

10-15-2008

# The Beacon, October 15, 2008

Florida International University

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Florida International University, "The Beacon, October 15, 2008" (2008). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 162.  
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**CHEER UP**

Peer adviser posts open

**WEAR YOUR PRIDE**

Campaign clothes a right

**DRIVING ON AIR**

New car cuts down emissions

**TRAIN KEEPS MOVIN'**

Volleyball now 6-1 in SBC play

AT THE BAY PAGE 4

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## SPEAKING OUT



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**ADDRESSING CONCERNS:** Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg (left) and Director of Special Events Sandra Perdomo (right) spoke to students about an incident involving a University employee and a student.

Q & A

### One-on-one with new VP

EDUARDO MORALES  
Staff Writer

After 15 months, the new Vice President of Advancement, Robert Conrad, was hired on Oct. 1. He will begin working on Nov. 3 and comes to the position with over 20 years of experience in university advancement positions. As he begins his last two weeks at the Florida State University Foundation, he took the time to have a phone interview with *The Beacon* regarding budget cuts and acquiring private funds for the University.

**The Beacon:** For the readers, what does the VP of Advancement do exactly?

**Conrad:** Hopefully, at FIU, I would say that I will be responsible for raising private support, maximum private support for the institution and in a way that is honorable, ethical and enhances the mission of the University. It's done in a variety of ways: our student callers who call alumni, parents and friends, to folks who are going out to corporations, the people who are talking to donors and always trying to bring in that private philanthropy.

**TB:** How can FIU get by during the budget cuts?

**RC:** Any time you deal with budget cuts it's always a difficult situation. Not knowing exactly what FIU has had to deal with, it's hard for me to comment specifically. But you know what I can say is, it's my hope that we will generate funds that will soften that blow. Over time, there has been increasingly less and less

## Conflicts between security, fans addressed

SERGIO BONILLA  
RICK MARTINEZ  
Student Media

During Saturday's home football game, an incident involving a student and an FIU employee left many students with questions regarding conduct policy during football games.

Panther Rage President Michael Halpert spoke to Athletics over the weekend hoping to have a representative from the department speak to students on Oct. 15. Senior Associate Athletic Director Julie Berg, along with Director of Special Events Sandra Perdomo,

attended the meeting to answer students' question and concerns.

Halpert was pleased to have students express their feeling following the meeting.

"I completely understand them," Halpert said. "That's their right. It was good to see them get things off their chests."

Berg and Perdomo answered every question based on the information they knew at the time of the meeting. Members of Student Media along with students asked a series of questions regarding the incident.

**Rick Martinez:** How did you guys become aware of the situation with the accusa-

tions of an Athletics employee assaulting a student?

**Berg:** It was seen. Most of us saw something going on. We didn't see exactly how the whole thing started, but we saw it. We had a couple of employees. And unfortunately we had a couple of injuries as well: one FIU employee and one Contemporary Services Corporation (the crowd control company for FIU games) employee.

**Rick Martinez:** Student Media was in-

RAGE, page 3

## Hospitality team places first in rib competition

PAMELA DUQUE  
Asst. News Director

Papaya-glazed ribs and a mojito shooter with coconut rum drove hospitality management students to first place in a rib cook-off.

Presented by the American Institute of Wine & Food - South Florida Chapter, a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to educate the community and create cultural awareness of fine food and wine, the Grand Western's Third Annual Tri-Country Rib Cook-Off took place Oct. 12 at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood.

Five different culinary schools

in South Florida were chosen by the AIWF to compete for a \$1,500 scholarship and trophy, according to Phyllis Festinger, AIWF-SF executive director, who also hosted the event.

The FIU team, made up of Vincent Tien, Arthur Mindermann, Andres Villanoba and Bianca Rojas, all teaching assistants in hospitality management, was guided by Chef Michael Moran, chef instructor in hospitality management.

The team competed against teams from the Florida Culinary Institute Palm Beach, Johnson & Wales University, Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts Miami.

The teams prepared ribs with their own secret ingredients, as well as two side dishes.

The winning menu, which was a collaborative effort between team members, consisted of papaya-glazed ribs with jicama mint slaw and a frozen mojito shooter with coconut rum.

"The entire team came up with the menu. I was just their adviser. My role was to take their ideas and try to bring them to life," Moran said.

This is the third year that FIU students participate in the cook-off, but it is the first time they win first place. In the two prior years, they came in

COOK-OFF, page 4



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**DELICIOUS VICTORY:** Students from the School of Hospitality Management celebrate after being named judges' pick among the four other culinary schools from South Florida on Oct. 12.



# Conrad looks to secure private funds

NEW VP , page 1

support of higher education by our state governments.

I most recently came from the state of Ohio and prior to coming to Florida, we had experienced five or six percent budget cuts on a regular basis for four or five years. The [universities] that are going to do the best at weathering these blows are going to be institutions that are successful in securing private support.

**TB:** Is there a process behind acquiring donations toward the University? How does this happen?

**RC:** It's very simple in some levels and in other ways complex. It starts with trying to build the affinity of the alumni at FIU as well as to build affinity with friends of the institution.

In a lot of ways it is hard work; getting out, meeting folks, marking their interests and trying to match their interests with the institution and trying to maximize that.

One of the things I see in FIU is tremendous potential.

You've got excellent programs to be successful, all the wonderful community, – a large community that certainly has the raw materials for successful philanthropy. You've got the dedicated alumni, strong support from the faculty and staff, you seem to have it all. Just now the last piece seems to be building a strong advancement program.

where we want to go and how progressive we want to be. The other factor would be how the economy is as of late, and we can't ignore the economy so we have to pay attention to that.

**TB:** Is there anything else you'd like to tell the students and faculty of FIU?

**RC:** I'm very eager to

I'm very impressed with the institution... and I'll do my best to equal their energy and maximize private support for the institution.

Robert Conrad, Vice President Advancement

**TB:** Do you have any expectations or goals set for your first year at the University?

**RC:** I want to get in and get a feel for the personalities, the culture of the institution, so it would be difficult for me to say right now exactly what the dollar figures would be.

One thing we deal with in advancement is the numbers, we can't run from those, and in course we'll figure out

get down there. I'm very impressed with the institution, the energy that I see around campus, and I'll do my best to equal their energy and maximize private support for the institution.

Visit our web site on Oct. 15 for the rest of the article.

[www.FIUSM.com](http://www.FIUSM.com)



JESSE MEADOWS/THE BEACON

**PARADING:** Students hold flags during the Honors College Convocation on Oct. 13.

# Convocation celebrates Honors College students

**CHRISTOPHER LAZAGA**  
Staff writer

After the traditional yearly Honors College Parade around University Park, Honors College students and faculty made their way to the Graham Center ballroom for the highlight event of the day – the 8th Annual Honors College Convocation Ceremony. The ceremony recognizes Honors College students for outstanding achievement and work throughout the year.

Guests were greeted with bagpipe music and a podium stood in front of a large projection screen in the center of the stage with chairs lined up on either side.

After the students – many wearing the Honors College signature polo – took their seats, Lesley A. Northrop, dean of the Honors College, stepped up to the podium and welcomed them. The color guard presented the American flag and the Florida flag, after which members of the FIU Big Band played the National Anthem.

The ceremony that followed featured speakers, including Dean Lesley A. Northrop, provost and executive vice-president Ronald Berkman, Associate Dean

in between the speakers. Musicians performed pieces ranging from hard rock to jazz to solo music. Among the musicians were Marlene Palomo and Bradley Samore, Ayman Elyasin, Noel Hernandez and Nikolas Balseiro.

At the end of the ceremony, Honors College students were recognized for their academic excellence. Recognition and prizes were awarded to first to third place finalists in the categories of photography, art, film, poetry, personal essays, short stories, critical papers and musical compositions.

First place winners included Alejandro Stein for his untitled photograph, Maria Santana for her artistic work, "Belly," Andrea Lahoz for her film, "Superman on Ice," Marilyn Dominguez for her poem, "Grey," Lara Nations for her

personal essay, "La Guagua," Daniel Flores for his short story, "Crush," Lisette Perez for her critical paper, "This I Believe: I am Beautiful," and Christopher Jones for his original musical score.

## Honors Convocation Contests First Place Winners

- Photography:*  
Alejandro Stein - untitled
- Art:*  
Maria Santana - Belly
- Film:*  
Andrea Lazhoz - Superman on Ice
- Poetry:*  
Marilyn Dominguez - Grey
- Personal Essays:*  
Lara Nations - La Guagua
- Short Stories:*  
Daniel Flores - Crush
- Critical Papers:*  
Lisette Perez - This I Believe: I am Beautiful
- Musical Compositions:*  
Christopher Jones - an original musical score

Fellow John Kneski, Honors College Fellow Charmaine DeFrancesco and Honors College Fellow Andrew Grof.

An assortment of musical performances took place

## THE BEACON

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## PINK PANTHERS



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

**WALKING FOR A CURE:** Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority hosted the "Pink Path to a Cure" Breast cancer walk on Oct. 11.

## NEWS FLASH

FIU

### University to freeze PantherSoft system

The University's PantherSoft Student Administration system will be "frozen" to make way for a new upgrade. The system will be available with limited capabilities from Oct. 18-27.

During this time students will be able to view their student information, but will not be able to request official transcripts, change system data, make online payments, or post any transactions on their accounts.

The system will also shut down between 2:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on Oct. 18 to make way for the upgrade.

### Psychology students collect shoes for areas hit by hurricanes

A group of psychology students have begun a shoe drive for areas affected by hurricanes this year, such as Haiti.

The students are teaming up with [www.shoesforhaitiskids.com](http://www.shoesforhaitiskids.com) to collect shoes for children and are shipping them to Haiti using containers they have been able to secure by making contacts in Miami.

The students are asking for new and gently used shoes and anything flat (such as sneakers), as this is what is really needed in Haiti.

Local News

### Florida to invest \$15 million on renewable energy

Gov. Charlie Crist is asking public and private entities to submit renewable energy and energy-efficiency proposals for state grants.

Florida will spend \$15 million in grants, with \$8 million going towards bioenergy projects.

-Compiled by Julio Menache

# Med School accepts new students

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. News Director

The FIU College of Medicine is sending its first batch of acceptance letters to students across the country on Oct. 15. The students have four weeks to pay the \$200 deposit and decide whether they want to reserve a seat.

Members of the College of Medicine are not allowed to

disclose how many letters are being sent.

Director of Admissions and Records Betty L. Monfort said she is also unable to say how many students were accepted from FIU, but she was impressed with the University's applications.

"I'm very pleasantly surprised out of the pool of FIU candidates, how well they filled the community service

requirement," Monfort said.

Approximately 2,700 students applied to the College of Medicine, and students from all IV League schools were accepted, according to Monfort.

Some of the minimum requirements to be part of the inaugural class included a 3.0 GPA and a 25 MCAT score. Monfort said she could not say the mean MCAT scores of

the students accepted, but she is satisfied with the type of applicants interested in attending the College of Medicine.

"We've been overjoyed with the number and caliber of the applicants," Monfort said.

All medical school hopefuls have until May 15 to have just one seat reserved, according to Barbara Roller, College of Medicine assistant dean for student affairs.

# A hard look at football game security demanded

**RAGE, page 1**

formed that one FIU employee was arrested or detained by Public Safety.

**Berg:** Not to my knowledge.

**Kristen Smith:** I know you said there's an investigation going on into the incident, but at the moment has anything happened to the FIU employee? As an FIU student, I personally don't feel really comfortable with him on this campus.

**Berg:** He is actually still on right now pending the investigation.

**Eduardo Selgas:** Who is the official oversight of the investigation? I'm guessing it's an internal investigation, so who's investigating it at this point?

**Berg:** As far as the investigation goes, I'm gathering a lot of information. Ultimately, the decision maker in Athletics

is Pete Garcia, but I am working with Bill King, so Bill and I will be doing the investigation for the most part.

**Smith:** What's the status of the student? Do we know what happened?

**Berg:** He was not arrested, he was not injured, he's fine.

**Adam Johnson:** From what we saw, there was a student scratched up and bleeding from the face. Does that not count as an injury?

**Berg:** I was told point blank that the student had not a single mark on him. That's what I was told from the police.

**Johnson:** Being in the student section, I feel treated like an animal. The way the security and the police officers go about it, I would think that's the way they would treat prisoners.

**Berg:** That's your home, man. That is your stadium. And we're very proud of it and we want you guys to feel to-

tally at home there and that is definitely not the atmosphere we want you to feel there.

**SGC-UP President A.J. Meyer:** Many students are upset because of the fact that, not only did the Student Government Association increase the athletics fee, but SGA also gave you guys a couple million for the expansion for the field. And now some students feel like they got a slap in the face and are now considering boycotting games.

**Berg:** That would be absolutely devastating for Athletics because that's not something we want here. This is a very unfortunate incident. There will be a full investigation. It will be handled appropriately, pending the outcome.

And, I think that would be very sad if it carried over that far. We're going to deal with the repercussions that he's going to have to encounter for that, and I would just hate to see that this causes that big of an issue on the campus with you guys.

HPV FACTS: #4

HPV OFTEN HAS NO SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS

HPV.COM





NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**PLATE IT UP:** Vincent Tien puts finishing touches on the winning rib and pork slider presentation before sending it to the judges, while Chef Moran slices the rib rack in anticipation of the next guest.

## Tender ribs, manners aid in securing top spot

**COOK-OFF, page 1**

second place. The Florida Culinary Institute team won first place the first year and Le Cordon Bleu Miami's team took the top prize last year. "It is absolutely fantastic that we won. The students worked really hard. I was not really surprised we won because of the amount of time and effort students put in," Moran said. "I am very proud of them." The team began the preparations the day prior to the cook-off, when they worked four hours straight, according to Vincent

Tien, a teaching assistant in hospitality management. "I feel great that we won. We were competing against culinary schools, and we are not a culinary school. We are a management school. I feel very proud of being on the team," Tien said. The judges - John Tanasychuk, a *Sun-Sentinel* food writer, Howie Kleinberg, a former contestant on the show "Top Chef," and Kelly Sheehan, chef at Kitchen 305 in Sunny Isles Beach - announced the winner after tasting each dish. "[The FIU team's dish] had a true, traditional flavor with some

innovations. It was chewy but also tender," Tanasychuk said. "The frozen mojito shooter also gave their dish a nice presentation." The judges not only evaluated the teams' dishes, but also their service. FIU's attention to guests and judges was also a plus, according to Tanasychuk, who said they were "cordial and very nice." "FIU did an outstanding job, and we are happy to present them as the winner," Festinger said. Pamela Duque can be contacted at [pamela.duque@fiusm.com](mailto:pamela.duque@fiusm.com).

### NEWS FLASH

FIU

#### Free breast exams offered

University Health Services is offering free breast exams throughout the month of October to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month. To schedule an appointment call (305) 919-5620.

The Wellness Center will be giving away gift bags to students, faculty and staff who wear pink or bring Yoplait breast cancer lids to the Late Day Latte event from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

#### War journalist will give lecture

Dexter Filkins, author of "The Forever War," is coming to Biscayne Bay Campus on Oct. 20.

Filkins is a *New York Times* Iraq and Afghanistan correspondent.

His new book is considered a "masterpiece of battlefield reporting," according to a Sept. 29 article on *Express*.

Filkins will be at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. giving a speech and answering student questions. For more information call (305) 919-5625.

#### Speaker to address marine sciences in lecture

Sarah Handy, a graduate from the University of Maryland, will be speaking on Oct. 17 at 12 p.m. in room 105 in the Marine Sciences building.

Her lecture, titled, "Molecular tools to study ecology and systematics of protists," is going to be focused on determining and understanding the microbial role of algae, according to an e-mail sent out to the department.

Handy's lecture on the effects of algae on the marine environment is one that Adam Rosenblatt, a Marine Sciences Ph.D student, feels will be beneficial.

Rosenblatt said that having Handy speak is important because she will give a needed perspective on a subject that not many in the department study.

Handy's speech is the third installment in the Marine Sciences seminar series.

Five more speakers from the University of Alabama, University of Virginia and other professionals in the field are scheduled to speak during the series.

- Compiled by Julia Cardenuto and Paradise Afshar

## Campus Life office seeks new peer advisers for 2009

**DOUGLAS FORTE**  
Contributing writer

Students with leadership qualities seeking to give back to the school now have the chance to do so.

As of Sept. 27, the 2009 peer adviser application has been available to students. Peer advisers assist new students, and help implement and plan orientation programs throughout the year.

"Peer advisers are student leaders and university experts," said Joanne Oates, graduate assistant in the Campus Life office. "They also participate and help out in an annual conference including schools from about seven or eight Southern states."

The peer adviser position lasts one year, from January 2009 to January 2010.

To be eligible, applicants must be current students, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5, have completed at least 12 credit hours at the University after the Fall 2008 semester and have met all employment requirements.

"He or she should be personable, helpful, FIU-spirited and want to give back," said Vicky Owles, associate director in the Department of Campus Life and Orientation-BBC.

Applicants should also be prepared for hands-on experience with many activities, according to Oates. These activities range from PantherSoft tutorials to participation in retreats and a yearly conference.

"They teach the new students how to use the PantherSoft system, engage in peer-to-peer questions and act as guides; those are their main roles," said Sarah David, Campus Life office manager. "It is required that students are committed because the position places a lot of responsibility on them."

Along with responsibilities, the peer adviser position comes with benefits, both monetary and intangible.

"The experience provided me with a lot of knowledge of how things are done at the school," said Zankina Ogbourne, former peer adviser and now a graphic artist at BBC's Recreation department. "I had to advise students on their classes and show

them how to use PantherSoft. It definitely helped me understand some of the administrative processes better. I am also now recognized for my commitment and in great standing with the school."

Advisers receive free housing for the year they hold the position, and \$1,200 in stipend pay, according to Owles. Staff uniforms are also provided to help create a leadership image.

"Students will acquire leadership skills, and will be recognized leaders in the FIU community," Owles said. "It increases their knowledge and adds to overall personal development."

The position is available to all students, from freshmen to seniors, in any major.

"We would like every type of student for diversity," Oates said.

It is very important, according to Ogbourne, that peer advisers have patience and pass along the right information relating to registration procedures.

"Some students may not grasp things as fast as others do, and you don't want to have misinformed students unaware of important steps to settling in," Ogbourne

said.

Workshops and interviews will be conducted to select 15 to 30 students for BBC, and 25 to 30 students for University Park. Once selected, advisers will train every Friday during the spring semester from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The deadline to apply for the positions is Nov. 7. Selection workshops will take place Nov. 14 at both campuses. The workshop at UP will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in GC 243, and the session at BBC will be from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in WUC 155.

Formal information sessions for those interested are held at UP, while informal walk-in sessions are conducted at BBC.

"Just stop by the office for a one-on-one [information session]," said Owles. "Nothing feels as satisfying as knowing you made an effort to help out, and all it takes is one good year and you have done your job in giving back to FIU."

Applications are available online at [www.fiujobs.org](http://www.fiujobs.org).

For more information and session schedules, visit the Campus Life office or call 305-919-5804.



# New club puts African culture on the forefront

**HEATHER DULMAN**  
Staff Writer

In an effort to promote African culture, history and heritage, Esther Hamilton came up with an idea for a new club at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

The hospitality management senior said it took her three months of preparation, and that the club's main goal is to travel to different nations in Africa each year, starting with Egypt.

"Our club has a lot to do with history. We want to inform students about the rich history and heritage of Africa," said Hamilton, who is the club's president. "[Africa] is a continent, which many people are shamefully not aware of. There are over 50 countries, each with many different ethnic groups, history, religions, languages, cuisine, fashion, music, etc ..."

Club Africa has been active since August 2008, and it already has 30 members, according to Hamilton. Its executive board members include Hamilton, as well as Vice President Lidj Tafari and his mother, Ida Tafari, professor of anthropology of the African and African Diaspora Studies Program and the faculty adviser.

"Africa is still the center of the world. Most of the world is fighting to be there, to own African resources and once experiencing Africa, gain a deep understanding of its importance," Tafari said. "Since we hear nothing of Africa in this hemisphere, we think it is essential to understand this very strange relationship the Western world has [had] with Africa historically and today."

Hamilton said the club will be sponsoring several events in the Fall semester, ranging from wine tastings and movie nights, to a trip to Bush Gardens, Fairchild Tropical

Gardens and a group dinner in an Ethiopian restaurant.

"We are planning an African festival in April 2009," said Hamilton. "It is only in its preliminary stages. It will combine culinary arts, music, fashion, art, celebration of natural hair and beauty, entertainment, dance and retail with vendors who have access to imports directly from African nations. We are currently seeking sponsors to help us promote and develop our event."

The festival's goal is to raise money for the club's trip to Egypt, which will be its first international trip.

The club is also hosting a South African Wine Tasting with the Friends of Wine club on Oct. 27, in the Hospitality Management dining room at 4 p.m. There will be a \$5 admission fee for the event.

According to Hamilton, Publix in Aventura and Fresh Market on Biscayne Boulevard has Golden Kaan wines imported from South Africa; one of their well-known blended wines is called Pinotage.

Aside from funds from the Student Organization Council, the club has set up an online fund raiser at [www.magfundraising.com/clubafrica](http://www.magfundraising.com/clubafrica) where instead of paying dues, members receive a magazine subscription, and Club Africa receives 40 percent of all the profit from the Web site. The magazines are available to anyone who would like to purchase them, not only members.

Club Africa's meetings are held every other Tuesday, in which they discuss various issues currently affecting children, men, and women in Africa and African Diaspora, according to Hamilton.

"The majority of the educational part of our club will be discussed in our meetings," Hamilton said. "Including China's development in a wide variety of African nations, the genocide in Rwanda and Sudan, tourism,

## SPIN SPIN SUGAR



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**KICK IT:** DJ Jose Vallejo, vice president of Sigma Alpha Mu, provided live music for the grand opening of the new BBC cafeteria, Oct. 13.

education, epidemics [such as] HIV/AIDS, Ebola and Malaria, sexism in political systems, female genital mutilation, religion, sports, shamanism, famine, etc ..."

Neville Gayle, a club member and senior in sociology, said he was passing through a club fair and thought the idea was great for a club.

"The idea of Club Africa, for me, presented a good learning experience that could be shared with peers," Gayle said.

The club wants dedicated and active students to join, Hamilton said. She wants to focus on portraying and presenting the many positive sides of Africa.

The current members who attend meetings are all of African descent, but the club is for all students on campus regardless of race, nationality, and ethnicity, and the events are open to the public, according to Hamilton.

"As long as you're an FIU student, you can join the club. We're not standing at the doors scanning for melanin," she said.

Meetings are every other Tuesday at the Wolfe University Center, room 159. For more information e-mail Hamilton at [clubafiu@gmail.com](mailto:clubafiu@gmail.com).

Julia Cardenuto contributed to this story.

## HPV FACTS: #4

**AN ESTIMATED 8 OUT OF 10 WOMEN WILL GET INFECTED WITH IT IN THEIR LIFETIME**

HPV.COM

## CAMPUS TALK

### What was your first reaction to the new cafeteria?



**Adriana Egozcue**  
Junior

"It's great. If I would have had Subway one more time, I would have thrown up."



**Briana Krass**  
Sophomore

"Finally, it's open! They are really cheerful at Moe's. It has a nice view."



**Hannah-Grace Oxar**  
Sophomore

"The place is nice, but I wish they had healthier choices."



**Roshana Gossoff**  
Junior

"Lowering A&S Fees because a lot of money is going to places we don't know."



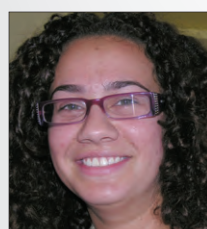
**Brian Harris**  
Sophomore

"Not a lot of diversity. They have a lot of places to eat at the other campuses."



**Natalie Lopez**  
Senior

"Where's Subway?"



**Lianamar Davila**  
Junior

"It's beautiful; nothing on the campus looks like this."



**Yagen Gutierrez**  
Junior

"I love it! It's so different than the other campus."



ISSUES AFFECTING VOTERS

## SUPPORT SHIRTS

### Polling place campaign ban shouldn't include tees

**OLGA VELEZ**  
Staff Writer

A restriction in polling areas may be in violation of the First Amendment. This restriction is redefining the meaning of the word electioneering to include wearing politically-oriented clothing.

According to an article from the Associated Press, poll workers in Harrisburg, Pa. would not allow Sue Nace to vote without first rolling up her pro-Obama shirt sleeve.

According to the poll workers, merely wearing a politically oriented T-shirt is considered inappropriate electioneering.

In this same article GOP chairman Robert Gleason agreed with new regulations stating that allowing partisan clothing, which in itself is not intimidating, could create a loophole for people wanting to campaign in polling areas.

"The first thing would be a button or a shirt, and maybe the next thing would be a musical hat," Gleason said.

According to the official Web site for the Florida State Legislature, the current law prohibiting electioneering in Florida states that "the terms 'solicit' or 'solicitation' shall include, but not be limited to, seeking or attempting to seek any vote, fact, opinion or contribution; distributing or attempting to distribute any

political or campaign material, leaflet, or handout; conducting a poll except as specified in this paragraph; seeking or attempting to seek a signature on any petition; and selling or attempting to sell any item."

Any attempt to actively campaign for a candidate at a polling place should not be permitted. Doing so could intimidate voters to change their minds and make them decide to vote for a different candidate.

According to Andre Smith, an assistant professor of law at FIU, people should not be allowed to bring signs supporting a candidate and should not be allowed to campaign in the polling areas.

"There is too much risk of intimidation. I would also prohibit voters from bringing a sign because to me, that is campaigning. Intimidation of voters at the polls is something that can't be tolerated," Smith said.

However, if someone is simply wearing clothing that supports a candidate without actually trying to force another person to vote a certain way, how can that be electioneering?

While I do agree that wearing a politically musical hat under this law would be considered an attempt to sell that particular candidate I do not agree it is a good enough reason to prohibit passively expressing political beliefs using clothing.

If the person is only passively expressing his or her political beliefs without trying to force an-

other person to agree or disagree, then wearing partisan clothing should not be considered anything more than a form of expression.

It is also a form of expression that should be protected under the First Amendment. Professor Smith also felt that merely wearing a shirt that promotes a particular candidate does not constitute as electioneering.

"I think wearing shirts should be allowed. It is a stretch to call wearing a shirt electioneering; it is so passive that it is not really campaigning and it should not be prohibited," Smith said.

State Democratic Party Chairman T.J. Rooney said GOP support for the dress code is a partisan effort to scare away new voters.

"To go [to the polls] and engage in an expression of democ-

racy and then be accosted by the fashion police is a form of voter intimidation," Rooney said in the AP article.

I would not take it so far to suggest that poll workers or state governments are trying to intimidate new voters by not allowing partisan clothing. I believe that they really feel that it is a form of electioneering.

These voters are not trying to convince other voters to change their positions, which is what electioneering is. The voters merely want to be free to passively express their political beliefs.

Nace hopes the she can vote Nov. 4 while wearing her political leanings on her sleeve.

"Especially with this election, for some reason it feels very personal to me," Nace said. "Even when I see another car with a bumper sticker on it, it's like, 'Yeah, they get it.'"

Sophomore Amandine Smith, an international relations major, also feels that campaigning in polling places is not only intrusive but also unnecessary.

"It [electioneering] should not be necessary because people should have already made up their mind on election day," Smith said. "When you are going to vote you should have already made up your mind. Seeing someone else wearing clothing that is partisan really should not influence or intimidate you."



## Right to vote: a choice that shouldn't be forced

**MATTHEW RUCKMAN**  
Staff Writer

It seems strangers with clipboards approach you at every square of sidewalk, asking if you have registered to vote. Their mission: to combat the voter apathy so prevalent at FIU.

But is voter apathy a problem?

Something is troublesome about these solicitors, apart from their ability to make you lie, because while they may have good intentions, promoting participation in the democratic process, they are also making the statement that there is no other criteria besides having a pulse.

In a 2005 Harris Interactive Survey, only 55 percent of adult Americans surveyed could correctly identify the three branches of government.

The survey suggests that a little under half of the U.S. population does not understand how the government works, much less what that guy in that White House actually does.

A scary thought given that, like motorists, most people think they're above av-

erage, when in all probability they're just average.

The average are unable to explain the Presidential powers, which would only delude them into even more of a political rut, once they vote and act upon.

What votemongers like Rock The Vote, Youth Voter Strategies or those people bothering you on the street, don't seem to get is that being a citizen isn't so much defined by your ability to vote, but rather, by your ability to understand to think.

Any monkey can pull a lever after all.

So soliciting a voter, who may not know what they're voting for, negates another possibly informed vote. These solicitations essentially deconstruct what democracy is meant to accomplish by this gradual addition of ignorant votes.

The sum effect: an apathetic individual

casting an ignorant vote that leads to the inauguration of an ignorant president into office.

With this in mind, what's wrong with a little voter apathy? According to the U.S. Census, only 47 percent of 18 to 24 year olds voted in the 2004 presidential election. Some see this as horrible, an affront to democracy and equate the right to vote with an obligation to vote.

They tell the average student, that apathy is a disease, and they don't care.

I don't care either.

If someone ignorant of the issues shows no inclination towards self improvement, why should he or she be encouraged to vote?

They shouldn't be. If apathy can't be cured, if the voter doesn't want to learn what their

candidate is actually capable of once he makes it to office, at least it can be quarantined, by allowing said person to voluntarily retreat from the democratic system.

It just so happens, that sometimes, the smartest, most informed thing a person can say is, "I don't know," and withdraw, to learn something for next time.

Apathy, by itself, can't hold the blame entirely. People disassociate only when there's nothing substantive to associate to.

So apathy is understandable. Withdrawal is a symptom, abandonment is a sign, not just of a disinterested citizenry, but a failure by government, and by extension the election.

Who knows what the voter turn-out will be this time around, but if only a portion of those who are eligible turn out, it will be no surprise.

When a citizen is given the choice between poison and poison, big government and bigger government, they, for good reason, don't want to make a choice, and apathy seems the only rational alternative.

Maybe it is.





# BREATHE EASY



## World's cleanest car now headed stateside

**KEVIN CASTRO**  
Staff Writer

only needs air and little to no gas.

According to manufacturer, Zero Pollution Motors' online center, the air car can be refilled with air at home or in your parking garage by plugging it into a power outlet.

The air tanks are each comprised of 3,200 cubic feet of compressed air at 4,500 psi.

"That's 306 atmospheres of pressure. It's a lot," said Dr. Brian Raue, an associate professor in the University's Physics department.

Current plans at ZPM indicate that refilling the air tank will only cost consumers \$2 a month. In addition, the compressed air tank auto-

matically refills when driving at higher speeds.

Currently, the world's most fuel-efficient car is the Toyota Prius, which delivers a maximum of 48 miles per gallon. The air car will supposedly break that record with an unprecedented 106 mpg. This efficiency allows it to travel for 848 miles without having to refill.

Not only are the fuel costs low, but oil changes will be required every 31,000 miles since there is no combustion taking place. There is also reduced maintenance as the air car does not use cooling circuits or hot gases.

According to ZPM, these attributes are not the primary

benefits of the air car: They say it will also be the world's cleanest vehicle.

ZPM states that when travelling under 35 mph, the air car is running exclusively on compressed air, emitting only air and therefore releasing zero pollution.

The air expelled from the tail pipe is actually cleaner than the air used to fill the tank. This is because before compression, the air is run through carbon filters to eliminate dirt, dust, humidity and other urban air impurities that could hamper the engine's performance.

At speeds over 35 mph the air car uses small amounts of fuel; either gasoline, propane,

ethanol or biofuels. These fuels are used to heat air inside a heating chamber as it enters the engine.

This process produces emissions of only 0.141 pounds of CO2 per mile.

"It is four times less than the average. Yes, it is significant," said Dr. Krish Jayachandran, associate professor of soil science for the Environmental Studies department.

ZPM states that the air car is designed to make a major difference in urban areas, especially where motor vehicles are the single largest contributor to ground-level ozone, a major component of smog.

The air car is also touted as safer than most vehicles. The body is composed of fiberglass and injected foam, which, according to ZPM, is safer, easier to repair and does not rust.

To guarantee a secure joint, the chassis is composed of aluminum rods and is glued similarly to aircraft.

"You could have a strongly built car with epoxy [glue], after all, airplane wings are largely held on with glue," Raue said.

ZPM is planning to release the car in the spring of 2010 for a manufacturer suggested retail price of \$17,800.

"I highly recommend it," Jayachandran said.

## FlowAIR



One FlowAIR: Economy/utility compressed air vehicle (formerly known as the OneCat): production in 2008.



Mini FlowAIR: Three-seater compressed air vehicle (formerly known as the MiniCat): not in production as yet.



- Low fuel costs - You can get an equivalent of 106 MPG. It can cost as little as \$2 to refill your tank with air.

Prototype: built in the late 90s; 50mph top speed; 110 miles range; Compressed Air Engine (CAE) powered.



City FlowAIR: Six-seater, family-size compressed air vehicle, not in production yet; planned for US market; estimated 96mph top speed and up to 800 mile range; Compressed Air Engine (CAE) powered and Compressed Air Multiplier (CAM) enabled; three models to choose from.

<http://zeropollutionmotors.us/>

## HPV FACTS: #4

FOR MOST, HPV CLEARS ON ITS OWN. BUT FOR SOME, CERVICAL CANCER CAN DEVELOP

HPV.COM



# Artists draw inspiration from their morbid fascinations

On Oct. 11, the Wynwood Art District had its monthly gallery walk.

All participating galleries in the art district are open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month serving wine, cheese and very contemporary art.

My top pick from the galleries and their exhibitions this past Saturday is "The Living Dead" exhibition. It is located at the Harold Golen Gallery and showcases two

**CRITIQUE CORNER**



GENEVIEVE STEEL

contemporary painters, Pooch and Paul Torres.

There is much hype in the Miami art scene but, at this gallery, with extremely bizarre, affordable art, neither hype nor inflation was an issue.

Both artists' work repulsed me – in a good way. I felt removed from the social commotion as the paintings sucked me in while strolling through the exhibition. The

potency of some of the work was so bad it was good, and the renderings clearly portrayed the art being alive and taking over the world, at least in that moment.

Pooch and Torres express a common zeitgeist in pointing out our love for corruption, greed, sensationalism, violence and desensitization.

When I looked at Pooch's work I saw influences of HR Geiger, who fathered the blockbuster series "Alien," starring Sigourney Weaver. I also see early childhood influences of Guns N' Roses

album covers and tattoo parlors.

He states his influences are a range of arenas from world and other tourist traps, to early artists such as the geometric genius M.C. Escher and the surrealist mastermind Salvador Dali.

Beyond tourist traps, Pooch has an even darker side. He mentioned Hieronymus Bosch, and this is significant. Bosch was a famous painter from the Netherlands during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

The artist's work is well-

known for the use of grotesque imagery to illustrate moral and religious concepts and narratives of his time, receiving numerous commissions.

Much like Bosch, Pooch seems to reinvent and depict current society, clearly defining our love for vulgarity and desensitization. I see this translated in his "Absinthe Drinkers," as well as in "Sawblade Salute." One would think he was making a statement about the blockbuster horror series "Saw." \

However, Pooch mixes issues and war commentary and also references a variety of cultures including symbolic figures from Tibetan rituals and the Mexican Day of the Dead.

Considering that Pooch is a self taught artist, he renders his whimsical ideas well. I highly recommend the second Saturday at the Design District and encourage a visit to the Harold Golen Gallery, where admission is free.

[www.haroldgolengallery.com](http://www.haroldgolengallery.com)



ART BY PAUL TORRES

**NOTRICA 32ND STREET MARKET:** Torres' piece, including many of his others, may be seen at the "Living Dead" exhibition.

**Info**

- The show runs from Oct. 11 through Nov. 1, 2008
- Admission is free
- Harold Golen Gallery, 314 North West 24th street. (Off of NW 2ND Ave.) Wynwood Art District, Miami, Florida



ART BY POOCH

**ABSINTHE:** "Pooch... renders his whimsical ideas well."



ART BY POOCH

**SAWBLADE SALUTE:** Pooch's work can be seen at the "Living Dead" exhibition.

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# Members of the Jewish faith reaffirm their commitment

I haven't had a morsel of food or a sip of water for 23 hours – almost a full day. I'm getting a little bit dizzy. It's tough to stand. I've been in synagogue for almost 10 hours since sundown last night. I sit down in my seat for a minute to compose myself, regain my concentration. I look around, take some of the environment in.

Today is Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, is a phenomenon unlike any other in the world. A Jew participates in Yom Kippur mainly for himself, to refill his own moral gas tank.

Today, I start anew, no baggage. I will wake up tomorrow ready to shock the world, all while being the best Jew I can. In order to repent completely, show dedication to myself, my family, my community, my people and, most importantly, to G-d, I will restrain from eating and drinking for 25 hours. Humility, a pillar of Judaism, overtakes someone when the simplest pleasures in life, such as food and bath, are not allowed.

Although each of us is just a small part of a whole, the things we do affect other people, so it is very important to neither desecrate nor shame Judaism – we have enough trouble in the world.

I apologized to my father, not for anything specific, but for anything I have done in the past year that may have hurt him. I apologized to my two younger brothers, mother, grandparents and friends. I apologized to G-d. Yom Kippur is not about atoning for sins and reeking havoc the next day, Yom Kippur teaches the Jewish people to be responsible for their actions because there are consequences – a higher being closely watches the actions of

the chosen people.

Inside the synagogue, I see a group of old men standing, toughening it out. My grandfather is one of them – praying, repenting and atoning for his wrongdoings. These men have lived full, prosperous lives raising families. Some have endured a proverbial hell because of their religion, and they are fasting too, finding the strength to continue to stand.

Unbelievable, I think to myself. In communities all over the world, in synagogues just like mine, millions of Jews are united as one, dressed in white, fasting, weeping, begging and pleading with G-d for forgiveness, for themselves and for their peers.

The many siphrei torah sit peacefully in their place, gleaming with beauty.

The final prayer is recited aloud. "Our Father, our king, tear up the evil decree of our verdict ... seal us in the book of good health and good life ... seal us in the book of redemption and salva-

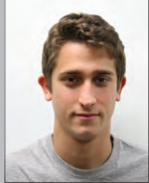
tion ... seal us in the book of forgiveness and pardon."

The shofar is sounded. Yom Kippur is over. I can now go back to living my life, but I will go about it a little bit differently than I did last year. I will try to be a better person, treat myself with more respect and treat others like I would want to be treated.

I might have lost five or six pounds along the journey, but what I've gained can't be put on paper.

I'm glad I was able to share this unbelievable experience with my community, my synagogue, and Jews worldwide.

## COMMENTARY



JONATHAN ALPERT

**A Jew participates in Yom Kippur mainly for himself, to refill his own moral gas tank.**

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY •  
OCTOBER 15

WHAT: LIVING DEAD exhibit  
WHERE: Wynwood Art District  
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority  
2nd Annual Backwards Pageant  
WHERE: GC Ballrooms  
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Game Room "Chess tournament"  
WHERE: GC Pit  
WHEN: 3:00 p.m.

WHAT: Music Saves Lives General Meeting  
WHERE: GC 305  
WHEN: 12:30 p.m.

WHAT: FIU Hip Hop Club information session  
WHERE: GC 314  
WHEN: 4 p.m.

WHAT: Leaders of tomorrow general meeting  
WHERE: GC 340  
WHEN: 1:00 p.m.

WHAT: Black Student Union Meeting  
WHERE: GC 140  
WHEN: 7 p.m.

WHAT: Free Cuba Foundation Meeting  
WHERE: GC 343  
WHEN: 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY •  
OCTOBER 16

WHAT: MPAS Workshops  
"Who's got your vote?"  
WHERE: GC 316  
WHEN: 1 p.m.

WHAT: Service for Peace Meeting  
WHERE: GC 343  
WHEN: 5:00 p.m.

WHAT: Anything Goes Anime Meeting  
WHERE: GC 140  
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: Federal Jack Meeting  
WHERE: DM 100  
WHEN: 8 p.m.

WHAT: Latinos Unidos  
WHERE: GC Ballrooms  
WHEN: 8:00 p.m.

WHAT: Students for a free tibet meeting  
WHERE: GC 340  
WHEN: 4:00 p.m.

WHAT: Invitational Club for Scholars Study session  
WHERE: GC 314  
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: Center for Leadership and Service Cancer Walk  
WHERE: Betty Chapman Plaza  
WHEN: 10:00 a.m.

Compiled by: Rosalyn Delgado

HPV FACTS: #4

THERE IS SOMETHING  
**YOU CAN DO**  
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## HONORABLE MENTION



JESSE MEADOUS/THE BEACON

**MOVE YOUR FEET:** Freshman Ayman Elyasin performs at the Honors Collge Convocation on Monday Oct. 13.



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# Bosilj 'Shocked' to be named to All-Sun Belt team

**ANDREW JULIAN**  
Sports Director

Gone: LaQuetta Ferguson, Iva Ciglar

Insert: Monika Bosilj.

The leading returning scorer for FIU women's hoops, Bosilj, was named to the



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**NEW LEADER:** Monika Bosilj must carry more of a leadership role in her third year

2008-09 Preseason All-Sun Belt team at the conference media day Oct. 13.

"I'm shocked, I'm happy and I'm glad I played through last season, and that I didn't quit in the middle because of my injury," said Bosilj of her accomplishment. Bosilj played much of last season with a torn labrum in her right shoulder, her shooting arm.

"I'm fully recovered, so I'm happy to start playing again," said the junior from Varazdin, Croatia, who averaged 11.4 points per game a season ago. She stepped it up tremendously for the Golden Panthers after Ferguson's injury.

Bosilj averaged 19 points per over the last seven contests, leading up to the Sun Belt tournament in Mobile, AL. Bosilj has a positive outlook on the upcoming season despite the team having lost its leading scorer and starting point guard in Ferguson and Ciglar, as well as its main perimeter defensive stopper in Asha Neal.

"We got two players back from last season that were injured, [Marquita Adley] and Elisa [Carey], we are really excited; we have a good individual team, we just need to put it all together." Carey and Adley started on the front line for FIU last season, but both were lost for the year after just six games, Adley to torn ligaments in her thumb, and Carey to a torn ACL

## NOTEBOOK: FOOTBALL



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**GAITOR BAIT:** Sophomore cornerback Anthony Gaitor, who tied a school record with two interceptions against Middle Tennessee, and returned one for a touchdown, was named Sun Belt conference defensive player of the week for his efforts in FIU's 31-21 victory.

## Young players leading the way for FIU at midseason

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

### BREAKING OUT

Freshman receiver Junior Mertile has seen his fellow 1st year teammate Hilton break his share of big plays on his way to 4 touchdowns and a team leading 366 yards through six games.

Mertile, however, is quietly developing into the most consistent pass-catching threat on the Golden Panthers.

Against Middle Tennessee on Saturday, Mertile had four receptions for 41 yards, both career highs. The freshman has had at least one catch in every game this season and leads FIU in receptions with 14 overall.

### EARLY VERBALS

The Golden Panthers have received 10 verbal commitments from players who intend to sign with FIU from the 2009 class, according to rivals.com.

Among the group, offensive guard Rupert Bryan from Belle Glades Central is the highest rated prospect of the recruits so far.

There are four offensive linemen and three defensive backs among the commitments. The Golden Panthers signed 24 recruits in the 2008 class.

FIU cornerback Anthony Gaitor had a career game in Saturday's win against Middle Tennessee and was rewarded for it on Monday.

Gaitor, a sophomore, was named Sun-Belt Conference defensive player of the week for the 1st time in his career for his stellar performance.

The former Miami Northwestern High defender had two interceptions that accounted for 98 yards overall.

The first takeaway of the game was a 71 yard return that set up the Golden Panthers at their opponent's 12-yard line, and the second interception was returned for a touchdown that gave FIU its biggest lead of the game.

Gaitor's performance marked the first time an FIU player had two interceptions in a game since Lionell Singleton had a similar performance vs. Bowling Green on September 16, 2006.

Gaitor also became the second Golden Panther to win an SBC player of the week award this year, as T.Y. Hilton won the special teams award on September 29th after a win at Toledo. He now has a team-leading three interceptions this season.

## SIGH OF RELIEF



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**FIRST VICTORY:** Sophomore forward Claudia Cardenas netted the game winner for FIU against ULM on Oct. 12 in overtime. It was FIU's first win of 2008.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## HITTING THEIR STRIDE

### Volleyball holds serve at home with weekend victories

**JONATHAN ALPERT**  
Asst. Sports Director

The FIU women's volleyball team remains unbeaten at home (7-0), topping the Denver Pioneers in an exciting 5 sets Friday night (24-26, 22-25, 25-21, 25-18, 15-13) and disposing of North Texas, sweeping the Mean Green in 3 sets on Sunday afternoon (25-18, 25-17, 25-20).

#### FIU 3, DENVER 2

It was looking bleak for FIU early in a 5 set marathon win vs. Denver Friday night (24-26, 22-25, 25-21, 25-18, 15-13). Denver hadn't lost in nearly a month and was in control of the match early, winning two sets to none. FIU held a 24-21 first set lead until Denver strung together 5 straight points to take the set 26-21. Denver edged FIU 25-22 in the second set, controlling the set and trailed to FIU only once, 1-0. The last time FIU was down 2-0, they were swept at Iowa State.

In the third set, FIU led 23-18 until Denver fought back to make it 23-21. FIU called a timeout in an effort to avoid being swept by giving up their second late set lead of the match. Isadora Rangel won the next two points and FIU took the set 25-21.

FIU dominated in the fourth set, and led 21-18 late. Yarimar Rosa served the next four points to help FIU tie the match at 2 sets a piece with a momentum shifting 25-18 victory.

The Golden Panthers improved to 3-1 in five set matches

this year with a 15-13 5th set clincher. With FIU up 14-13, Denver committed one of their eight service errors of the match to give FIU the set and match.

"When we were in the locker room [after the second set] we knew we couldn't lose our first home game", All-American Outside Hitter Yarimar Rosa said. "I think after coach talked to us, everyone changed their attitude." Rosa, leading the nation in kills per set, notched a season high 33 kills hitting an excellent .452. Rosa added solid defense with 16 digs. Outside hitter Isadora Rangel committed one error and added 21 kills, hitting .408. Setter Natalia Valentin set a career-high with 64 assists and added 13 digs on defense.

"We turned it up in the third set," Head Coach Danijela Tomic said. "I told the team in the locker room 'we are playing for the Sun Belt Championship'. I'm just very proud of them. They are such a young team and to be able to come back after losing the first two sets says a lot of about the character of our kids."

#### FIU 3, NORTH TEXAS 0

FIU won via sweep for the 9th time this season, taking care of North Texas in sets (25-18, 25-17, 25-20). FIU led for most of the match; with North Texas taking the lead just once, and tying the match twice. FIU wasn't the sharpest on the offensive end, but a strong defense



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

propelled them to victory. FIU collected 18 blocks, including freshman Sabrina Gonzalez contributing 6. Outside Hitter Yarimar Rosa contributed 17 kills on offense, with Setter Natalia Valentin adding 29 assists and four aces.

FIU dominated the first set and led 24-18, and Freshman Andrea Lakovic scored the clincher with one of her 3 kills.

In the second set, North Texas pulled within 2 at 8-6. The Mean Green couldn't close in, and FIU took the match 25-18.

The third set provided the most efficient play from both squads. FIU hit a .367; their best of the afternoon, and North Texas hit .280. FIU led for the entirety of the third set, and won 25-20.

**ROLLING ALONG:** Mariana Drumeva, the lone senior starter for the Golden Panthers, has had an excellent defensive season.

## A tale of two games: Volleyball continuing to mature

The FIU volleyball team has put the Sun Belt Conference on notice, going 3-1 over the last two weekends, and improving to 15-4 overall and 5-1 in league play.

Taking the focus off the wins, and placing it on the how, some interesting questions arise, and projects an interesting dichotomy is projected on the volleyball court.

On the Friday hand (vs. Denver), you have a team that started sloppy, but was able to play a close

opening two sets, despite the fact that FIU held a hitting percentage average over the Denver Pioneers. FIU was still able to come up with a thrilling five set win over a previously unbeaten conference opponent in a match that could hardly be described as anything but epic.

On the Sunday hand (vs. North Texas), the Golden Panthers picked up a sweep of SBC west cellar dweller North Texas, but in an uninspiring fashion.

FIU allowed a season best, .054 hitting percentage and 12 team blocks, but was not satisfied with its defensive performance. "Every time we play a team not on [our] level, we seem to go down [to their level]" said FIU setter Natalia Valentin.

The let down that Danijela Tomic looked to avoid after the five set Western Kentucky win came to pass, but her team was able to find a way to defend its home court for the seventh time in as many tries this season.

I mentioned earlier in the season that it takes time for young teams to learn how to

win, when the Golden Panthers won their first five set match of the season, over Old Dominion. Now the Golden Panthers, who are 3-1 in five setters this year, are hitting that point in the season where sophomores become juniors and juniors become seniors.

Maturity is setting in for the Golden Panthers, and it can be seen in the two ways seen this previous weekend, and those manners were far different, first fighting through a slow start to rally in a marathon win over WKU, and finding the energy to make short work of UNT.

#### COMMENTARY



ANDREW JULIAN