuses anymore.

"A new group of players takes a while to get on the same page but we have no excuses anymore. We need to get it done," Stevens said. "Stamina and resistance will get it done."

The lady Golden Panthers return home on Oct. 3rd for a match against another Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama. The match will take place at noon at Pharmed Arena.



**LOSING GRIP:** The women's volleyball team is off to a disappointing start with a 1-10 record and 0-2 in the Sun Belt Conference play. The team will play again on Oct. 3 against South Alabama at the Pharmed Arena. Coach Cookie Stevens is looking for her team to come together as a unit and will be looking for no more excuses but a "get it done" mentality. **Geoff Anderson/Special To The Beacon**

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PSSTT... HEY YOU, YEAH **YOU!** COME AND WORK WITH US... OK, BYE!

# Stopping the run against Cajun: Key for victory in FIU football home opener

CAJUNS, from page 12

receiving corps is loaded with experienced seniors. Bill Sampy has been Babb's favorite target this year along with fellow seniors B.J. Christ and Kemmie Lewis close behind. Red-shirted freshman Jordan Jackson stands at 6-feet-6-inches and 200lbs., a load for any defensive back.

Head Coach Don Strock was confident last week because after all, FIU can't control the weather.

"We can't control Mother Nature. It's disappointing and it puts us back a bit but we've already started preparing for Louisiana-Lafayette, so we should be ready to go," said Strock.

Under new coordinator Tiger Clark, the FIU defensive unit appears to be much improved. The main concern is the lack of experience the Golden Panthers have had this year with only one game under its belt where most teams have played four.

The bye week followed by the rescheduling of WKU means FIU hasn't played at game since Sept. 11. This game now serves as the measuring stick Western Kentucky was supposed to be in providing an idea of how far the program has come since last season.

The Cajuns were ranked last in total defense in the Sun-Belt Conference last year. As a result, they've switched from a multiple eight-man front to a multiple

4-3 formation.

This strengthens their secondary while making them slightly more susceptible to the run. Offensively, the Golden Panthers will need to run the ball well. ULL has given up an average of 243 yards on the ground per game. If running backs Rashod Smith and Adam Gorman can be successful, it should open up the passing game for Josh Padrick.

Padrick will probably look for his new starting tight end, Samuel Smith quite a few times this game. Smith set a school record with ten receptions at Youngstown State and makes a great compliment to wide-outs Harold Leath and Corey McKinney.

As always, protecting the football will be a key component to winning. A plethora of second quarter turnovers allowed the Cajuns to come away with 29 points in the quarter en route to a 36-7 halftime lead last year.

The team went through extensive practices last week for Western Kentucky and shifting strategies towards the Ragin Cajun changed some of the game plan.

"It's tough, but we got good preparation during last week. [Louisiana-Lafayette] is a little different than Western Kentucky, but I'm sure we'll be fine," Strock said.

FIU killed several birds with one stone against YSU, winning for the first time on the road, in over time and against a Gateway conference opponent. A first win



**HOME OPENER!** After defeating the Youngstown Penguins on Sept. 11, the Golden Panthers will play its home opener on Sept. 30. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

## Extensive time off could hurt Golden Panthers

FOOTBALL, from page 12

too much of anything can be harmful. There are still questions to be answered about this team; questions that can only be answered on the football field during game-time situations.

The offensive line, for example, still need to prove it can consistently protect Josh Padrick and open running lanes for Rashod Smith and Adam Gorman. The unit played well at YSU and did not give up a sack. Yet, the Penguins defensive line was severely undersized and not as quick

as advertised. Louisiana-Lafayette's D-line will pose a bigger challenge, anchored by 6-4, 305-pound senior defensive tackle, Ken Haynes.

While the Golden Panther's defense looked improved in the one game played so far, its still remains to be seen exactly how much better they are compared to the past two years. Questions remain as to whether they can consistently stop the run.

We may have more answers to these questions after Saturday's game, but at least we'll finally have more football.



## Sports Writers Needed!

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# SPORTS

12 - September 30, 2004

THE BEACON

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## Men's Soccer dominates Highlanders 6-0



**DOMINATION:** Defender Bobby Boswell was part of the Golden Panther defensive team that held the New Jersey Tech Highlanders to zero points. **GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON**

By **NIKOLAY OREKHOV**  
Staff Writer

Just two days after a tough loss against Florida Atlantic University, the Golden Panthers were able to bounce back to a 6-0 win over New Jersey Tech on Sept. 24.

The Panthers recorded their first shutout of the season and improved to 3-3-0, while the Highlanders dropped to 0-8-0. FIU scored early on their way to controlling and dominating the game. The Golden Panthers pounded the first year Division I-A opponent.

"We created some chances, moved the ball better and I'm happy to get the conference win. This lifts everyone's spirits after a tough loss to FAU," said coach Karl Kremser who was glad to get his team back on track.

Senior Fernando Plentz got things started for FIU in the 2nd minute as he found the back of the net on a penalty kick.

He was excited that his play, along with that of his teammates was much improved following the loss to the Owls.

"Everybody came hard and ready to play and what was missing against FAU happened now," said Plentz.

David Hope then added

to the lead when he took a pass from Edgard Correa and recorded his first goal of the season in the 32nd minute.

The Golden Panthers extended their lead going into halftime to 3-0 after senior Oscar Gil, knocked in his first goal of the season on a pass from St. John transfer Jean Camere.

FIU out shot the Highlanders

16-1 in the first half and held a 6-1 advantage in corner kicks.

Plentz and Hope both went on to record their first career multi-goal games in the win, each recording two

*"This lifts everyone's spirits after a tough loss to FAU."*

Karl Kremser  
Coach

goals.

Hope added to the excitement when he delivered a difficult header off of a corner kick from Gil in the 62nd minute. Plentz scored his team leading fourth goal of the season.

Sophomore goalkeeper Shawn Crowe recorded his first shutout of the season in 75:36 as he faced no shots on goal.

Freshman Andres Arguello saw his first action of the season and recorded one save.

Once again FIU controlled the second half out shooting New Jersey Tech 10-1.

The Golden Panthers return to action on Oct. 3 at 7:00 p.m. against the University of South Florida.

## Football to square off against Cajuns

By **ANDRES CORDERO**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers will make a third attempt at a home opener as the I-A Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin' Cajuns (2-2) visit FIU Stadium for the first time on Oct. 2.

FIU was scheduled to open the season at home on Sept. 2, but Hurricane Frances forced a cancellation and the Jacksonville Dolphins could not reschedule.

The game against Western Kentucky, originally scheduled for Sept. 25th, would have been the first game played at FIU stadium this season but Hurricane Jeanne thwarted WKU's travel plans and that game was postponed until Nov. 20.

This will be the second time FIU faces Louisiana-Lafayette, with the Cajuns leading the series 1-0. The previous game was an ugly

43-10 ULL win on Nov. 8, 2003 at Cajun Field. The Golden Panthers gave up a total of 443 yards in that game including 236 yards on the ground. The most disturbing part was that no one particular ball carrier managed the bulk of the yardage.

Instead, Cajuns Offensive Coordinator Rob Christophel used a revolving backfield of running backs Josh Harrison (63 yards), Chester Johnson (53), Dwight Lindon (32) and quarterback Jerry Babb (47) to distribute most of the ground game against an ineffective FIU run-defense.

Babb is in his second year under center for ULL and is averaging 203 yards through four games this season. The sophomore has totaled 814 yards and five touchdowns on the air, but the Golden Panthers will have to respect his legs as much as his arm.

### Ragin Cajuns vs. Golden Panthers

**When:** Oct. 2 at 6:00 p.m., FIU Stadium

**TV:** Sunshine Network (Tape Delay)

**Radio:** ESPN 790 AM, WRGP 88.1 FM

**Record:** FIU 1-0, ULL 2-2

**Promotion:** FIU lapel pins for first 4,000 fans

**Scouting Report: ON OFFENSE,** FIU will need to score early. Last game against Youngstown, FIU scored only three points in the first half. Louisiana-Lafayette ranked last in defense in the SBC last year. The team runs multiple 4-3 formations and has a 6-4, 300 pound defensive lineman that should trouble FIU running back Rashod Smith. **ON DEFENSE,** FIU will need to stop the run. ULL has multiple running backs who all should see plenty of action. Quarterback Jerry Babb proved to be the main offensive weapon for ULL in 2003. The freshman finished with 207 passing yards and 47 rushing. FIU linebackers need to be aware that Babb will scramble if he finds an open hole. The defense needs to keep an eye for him.

The 6-3, 215lb. scrambler currently leads the Cajuns in rushing yards (219) and touchdowns (3). He's also thrown five interceptions, which means with pressure at the line of scrimmage,

he can be forced to make mistakes.

Despite losing both starting wide receivers in the off-season, ULL's

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## Week four, only one game? Ridiculous!

COMMENTARY



By **ANDRES CORDERO**  
Staff Writer

Five weeks into the NCAA football season the Golden Panthers have seen a cancellation, a postponement, a bye week and plenty of natural disasters. What FIU hasn't seen is a lot of football.

Before the originally scheduled home opener against Jacksonville University, Head Coach Don Strock worried that with the NCAA cutting back on two-a-day practices, his team may not have yet been in football shape.

That game never happened. Neither did a second attempt at a home-opener as last week's Western Kentucky match-up was rescheduled for Nov. 20th.

After Hurricanes Charlie, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, what we have left is perhaps the only team in the nation that played just one game in the month of September, getting ready to host a Division I-A football team for the very first time.

Moreover, a Sun-Belt Conference opponent that's almost halfway through its regular season in Louisiana-Lafayette.

Rest is usually a good thing in a sport as violent and overall physically demanding as football, but

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