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Soldier relives his time at war

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

Every Sunday, Angel Garcia and the rest of the Army squad would drink ice-cold Starbucks frappuccinos to celebrate making it through the week alive and count down another week until they all returned home.

On the seventh anniversary of Sept. 11, Garcia remembers those weekly drinks he had with his fellow soldiers in Iraq.

"After deploying to Iraq, Sept. 11 serves as a reminder that freedom isn't really free. It is a day that I mourn the loss of all those innocent victims involved in the tragedy and a day that I reaffirm my commitment to do all within my power as a soldier to protect our nation," Garcia said.

Now a coordinator at the Center for Leadership and Services, Garcia first thought about joining the armed services while watching a Marines commercial in 2002.

"I thought to myself, 'Wow, what an experience to go through basic training and go through all that physical endurance,'" said Garcia, who was a junior living at the University Apartments at the time.

Right after that, Garcia walked into an Army recruiter's office and enlisted for eight years. From there, he was shipped off to Fort Knox, Ky.

Going from the warm tropical climate of Miami to snow, mountains and 17 degree weather was a shock for the Cuban-American.

"Basic training really toughened me up," Garcia said. "When you're out there in the middle of nowhere and are stripped away of all the comfort and amenities of home, you really dig deep down inside yourself and see what type of leader and person you are and see what you can endure mentally and physically."

When he got out of basic training, his army recruiter reassured him that he didn't have to worry about getting shipped to Iraq. But that all changed on the first day of classes at FIU on Aug. 24, 2004.

"You want to talk about surreal. You want to talk about your life flashing before your eyes," Garcia said. "All I could think about were

ELECTORAL 'COLLEGE'

DEMOCRAT

Democrats emphasize young voter issues

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

Jessica James, Jessica Weatherspoon and Rebekka Terrill, all three circling the voter registration table in Graham Center last Friday, said nothing will stop them from voting for Sen. Barack Obama in November.

The three freshmen are such strong Obama supporters that, although they've noticed the presidential candidate has put campaign emphasis on the economy rather than higher education, they are quick to forgive.

"You can't change everything at once," said Terrill, a psychology and sociology major.

Some Obama fans might not budge between now and Election Day but this year's Democratic National Convention in Denver stressed the importance of its young voters' issues in hopes of tipping the few college-age voters still on the fence.

Although this year's DNC policy platform did not change

much from 2004, it did offer two major changes to college tuition and financial aid.

Obama has been putting emphasis on college affordability as far back as November 2007 when he promised to ease the financial aid application and offer yearly tax credit for tuition and fees.

The 2008 platform elaborated on these two points, promising an American Opportunity Tax Credit that would give college students \$4,000 to cover college tuition and fees in exchange for public service.

"We will keep our promise to every young American. If you commit to serving your community or your country, we will make sure you can afford a college education," Obama said in his acceptance speech during the DNC's final night.

Simplifying the application process for financial aid was another higher education key point during the convention.

By placing a check-box in tax forms authorizing the use of tax information to apply for financial aid, Obama hopes to improve aid

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REPUBLICAN

Republican stance on education obscure

ERIC FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

It is not uncommon for one issue to dominate a presidential election. Last week at the Republican National Convention, the primary focus was the economy.

With FIU amid a severe budget crisis, the economy is on many students' minds. Yet, listening to John McCain and running mate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's acceptance speeches at the RNC, there was little mention about the party's plan for postsecondary education.

McCain's only mention of education during his speech concerned primary education when he promised to allow parents whose children go to underperforming schools the option to go elsewhere, equating the current situation to "the civil rights issue of the century."

But in a presidential race where, according to FIU Students for Barack Obama, FIU registration for Democrats outnumbers Republicans by

seven-to-one, catering to college-age voters could be crucial on Nov. 2.

McCain's outline for higher education, made less prominent than his keynote doctrine on public school choice, included making higher education more competitive in the world market, improving information for parents and simplifying higher education tax benefits and financial aid.

Similar to Obama's higher education plan, McCain's campaign believes existing tax credits and financial aid programs for families sending children to college are too complicated, causing some Americans to not take advantage of them, and that a simplification of these programs would encourage greater participation.

According to Bankrate, Inc., a financial services company that provides tax tips on their Web site, the two most prominent higher education tax credits currently available are

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those images you see on TV of soldiers fighting and you think you're going to be a part of that."

In less than month, Garcia was assigned to the Civil Affairs Special Operations Unit which was composed of five soldiers. Their main objective was to win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people. Since he was still in college, Garcia's major assigned him to speak to deans of the local Baghdad universities in order to help them get the materials they needed to restore and repair each college.

He also took part in tactical missions like Operation Iron broom, in which the Army caught 50 or so terrorists in one night in various loca-

tions in Baghdad.

Watching the news was a nerve-racking experience for his family back home.

"Almost every time I would talk to him, I would hear guns and bombs going off in the background," his sister Michelle said. "I was an emotional wreck. I didn't even want to see him say bye. I was so worried and scared, I didn't know what to expect."

During his 10 months in Iraq, Garcia's family would send him gift packages to remind him of home. At 6 a.m. every morning Garcia would start his day with a *colada*. His family sent him enough coffee and Starbucks frappuccinos that his squad had a refrigerator just for

coffee.

"We had our own frappuccino drinking ceremonies and we would do it every Sunday. As the frappuccinos went down, we knew we were getting closer to going home, that we were doing a good job and getting our mission done. And that's how we lived it, week by week. Let's just make it to that next frappuccino and we made it. Everyone made it home safe."

Even though his object was non-combat oriented, Garcia still faced his fear of danger.

One morning, while waiting for clearance to leave the base, a car bomb blew up in front of the base killing civilians that were waiting to

enter.

"When you go through those types of situations, the Palmetto doesn't look so bad at 4 p.m., waiting in line at a bank isn't so bad when you're there alive and can get in your car when you are done and go anywhere you want," Garcia said.

"When you are over there, when the bullets are flying, the rockets are coming into your base, you are getting motored everyday and have to deal with car bombs in front of your base, you really appreciate life," he said. "Something as simple as going to Wendy's and ordering a No. 7 is appreciated until it's gone."

Charlie Grau can be reached at charlie.grau@fiusm.com.

Poll numbers rise after Palin's addition

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the Hope credit and the Lifetime Learning credit.

These credits directly subtract money from a family's tax bill, if claimed.

McCain thinks that a simplification of programs will help more Americans take advantage of them.

"Consolidating programs will help simplify the administration of these programs, and help more students have a better understanding of their eligibility for aid," states McCain's Web site.

Looking at McCain's histori-

cal votes on educational issues may also shed some light on what his possible presidency might mean for college students.

ings accounts for individuals saving up for college, according to www.ontheissues.org.

However, concentration on

junior and military veteran, said his main concern is not education but his military benefits. He feels he's covered for his education and votes Republican because believes the party is more pro-military than the Democrats.

Also contributing to the Republican appeal is the nomination of Sarah Palin for vice president during the RNC.

Graduate student Ana Gonzalez said she can relate to Palin because she exhibits family values and conservatism.

For FIU Republicans, McCain's concentration on issues other than education is enough for their vote.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

REPUBLICAN RECRUIT: Alex Falgons gets involved in the 2008 presidential election by getting information from the students for McCain.

Obama aims to simplify financial aid applications

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application numbers.

The check-box would eliminate the need of the five-page, 127-question Free Application for Federal Student Aid form and decrease the number of eligible students who fail to apply due to the complicated process.

Terrill, who considers her family low-middle class, knows these measures will help her continue her education at FIU.

"We can't achieve all we want to without our financial aid. [Without aid] a lot of us won't go to college or we have to stop going to school to get jobs and never get a degree," Terrill said.

If platform policies won't make college students vote blue, the introduction of the vice

presidential pick— who happens to have a long history of education reform— just might.

Since the 1980s, Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr, vice-presidential nominee, has spent six congressional terms championing college affordability.

In his short 2007 Democratic presidential run, he supported replacing two existing federal tax breaks for college expenses with a refundable tax credit of up to \$3,000 per year. He also introduced bills to increase the Pell Grant and expand student loans and grants for nursing education.

However, Biden's long education reform history can only be rivaled by his equally long history of plagiarism. In fact, his 1988 presidential run ended in controversy surrounding

speeches plagiarizing Robert F. Kennedy and Hubert H. Humphrey.

Some might wonder whether these allegations might hinder a candidates' appeal, especially in an academic institution.

Not so, said FIU's Students for Barack Obama volunteer Anthony Perez, a senior and political science major.

"I think it's an issue that's in the past. They'll vote for Obama, not for the vice president. A V.P. can help but he can't hurt," Perez said.

Independent and senior Jose Perez-Roura, who is waiting for the presidential debates to make his decision, agrees that the vice presidential pick won't play a role in his final decision at the voting booth.

"The RNC and DNC are big infomercials. You don't get the nitty-gritty until the debates," he said.

With a convention that can boast one in six delegates under the age of 36, and with Gallup polls that put 18 to 29-year-olds favoring Obama 54 percent, the Democratic Party stands secure within its already proclaimed young voter base.

Junior, health science administration major and undecided voter Christopher Llanes thinks education reform will do little to sway voters one way or another.

"Education is important, but depending on other issues at hand, you might need to sacrifice [education] for other things that would really swing people one way or another."

**THE BEACON**



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Club combines love for wine, culture

ALEXA SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Good friends, good talking, good food and good wine – all right here at FIU.

Friends of Wine is a student club in which members have one thing in common: their love of wine.

“I love [Friends of Wine] because it has helped me to get out there more,” said Samantha Newton, Friends of Wine president and a senior in hospitality management. “It has been a learning experience.”

According to Newton, the club’s goal is “to expand your mind and explore the wonderful world that wine has to offer,” from an educational perspective.

The club’s history goes back 22 years, originating from the monthly public tastings Professor Patrick ‘Chip’ Cassidy held at his wine store, Crown Wine & Spirits. One day, one of his students went to one of his tastings and liked it so much he suggested Cassidy have a wine club at FIU. The school first rejected the idea because it involved alcohol.

“Then, I had these two young guys from California, and they

weren’t giving up on anything,” said Cassidy, who is also the club’s advisor. “They were determined.”

In 1991, Friends of Wine became a recognized and legitimate club at FIU. The amount of participation and member growth last year earned the club the “Best New Club of the Year” title from BBC’s Student Organizations Council.

At the meetings, which are called tastings, members have the opportunity to taste three to seven varieties of wines from different countries. Each member is in charge of studying a wine and making the presentation to the rest of the club.

“You learn to be a better public speaker,” Cassidy said.

The club receives \$200 in funds from the Student Organization Council. With these funds, Friends of Wine members were able to make T-shirts with the slogan, “Life is too short to drink bad wine.”

However, the school does not fund getting the wine itself. Therefore, the club organizes bake sales throughout the semester in order to generate funds.

“We are having trouble getting all of our members together to de-

A SOUNDTRACKED AFFAIR



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

STEP TO THE BEAT: Local band SOL (Sound of Light) plays during Biscayne Bay Campus’ Student Organizations’ Council club fair on Sept. 8. The club fair allows students to find out about the various on campus orgnaizations they can join.

cide when our bake sale and when our meetings [for this semester] will be,” Newton said.

The club does make sure members participating in the tastings are at least 21, but any FIU student can join, Newton said. There is a \$10 fee to join the club. Every tasting has a fee between \$7 to \$10, depending on the wine

offered.

Members get a 50 percent discount on all tastings and receive a Friends of Wine T-shirt.

The meetings are held in the dining room of the Hospitality Management building. According to Newton, the tastings are usually twice a month. Since every tasting has a different theme,

students have the opportunity to learn about the historical and cultural aspects of where the wines came from.

“It’s a nice social way to get together and meet with your friends, and get to know new people,” Newton said.

For more information about Friends of Wine, e-mail [## Boba: The drink you can chew](mailto:fiufriend-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

BIANCA ROJAS
Staff Writer

Some of us can remember our first Slurpee experience – the cooling down of a hot day with a brain freeze, and finally showing off our dyed tongue.

Then a little company called Starbucks emerged from the Northwest and took over our palettes, introducing the trendsetting Frappuccino.

In the early 2000s, Jamba Juice Mango-A-Go-Go’d into our hearts. Smoothies were a short lived, but nutritious, drink trend.

Now, Bubble tea, more commonly known as Boba, is the next big thing infiltrating North Miami Beach.

When I first encountered Boba, I was freaked out. The liquid was chilled, milky and littered with small black globes. I recognized a flavor that I had fallen in love with before, the iced green tea latte.

That sealed the deal for me; I was going to try the green tea beverage with the ever-intimidating Boba. Hesitant and confused, I ordered one.

My drink was prepared in a clear plastic cup with a scoop of the black pearls of Boba, and the blended green tea. Finally, my drink was pushed into a contraption that whirled and slid, and it sealed my cup with a small film

of plastic.

Now comes the fun part. I took my jumbo straw and popped it through the plastic film, the way we all loved to do with our Hi-C’s and Capri Suns.

As I took my first sip, I was overcome with the deliciousness of my favorite green tea drink. The sweetness and milkiness rolled into one was reminiscent of a milkshake.

The drink immediately began to cool me down.

And then it happened. It was the way a Boba came propelling out of my Godzilla straw and into my mouth. It was like a plop onto my tongue. A dense, slimy ball had now joined the heaven of the green tea latte in my mouth.

My verdict: Boba is the equivalent of a slimy gummy bear in your drink.

For those of you who are afraid of odd food textures, take your word for it and don’t try Boba. If you’re like me and the thought of a funky texture is your idea of a “foodgasm,” then by all means, you need to try this.

Think of it like tapioca pudding; Boba is just little tapioca pearls that come from the cassava root.

They are slimy on the outside, chewy and dense in the middle and subtly sweet on the inside.

Paired with the drink flavor of your preference, it will bring back the

whimsicality of being a child, of coloring your tongue with candy and of playing with your food – even though you’re not supposed to.

Eventually, you become addicted as with any drink trend. Boba, like frappuccinos, do carry a caloric punch.

Not to mention that Boba is starch based, so for those of you still following Dr. Atkins’ diet, it’s a no-go.

This aside, Boba is fun and young. It’s an experience, not a notch in your Weight Watchers calorie count for the day. It’s an after school snack to enjoy with your friends, or a sugary treat to satisfy your sweet tooth.

If I didn’t lose you at slimy gummy bear, and you are still interested in trying something new, I have found a place in North Miami Beach that has it.

Out of all the glasses of this treat I have consumed, Shing Wang (237 NE 167 St., 305-654-4008) has the best. Their Boba is perfectly cooked; tastes fresh and the chewiness is not too firm, nor too gummy.

Like Goldie Locks found, it is just right. If it doesn’t sound heavenly enough yet, their green tea slush is made with green tea ice cream to add that creaminess that a milk-based green tea latte just can’t give you.

If you do give bubble tea a try at Shing Wang’s, make sure to pick up your frequent Boba card, because after every 12, you get one free. The restaurant is closed on Tuesdays, and



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

BOBALICIOUS: Columnist Bianca Rojas sips her Bubble Tea, better known as Boba (above). Close ups show off Boba’s texture: slimy on the outside, chewy on the inside (below).

it offers things besides Boba, like an all-vegetarian menu and Taiwanese shaved ice treats.

But that’s another topic, and another adventure in food for future articles.

Shing Wang means lucky in Chinese, and I hope your experience

reflects that.

Read ‘Foodgasm’ every other Wednesday for more food trends.

E-mail your food ideas to Bianca Rojas at bianca.rojas@fiusm.com

Politicians should put their souls up for bid on eBay

CHRIS LEE REYES
Contributing Writer

You can do just about anything on the Web nowadays.

I was in the library the other day, casually surfing the Internet, when my attention shifted to my right: some guy appeared to be learning how to make an atomic bomb on YouTube by mixing Febreze, Aunt Jemima’s Maple Syrup and two Mercury lamps.

Then, all of a sudden, an irresistible offer came to my screen: acquire someone’s soul with the click of a mouse.

Carrie Crain, a 33-year-old Texas native, had her soul for sale on eBay with the starting bid placed at \$1,000. When asked by News 8 Austin what a person can expect from the purchase, Crain said, “I hope I transfer all my good, positive energy to them, and they will do great things.”

Of course, to anyone with an IQ higher than 30, this may sound strange. And as odd as it may seem, it is definitely not rare.

Ms. Crain hasn’t been the first to do such a peculiar thing, and looking at the current presidential elections she probably wouldn’t be the last.

Now, at first glance, I thought this was a neat concept; it would definitely give me some leverage in the work force. I mean come on, two souls! Plus, an extra “soul in a jar” could fit well within my Ancient Greek Literature collection, ant farm and shrine of Jordan sneakers.

But it’s obvious no one can sell an inanimate object, of this kind, to another person. Here are three good reasons why it won’t work:

(1) It violates Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity.

(2) It could be illegal in some states; most likely Hawaii, Kentucky, Idaho and the other 47 states.

(3) Finally, the consumer must partake in the same amount of crack cocaine, LSD, Ecstasy and/or Dr. Phil self-help books, as the soul-seller currently does in order to make it work.

Now the real question comes: do politicians have souls? Even an Aristotle-Darwin-Galileo-Newton team would have a tough time figuring that one out, but I’ll take a jab.

Now that we’ve hopefully concluded that selling souls online is a bit creepy/sac-religious, where does that leave our two main presidential candidates, Barack Obama and

John McCain, and their flip-flopping parallelisms?

It can be argued that they, like most politicians, have sold their entire beings to all 50 states, voters and lobbyists while perpetuating false glimpses of hope and promises.

In 2000, John McCain was the presidential nominee for change with-in the conservatives; he was the maverick of the party.

Today he is whoever you want him to be. Before, he would say that Christians were “agents of intolerance”; now he sings a different tune, sipping coffee with Billy Graham at his ranch in North Carolina, romanticizing the Southern Baptist Conventions’ elites and claiming himself to be a man of strong conservative values. I won’t argue the latter, but I’m a bit suspicious.

Obama on the other hand is like a puppet to his campaign team and the poster child for political correctness. One day he says “not wearing flag pins does not make me un-patriotic” and the next day he wears six, just to keep people happy. In one speech he said, “Reverend Wright [his controversial pastor] is just one in the norm.” The next town hall meeting he attends, though, Obama disassociates



CHRIS LEE REYES / THE BEACON

himself from him.

So what does this all mean? I don’t know. However, if the candidates have gone this far with the concept of flip-flopping, then they might as well sell their souls on eBay too. Think about it, they could increase their campaign money, and capture the hearts of millions of Americans – weird Americans, but Americans.

That’s why most voters’ next choice for president would ultimately have to be the lesser of the evils.

And unless Abraham Lincoln rises from the dead, I’m sad to say our next best choice just may have to be the airhead who wants to sell her soul on eBay; unless of course she flip-flops on the war on Iraq. Then it’s gridlocked.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Publisher justified censoring ‘Jewel’ novel; Ruckman misses crucial point

Congratulations to the Beacon contributing writer Mathew Ruckman, for informing us about the censorship of “The Jewel of Medina.”

Ironically though, for all his artfull criticism of censorship, he himself censored a key fact in the budding fire-storm: namely that the prophet of Islam, Muhammad, married a minor by the name of Aisha when she was just six years old.

They later “consummated” the relationship when she was nine, and during this consum-mation Muhammad was ap-proximately 50 years of age.

This fact is critical to un-derstanding the reaction of the Muslim community, for therein lies the heart of the controversy.

First, the relationship be-tween Muhammad and his underage wife is deeply em-barrasing to many Muslims, who would rather not have Westerners learn about it. To be sure, Muslims themselves are at a loss to justify this im-portant aspect of their own theology.

Hence the “we can’t guar-antee anyone’s safety” tactics of the thugs who would stran-gle “Jewel” in the crib.

Defending a crime that would get the offender 25 to life in our prison system with the excuse “that’s was how society worked in the 7th century” is inadequate at the very least, since the life of Muhammad continues to be a moral example for Muslims to follow and the main reason why little girls are still given away to dirty old men in too much of the Islamic world.

If pedophilia wasn’t wrong, then when exactly did it be-come so? Only now do we see the first stirrings of opposition to child marriage in countries like Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

What a shame – any ratio-nal debate that may have come as a result of “Jewel” will never happen.

Ruckman at least got it half right.

Julianne Liberty
Alumni

Have a complaint or something to say?
Contact us at eric.feldman@fiusm.com and we'll give you 300 words
to share your opinion with the FIU community.

English majors face many career paths besides teaching

IRIS FEBRES
Asst. Opinion Editor

I’ve started to notice some-thing disconcerting: almost ev-ery time I mention I m an English major to people, a good majority of them would respond with, “Oh, that’s nice! So what are you going to do? Teach?”

As much as I respect those in-volved in academia, I don’t like being pigeonholed into a single profession.

I believe the English degree possesses other opportunities than a track in education.

“I think some people do not re-alize that there are a lot of career possibilities with an English major besides teaching,” said Marleny Mesa, FIU alumna and former president of the FIU English hon-or society Sigma Tau Delta.

Frankly, there *are* other career possibilities. *PayScale.com*, a Web site that features salary reports, lists careers for English majors and their accompanying median salaries. A position as an editorial assistant can earn an English ma-jor a modest \$32,400 a year, while a position as a marketing director can snag over \$94,000 a year.

The problem with the degree is the fact that English majors may not see a clear-cut profession after they graduate.

Mesa disagrees.

“On the contrary, I think a lot of English majors go into their

major already knowing what they want,” Mesa said.

It is in my experience that the degree presents a double-edged sword: although there is no dis-tinct career path, there are many out there that students may not be aware of – including myself.

Dr. Carmela McIntire, under-graduate adviser and associate professor in the English depart-ment, noted that although English is “a credential for teaching,” many English majors from FIU have gone on to work with non-profit organizations as well as gained positions in business.

“There’s a lack of a profes-sional avenue with the English degree,” said Dr. James Sutton, English department chairperson. “But when it’s mixed with minors like accounting and marketing, English majors are ready for great things.”

But besides worrying about what work an English major would do after graduation, other concerns loom.

Even though my family has been generally supportive of my endeavors as an English major, I’ve still faced some critical views as to what I’ll do after I graduate – as well as how much I’ll earn.

“Students come in worried about what they’ll do with pres-sure from their families,” McIntire said.

She added that students should visit Career Services in the

Graham Center to learn about job options geared toward a specific major.

PayScale.com also ranks col-lege degrees in regards to their lucrativeness. The English degree is not listed in the top 10 highest paying majors; those slots are re-served for engineering degrees, as well as degrees in physics and economics.

Yet the skills a student gains as an English major are valuable to employers. Sutton noted the English major prepares a student very well for a whole array of careers.

“We can make the claim that our majors will emerge as superb critical thinkers and gifted public speakers,” Sutton said.

McIntire, on the other hand, explained the degree’s power to allow students to have “imaginative sympathy.”

“You get inside the heads of characters. You learn when you write and you’re mindful of your audience – there’s not enough of that in the workplace,” McIntire said.

The English degree should not be stigmatized solely because of average salaries. Critical read-ing and thinking skills are sought after by many employers across various fields and disciplines.

Once English majors realize this, finding a job shouldn’t be as large of a challenge as others suppose.

ART & ROLL



Pop art meets rock art at MOCA Miami’s summer exhibit

MARIANA OCHOA
Asst. Life! Editor

A video showing a skinny, pale, long haired drummer playing the song, “When the Levee Breaks” by Led Zeppelin in the middle of the University of California, Berkley football field. All of a sudden, the school’s football players run into the field from all directions and begin to practice, surrounding the drummer while he continues to rock on.

The drummer and the football team are both exuding masculinity in two completely opposite ways; the athletes are the epitome of hyper-masculinity while the drummer portrays masculinity with his music.

The concept for this video, called “The Year of the Doppelganger” by the artist Slater Bradley, was one of the many ideas expressed at the Museum of Contemporary Art Miami with their summer exhibit “Sympathy for the Devil: Art and Rock and Roll since 1967.”

The exhibition is about the relationship between contemporary art and rock and roll – it had absolutely nothing to do with memorabilia or commercial art sold for bands.

This is about what Andy Warhol imi-



STEVE BROOK/MOCA MIAMI

HALL OF ROCK: The Sympathy for the Devil exhibit at Miami’s Museum of Contemporary Art timelined the history of Rock and Roll since 1967.

tated in his attempts at creating art with the involvement of the Velvet Underground in the 1960s. In this exhibit, each piece made a

statement about rock through art.

There were some pieces that stood out because of what they were trying to say and how their message was conveyed.

An example of this was Robert Lounge’s untitled (Men in Cities) drawings. In the ‘70s and ‘80s, being a high power business man was the American dream and Lounge drew the American dreamers dancing and getting funky to the no wave music of the time.

In these drawings, business men and women dressed for their jobs are seen dancing in a no wave manner, and they are doing it so well that you can almost hear the music which they are jamming.

Another intriguing piece was a room with

This is about what Andy Warhol imitated in his attempts at creating art with the involvement of the Velvet Underground in the 1960s.

a floor covered in vinyl records, making the statement that the records used to be well taken care of, and they are now yesterday’s news and part of music history. It seems as though this exhibit crammed in as many rock themes as possible. Through the art there was commentary about rock and violence, the empowerment of women musicians and our idolism for rock gods.

Diferent types of music were rerepresented with band members from Sonic Youth displayed in intensely erotic photographs and Kurt Cobain of Nirvana with a simple drawing of his middle finger, wearing his wedding ring.

“Sympathy” also included a timeline that took up an entire wall with names of rock bands from late ‘60s until now. What stands out most about this piece is the huge black box over the ‘70s with a disco ball underneath it, giving a creative twist to the old point of view that disco killed rock music.

The exhibit made the point that the beat goes on using a glass recording room with instruments for young musicians. It truly conveyed what the art of rock was, and is, through an artist’s eyes.

National hazing concerns prompt prevention week

LUCIA SASTRE
Staff Writer

We live in a diverse and competitive world. In every minute of our lives we strive to be the best and to achieve communal integration and understanding.

Whether its athletics or academic clubs, people seek a sense of belonging that makes them feel comfortable with those around them.

Some will go so far as to put themselves in harms way for that sense of belonging.

“Incidents of hazing in high school athletics are on the rise with sexual hazing cases – mainly sodomy - making the news more and more frequently,” said Tracy Maxwell, executive director of *hazingprevention.org* and National Hazing Prevention Week. “These incidents have torn schools and communities apart and it is time for us to stand together and let students know unequivocally that this type of behavior will not be tolerated. People need to understand that a “boys will be boys” attitude about this problem is no

longer acceptable. Real damage is being done.”

That is the reason why FIU hosts NHPW on the last week of September.

Activities such as brown bag lunch talks, movies and book discussions with students, anti-hazing pledges and organizational and leadership trainings all occur during this week.

“My organization sponsors two contests as part of the week - an essay and photo contest. We also recognize five individuals with Anti-Hazing Hero Awards each year,” Maxwell said.

National Hazing Prevention Week was specially created in order for students to realize the magnitude of the problem and to do something about it.

But this event does not only apply to students. Parents and faculty should also get involved and are encouraged to participate as well.

“Our role in the event is to host risk management workshops within our chap-

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Radiate FM demonstrates the value of video gaming

NIKKI PEREZ
Contributing Writer

Video games can be criticized as unproductive means of entertainment, but four employees from the FIU radio station, Radiate FM, debased that idea by actually spending almost four days playing *The Legend of Zelda* games to raise money for a charity.

Sean Gonzalez, Andrew Julian, Robert Martinez and Pablo Penton came together as the “Zeldathon” team with the goal to play a series of seven *Zelda* video games in an attempt to raise money for the Child’s Play charity, which donates video games, toys and money to sick children in hospitals all over the nation. The marathon was displayed on the web directly from the actual station where everything took place.

Interested donators who watched the event from home sent their portions through Pay Pal which was then contributed directly to Child’s play.

Zeldathon surpassed their expectations and managed to raise \$1,468.66.

“I just knew we could do it,” said Gonzalez, traffic and training director of Radiate FM. “It was a lot of fun for a good cause.”

The inspiration to set this event up came from the Mario Marathon, which consisted of a group of former college roommates playing Mario games for a charity as well.

Gonzalez first found out about Mario Marathon when he noticed one of their links as he was browsing through *webcomics.com*. Soon after, he informed his team mates about the idea and they gathered to plan their own

marathon for a period of six weeks.

“We really wanted the equipment to work,” said Penton, general manager of Radiate FM. “Without equipment there is no marathon.”

During the time of preparation, Zeldathon concentrated mainly on the materials that were going to be used and their quality to avoid any disruption.

They decided on a Nintendo Wii, a video capture card, a web cam and two game cubes.

The Zeldathon began Aug. 8 at 8 p.m and ran through Aug. 13 at 4:45 a.m. Their goal was to finish in 72 hours but instead the series lasted 105 hours.

Determined to finish on time, they switched turns when they were tired, sometimes even falling asleep in the Graham Center hallways.

Critics question whether or not the money reached Child’s Play, but that doesn’t stop Zeldathon from building their legend.

“The money never touched us,” Penton said.

It was such an achievement on their part that the team has already planned some more upcoming video game marathons with similar goals.

CNET found them online while they were playing and were interested enough to even publish a story on the “Zeldathon” team.

Staying up for four days straight took motivation, but the results speak for themselves.

“Hanging out with friends and playing video games for a charity was the coolest thing I’ve ever done,” Gonzalez said.

SHAKE YOUR GROOVE THING



GIOVANNI GUADARRAMA/THE BEACON

SHOW ‘EM HOW TO DO IT: Victor Caballero, a sophomore Criminal Justice major, and Tyrone Coleman, a junior Health Administration major dance at the Phi Sigma Sigma table in Graham Center on September 8.

Students, faculty fight increased incidence of hazing among Greeks

HAZING, page 5

ter to ensure that everything is going the way [it should],” said George Aspros, president of Beta Delta Chapter. “The goal is to get everyone informed on what constitutes

hazing under our Fraternal Code and under the Florida State Law.”

But that’s not all, behind all the talk about the National Hazing Prevention Week who makes it all happen? And why is it so im-

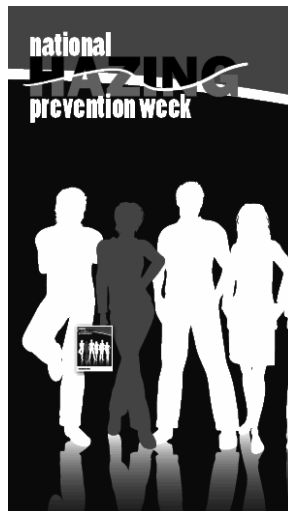
portant in such a diverse school?

“I’ll admit it, we are a very diverse school, but stereotypes still exist and people get discriminated [against] all the time,” said Katrina Stalken, a junior and an active member in NHPW. “When joining a group, it’s not about where you are from, or the way you look; it’s about finding common ground with others and about the tolerance and respect that make you grow as a person.”

During this week, sororities and fraternities work nonstop to provide a good outcome and increase hazing awareness.

There is even a 40 page NHPW resource guide these student organizations must follow in order to make NHPW happen.

“The real behind-the-scenes workers are those on each campus, whether they be students or professionals, who plan programs that will make an impact in their communities. This educational week wouldn’t be pos-



sible without their hard work,” Maxwell said.

Students, along with teachers and NHPW members, believe this event to be of extreme importance to our generation and to the future.

“If we can prevent someone from hazing, it’s worth it,” Aspros said. “The only thing worse than demeaning someone is wanting to join an organization which demeans you. We try to bring friendship through everything in Delta Lambda Phi, and that to me is worth far more than anything hazing can provide.”

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY • SEPTEMBER 10

Leaders Of Tomorrow General Meeting, GC 340 1:00 p.m

Italian Club General Meeting, GC 343 4:00 p.m

Asian Student Union Mixer, Gracie’s Grill 7:00 p.m

Panther Promotions General Meeting, GC 340 5:00 p.m

THURSDAY • SEPTEMBER 11

Alpha Xi Delta Lemonade Sale for “His House” Charity , Betty Chapman Plaza 11:00 a.m

French Club General Meeting, GC 343 3:30 p.m

Caribbean Student Association GC 150 4:00 p.m

Anything Goes Anime General Meeting, Gracie’s Grill 8:00 p.m

Federal Jack Film, GC 140 5:00 p.m

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 12

Radiate FM Welcome Back giveaways, GC Pit 12:00 p.m

Muslim Student Association general meeting, GC 305 1:00 p.m

Chinese Club Movie, GC 140 4:00 p.m

Democracy for America Campus Corps General Meeting, GC 241 6:00 p.m

- Compiled by Rosalyn Delgado

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Cristobal should look at other options to get team going

MESSINA, page 8

ble of being a fulltime starter despite criticism of a weak arm and a not fully healed clavicle. It's evident that Paul McCall is a very intelligent signal caller but that characteristic has failed to transcend on the field.

The receiving game is the other area of concern for FIU. There has been no player to stand out as the quintessential go-to player. Against Kansas, the best statistics for a receiver was 2 receptions for 21 yards. On Saturday, freshman Junior Mertile and T.Y. Hilton led the way in yardage as both accumulated a total of 39 yards with Mertile catching 5 passes as opposed to Hilton snatching 2.

Whether it's the speedster Hilton or Mertile, if the offense is going to advance, someone has to separate themselves from the bunch. The cast of possibilities are talented but have yet to create that desired separation.

Thankfully, the Kansas and Iowa road games are over and done with. Despite the next contest against South Florida, a team that is currently 2-0 and was one of the surprise stories of college football last season, the schedule starts to soften much to the content of FIU.

While South Florida is up there with Kansas and Iowa as one of the more daunting teams on the schedule, it's a home game with very special circumstances. Right now, home field advantage is the only positive thing to look forward to in that game at

this point in time.

For the Golden Panthers, its time to use this bye week to the fullest. It is a good thing that these road trips against strong teams are over but at the same time, the team needs to improve on both sides; the numbers don't lie.

The non-conference schedule is perplexing because its includes historically strong teams against a program that is not only 6 years old, but in only its third year in the FBS.

If FIU plays their Sun Belt Conference games close like they did for the most part last season, the games against top-tier teams truly are a good appetizer.

Right now, that assessment cannot be made because that portion of the schedule has not arrived.

Losing to Kansas and Iowa was certainly a possibly considering the makeup of both teams but the glaring weakness of FIU was exploited in both games. That weakness is of course the offense and like I stated last week, if there is no improvement this team will struggle tremendously.

The effort, desire and determination are without a doubt there and Mario Cristobal is absolutely the man to lead this team in the right direction but the players simply have to improve.

To improve not only against non-conference opponents but in all areas of the game, especially the offense. If last week represents FIU's last game of the above mentioned variety, the Golden Panthers should be alright.

Struggles continue on the road for women's soccer

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

FLORIDA ST. 5, FIU 0

The Golden Panthers visited the 5th ranked Florida State Seminoles, and were blanked 5-0 on Sept. 5.

The Seminoles outshot FIU, 27-3, and the shots on goal were also grossly in favor of FSU, as they held a 12-1 advantage.

Lauren Switzer, (31st Minute) and Tori Huster (46th Minute) each tallied a goal and an assist for the Seminoles, who improved their record to 4-0-0 on the season with the victory.

Head coach Thomas Chestnutt, spoke highly of the Seminoles, last season's NCAA tournament runner-up.

"They have done an incredible job at FSU and really deserve their current ranking," he said. "They are good both individually and as a group."

UNF 1, FIU 0

FIU was shut out for the second time over the weekend, on the road against the

University of North Florida, who picked up their first victory of the season, in Jacksonville on Sept. 7.

UNF scored the only goal of the game off the boot Katelin Smith, as she drove home a rebound in the 52nd minute; it was her second of the season.

The Golden Panthers managed to outshoot the Lady Ospreys (1-2-1) 9-7, but could not manage to find the back of the net, and they fell to 0-5-0 on the season.

Despite the loss, coach Chestnutt was encouraged with the play of his team.

"We controlled the midfield and the girls played hard to the end but we just need to keep improving," Chestnutt said.

The FIU women's soccer team will continue its four game road swing with its next two contests coming in California, Sept 11 at Fresno State, and Sept 14 at Cal Poly.

FIU will return home for two contests after an eight-day break to begin its conference schedule, taking on Middle Tennessee, Sept 26 at 7 p.m., and Western Kentucky, Sept 28 at 1 p.m.

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YOUNGER’S TURN?

Early season offensive woes should lead to reevaluation

After a bad loss to Iowa, two things have become apparent; the team needs to start moving the ball offensively as well as start their Sun Belt Conference schedule as soon as possible because these non-conference affairs are getting out of hand.

The Golden Panthers made Iowa, a team that was expected to be slightly above average, look like the powerhouse that they have been perennially. Offensively, the Hawkeyes had no problem moving the chains as they finished with 512 total yards of offense as opposed to FIU’s 218.

It was evident early on that Iowa had their pick to gain yards either threw the air or on the ground. A 35-0 halftime lead is a pretty good indicator that the Iowa offense was having their way.

Three of the 5 scores were touchdown passes as the FIU defense clearly couldn’t stop Hawkeye quarterback Ricky Stanzi. On the afternoon, the Golden Panthers failed to record a sack on Stanzi who finished 8-for-10 with 162 yards and three touchdown passes.

Offensively, FIU struggled terribly

and didn’t even reach the redzone on the day. The quarterback situation has become cloudy again as sophomore Wayne Younger relieved starter Paul McCall and fared better of the two.

He finished 11-for-20 with 107 yards and no interceptions and had 29 rushing yards. Junior Paul McCall had another poor performance by going 8-for-16 with 2 interceptions. Its safe to say that FIU has reached a crossroads in terms of this position battle, while initially the dual quarterback role was viewed a positive weapon; it could now possibly be a detriment. After two contests that have produced anemic offensive outputs, you have to assume that the first step in developing a foundation for the offense to succeed is to finally name a quarterback and to stick to the chosen one.

Yes, both are stronger in different areas but you have to believe that it could possibly be a reason why the offense has been stunted. If Saturday’s contest was any indicator, Younger showed that he is still capa-

MESSINA, page 7



COMMENTARY

LUCA MESSINA



FERNANDO GARCIA/THE BEACON

BACK TO YOU?: Wayne Younger started 11 games a year ago, but lost his job, partially due to injury. Is it time to revisit the possibility of Younger as the starter?

Volleyball team’s reinvention nothing short of magical

Do you believe in magic?

When she arrived to FIU in 2005, first year volleyball head coach Danijela Tomic inherited a team with a 3-23 record.

Like a magician, she shoved the team’s awful 23-loss season in a hat and made it vanish from fans’ and players’ memories by pulling out a 15-13 record her first season.

For her next trick, she recruited volunteers from across the globe. Six new hand picked recruits, including outside hitter Yarimar Rosa, helped the team become co-Sun Belt Conference Champions in 2006.

This 2008 season, four seasons removed from a horrible record, the volleyball team is off to its best start in program history and has already defeated No. 19 Clemson.

So was it magic that transformed the volleyball program’s fortunes? Or was it Athletics’ governing motto: “You need the right personnel to build a program”?

Judging by Tomic’s immediate and drastic impact,

Athletics’ motto does work.

However, with so many up and coming programs at FIU, the volleyball team is the only one that has shown signs of actual change and improvement. It has become the prototype and the primary example of how to rebuild a program.

Magicians never reveal their secrets; luckily, Tomic is a head coach willing

to divulge some of the principles she used while turning the volleyball program around.

“My recruiting philosophy is to get the best volleyball player that you can, no matter where they’re from,” Tomic said.

She is referring to the team’s diversity and foreign recruits, which have given the team an international mix and ideal results.

While some programs are not going to find significant talent in the Caribbean or Europe, Tomic’s methodology goes beyond the cliché “student-athletes willing to work hard on and on the field.”

She carefully selects stu-

dents whose character fit her coaching style; specifically, who are willing to do exactly what she says.

“They have to have passion and be willing to take on challenges,” she said. “You have to work hard, stay in shape, be disciplined and be competitive. All those things don’t depend on how tall you are or how high you jump.”

Her ability to gauge a recruit’s willingness to listen to her and be part of the team she envisions is a big reason why she has yet to coach a losing team during her three years as FIU’s head coach.

Persistence and a little luck don’t hurt either.

The best example is the team’s main offensive force and two-time First-Team All Sun Belt Conference player, Yarimar Rosa. Tomic admitted that it’s rare to recruit a player of Rosa’s caliber, but it wasn’t an accident either.

“Going into recruiting I believe I can recruit anybody for FIU, and that’s the key,” she said. Tomic says bringing Rosa to FIU was done, “By keep in touch with her mom, her and never giving up.”

Recruiting the best players seems like the obvi-



JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

ABRA CADABRA: The 3-23 team Tomic took over looks nothing like the powerhouse currently storming through the Sun Belt.

ous explanation as to how a team excels in college, but that isn’t always the case. An elite player in the country is of no use, if they aren’t academically eligible or are constantly suspended.

Tomic makes sure none of her players ever fall into

any of those categories.

She sets the goal, and rather than having to push her players to reach the goal, they alone fight to obtain it.

“The players we have here want to do extra things and that’s not usual,” she said. “Our goal every year

is to get to the NCAA Tournament because we can do it. It’s about transferring that confidence and belief onto them, then it’s up to them to do the work.”

I’ve heard several FIU coaches talk about his or her vision for the future for a couple of years now. But I’ve never heard an FIU coach with the confidence and conviction that Tomic possesses.

If she told me all humans were going to live on Mars tomorrow, I would pack my bags tonight.

That’s the same way her recruits and current players buy into her system.

As of Sept. 10, the volleyball team is the only FIU intercollegiate program to record a victory. In fact, they’ve already got a 6-1 record.

Volleyball right now is head and shoulders above every other FIU team in terms of progress and direction, and the team’s success can be directly attributed to Tomic’s arrival.

She may not be able to successfully saw a man in half, but Tomic will be leading the volleyball program towards prestige as long as she’s in charge.