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# The Beacon, October 29, 2008

Florida International University

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# OPPOSING VIEWS

## Same-sex marriage amendment heightens controversy

**SERGIO BONILLA**  
Asst. News Director

Two polarized sides on same-sex marriage engaged in a series of verbal exchanges at the Rafael Diaz Balart Hall Auditorium on Oct. 26. The Stonewall Legal Alliance of the College of Law and Law Student Organizations organized the Amendment 2 debate and scheduled representatives for each side.

Amendment 2 is a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage on the Nov. 4 ballot. Those voting "yes" on it choose to uphold the act while those voting "no" elect to abolish the proposition to keep same-sex couples from wedding.

Urging Floridians to vote yes on the amendment were Margie Phelps and Shirley Phelps-Roper of the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan. Law Professor Jose Gabilondo represented the opposite side and stated reasons why same-sex marriage should not be banned.

Gabilondo gave two 10-minute presentations while the Phelps sisters had one 10-minute speaking interval



JOSEPH KOSANKE /THE BEACON

**EXTENDING THE WORD:** Law Professor Jose Gabilondo argues against Amendment 2 on Oct. 25.

each.

Gabilondo spoke first about the subtle meaning behind the proposition.

"Amendment 2 is a social signal,"

Gabilondo said. "It sends a message with two underlying points. One, there is something inferior, objectionable, immoral, wrong, dangerous, undeserving about being gay.

Two, heterosexuality is better, worthy of normative protection."

Although they had to split their time, the Westboro Baptist Church representatives sparked the most

gasping reactions from the audience.

"In order to be designated a protective class, you must have historically been discriminated against on the basis of an immutable attribute, not grotesque sex acts which you happily disclose and talk about all over the public airwaves. Just shut up about it, and you won't have to worry about being mistreated over it," Phelps said.

The Westboro Baptist Church is monitored by the Anti-Defamation League and is considered a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

During his segment, Gabilondo wanted to make it clear to the audience that Amendment 2 is an anti-gay initiative. Both opponents and supporters have reason to deny that the proposition is against homosexuals. Gabilondo stated that some of the amendment's language is vague and could negatively affect some heterosexual unwed couples as well.

"If you can't get heterosexuals to care about a minority for the sake of

**AMENDMENT, page 3**

## Student assault investigation taken to the State

**DAVID A. BARRIOS**  
Staff Writer

An Athletics and Public Safety internal investigation involving an Athletics employee striking a student during the last home game has ended.

The results of the investigation have been turned over to the State Attorney's office. Neither departments will release the name of the employee.

"University human relations procedures preclude us from commenting any further on this matter," said Athletic Director Pete Garcia, in a statement released to *The Beacon*.

Multiple attempts for comment from Athletics were declined. The department refuses to state what information they turned over to the State Attorney's office.

Gregory Mineau, 21, was tackled and arrested on the night of Oct. 11 after rushing onto the football field follow-

ing the 31-21 victory against Middle Tennessee University. He was charged with displaying disorderly conduct, resisting arrest without violence and trespassing after being warned.

Mineau alleged that an Athletics employee hit him behind the head as he ran onto the field.

"I was then taken down by a [Contemporary Services Corporation] employee and a couple of people tackled me from behind, which I assumed were policemen at the time. They took me to the ground. As I was lying on the ground, I felt two hits to the back of my head," Mineau said in an interview with *The Beacon* two weeks ago.

CSC is the company in charge of crowd control and security at FIU events.

Mineau was unavailable for comment about the recent developments.

A video posted on Student Media's Web site, *fiusm.com*, shows the incident in its

**What was once an internal investigation ... is now being investigated by the State. It could result in charges for the employee.**

Ricardo Torres, Lieutenant Public Safety

entirety.

Public Safety would only say that it gave their conclusions on the incident to the State Attorney's office.

"The whole investigation as far as involvement between the student and the Athletics employee was submitted to the State Attorney's office," said Bill King, chief of Public Safety. "After it is reviewed, we can give a further and definitive statement about the incident."

The investigation is not completely over, however.

"What was once an internal investigation involving Public Safety and Athletics is now being investigated by the State. It could result in charges for the employee," said Lieutenant Ricardo Torres, who headed the investigation, to the local NBC News affiliate.

"I can't go into details of what the employee admitted to, but the video shows what took place," Torres said.

Some feel the incident should be remembered to prevent recurrences.

"It was an unfortunate incident overall. We should move on in the right direction. I think people should know and have more awareness as to the rules at football games to avoid another incident like that one," said Jean Roseme, Student Government Association speaker of the Senate.

Mineau is set for arraignment on Nov. 19 at 9:30 a.m. in a Miami Beach courtroom.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**TAKING IT BACK:** Cornerback Anthony Gaitor intercepts a pass during the Middle Tennessee State University on Oct. 11



# Professor talks about Obama's worldwide impact

**ELSIE PUIG**  
Staff Writer

The Wertheim Performing Arts Center became, for a night, a backdrop to recreate the British West Indies and celebrate the African Diaspora.

While talking of the possibilities and doubts inherent in electing an African-American president, regulars of the African and African Diaspora Studies lecture series mingled, listened to calypso music and ate curry, jerk buffalo wings and roti.

The event was the tenth annual Eric E. Williams Memorial Lecture as part of the Distinguished Africana Scholars Lecture Series, held on Friday, Oct. 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Arnold Rampersad, a distinguished historian and the Sara Hart Kimball Professor Emeritus in the Humanities at Stanford University, hosted the event. His presentation was titled "The Challenge of Leadership in America: Race, History, and the Emergence of Barack Obama."

Before Rampersad was introduced, the audience was greeted by the Honorary Gerard Greene, consul general of Trinidad and Tobago

who gave a brief mention of the importance of the election to the rest of the world.

"The American elections are being discussed as rigorously in Trinidad, even if we don't vote," Greene pointed out before giving the stage to Heather Russell, assistant professor of English, who introduced Rampersad.

"How America treats African-Americans is ultimately how America sees itself," said Rampersad, who aimed to place what he calls the "Obama Phenomenon" in a historical context.

He traced the steps taken by prominent African-Americans in sports, music, literature, cinema, media and business to explain how a "fundamental change in American society has allowed a mainly rural, mainly white nation to embrace and support Obama in such great numbers."

The "Obama Phenomenon" was not an isolated achievement by the presidential hopeful, he explained, but the result of the confidence generated by black pride that has allowed an African-American to position himself in the national stage.

"By tracing the steps

## LET'S DO THE TIMEWARP



WEN-JU CHEN/THE BEACON

**SCARY STUFF:** FIU theater students perform the Halloween classic, "Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Friday Oct 24 in Deuxieme Maison 150.

from slavery to this auspicious moment, I have shown a disconnect between the white America I know and the America on the brink of choosing a black man as president," Rampersad said.

"It is also important to give great credit to the shrewdness of America as a whole," he said. "And to have the farsightedness to see through color."

After the lecture, a short Q&A regarding race, especially "white America," took place.

"Race is a deterministic factor and the past does weigh heavily. Why do you think so many people find it intriguing?" said Christopher Daly, a senior majoring in political science.

"In a sense, Barack Obama is being used by the U.S. to gain a favorable light in the international stage, to the

detriment of working class blacks whose voices will get drowned out," Daly said.

His concern lies heavily on the image of Obama as an elitist funded by contributions from whites. Some of those in attendance, however, saw it as a drastic change in American and international politics.

"I can tell you this much, if Obama is elected president, the world's perception of the U.S. will change drastically, but I would not vote for him if he were a conservative black man," said Iver Newton, a Broward accountant who has attended the lecture ever since its inception 10 years ago.

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## NEWS FLASH

FIU

## New dean of undergraduate education appointed

The new dean of undergraduate education, Dr. Douglas Reimond Robertson, was appointed by Provost Ronald M. Berkman. Robertson is currently the assistant provost at North Kentucky University. The position was previously held by Dr. Rosa Jones, who served as the president of Student Affairs and the dean of Undergraduate Education, simultaneously.

"We are grateful for her service and commitment to FIU," Berkman said in a memorandum sent to the University community. "Vice President Jones will continue as vice president for Student Affairs."

Dr. Robertson is the senior editor of a book series on college teaching published by New Forums Press. Also, he is the Editor of Thriving in Academe, the college teaching section in the National Education Association's Higher Education Advocate.

He will officially assume the duties as the dean of undergraduate education on Dec. 1.

## School of Nursing takes the 'LEED'

The new College of Nursing & Health Science building has been officially LEED registered by projected leaders and college officials. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a third-party certification and the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of sustainable green building and developmental practices.

"Last year I, on behalf of the entire FIU community, made a public commitment to continue on a path of environmentally responsible and sustainable development," said University President Modesto A. Maidique in a press release.

All the steps necessary in order to become LEED certified are being taken. If the CHS building is approved, it will be the first LEED-certified building in the University's history.

- Compiled by Sergio Bonilla

# Amendment 2 debate shifts to moral squabble

## AMENDMENT, page 1

the minority, then maybe you have to appeal to their interests," Gabilondo said. "Maybe you have to say, 'Even though you may not like gay people, this might affect you.'"

He said that the moderate gay rights obtained in the past have been through resistance and opposition, not appealing.

Some students were displeased that the debate intended to inform people about Amendment 2 became a discussion on whether homosexuality should be acceptable in society.

Toward the end of her discussion, Margie Phelps dismissed the SPLC for labeling her church as a hate group.

Vice President of the Stonewall Legal Alliance Rodney Montoya said the organization invited several other more moderate groups to attend, yet they all declined. Phelps and Phelps-Roper were the most willing to speak at the event, according to Montoya.

"We tried to reach out to more moderate groups like the Christian Family Coalition," Montoya said.

Senior Amanda Cornell was left disappointed with the speakers supporting Amendment 2.

"I respect their opinion. It's just horrible that they can't accept other people that are just different than them," Cornell said about the sisters.

President of the Stonewall Alliance at Biscayne Bay Campus Danny Gomez did not feel the debate

## Amendments to the Constitution

**Amendment 1:** A somewhat ceremonial amendment that would retract WWII-era language from the Constitution that authorizes the state to prevent "aliens ineligible from obtaining citizenship" from owning property. This amendment would not actually have any affect on Florida law, since no legislation was ever enacted under the original amendment.

**Amendment 2:** It will change the language in Florida's constitution to define marriage as the legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife, with no other legal union being valid or recognized. Gay marriage is already prohibited under state statute, but this amendment would make it more difficult to overturn the law, such as through a court ruling.

**Amendment 3:** Would disallow certain home improvements from being assessed as property value for tax purposes. Some of these improvements include changes which increase resistance to wind damage and the installation of renewable energy source devices. It essentially amounts to a tax break for those who install "green" improvements to their home.

**Amendment 4:** Will "provide property tax exemption for perpetually conserved land." This means that if a Florida resident already owns or purchases a plot of land and chooses not to develop it, then they will receive a tax exemption. This would encourage conservation and help combat overdevelopment.

**Amendment 6:** "Bases tax assessment of waterfront property on current use." This means that a marina or crabs shack would be assessed accordingly based on its use. This comes as marina owners and the like face diminished access to the waterfront as they lose the ability to resist developers of high-rises and condominiums. The way the tax is assessed currently; these owners have often had to sell their properties.

**Amendment 8:** Authorizes counties to levy an increased sales tax to help fund community colleges. - *Compiled by Lee Damesous and Eric Feldman*

focused enough on Amendment 2.

"It bothered me that they didn't talk about Amendment 2. And the fact that they were lawyers was superfluous," Gomez said.

Both sides got a chance to explain

why voters should uphold or abolish the proposition, but Gabilondo also hoped the debate would have been more politically oriented.

"I hoped that we would discuss issues and not people," he said.

## DILIGENTLY WATCHING



WEN-JUN CHEN/THE BEACON

**ALL WORK:** Marc Delara, a biology major, and Hassel Rojas, a chemistry and biology major, work on an online class while eating in GC.

## HPV FACTS: #9

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## Reading series showcases renowned authors, poets

**SHERVIN BAIN**  
BBC Recruitment Editor

Dishwasher, receptionist, education activist, theater director and author, Alison Smith is making her way to FIU to read from her memoir "Name All the Animals."

Smith, who was also a newspaper reporter and teacher, is the featured guest for the Barnes and Noble Writers on the Bay reading series, which will take place in the Biscayne Bay Campus bookstore at 8 p.m. on Oct. 30.

"No writer I know has written as realistically, and as meaningfully about grief and about faith as Alison Smith," said Dan Wakefield, writer in residence in the Creative Writing Program, and author of "Returning: A Spiritual Journey."

"Name All the Animals," a memoir published in 2005, is based on Smith's life and gives insight to the death of her brother, the rift between her and her parents and the struggles she endured at her Catholic school as an outcast involved in a lesbian romance.

As a result of her achievements

as an author, Smith was awarded the 2004 Barnes & Noble Discover Award, the 2005 Judy Grahn Prize for nonfiction and a 2007 Lambda Literary Award.

The Creative Writing Program, which is part of the English department, oversees the series and is hosting the event to make well known and exciting authors available to creative writing students, to the University community and to the surrounding community at large, according to department Director Les Standiford.

"[It's] to let students and interested community members have the chance to meet, listen to, talk with and ask questions of noted contemporary authors," Standiford said.

The Barnes & Noble Writers on the Bay reading series is possible thanks to a grant the Creative Writing Program received from Barnes & Noble.

Barnes and Noble made a grant of \$350,000 to support various activities of the Creative Writing program.

The last installment of the gift

was paid in 2008, according to Standiford.

"We are proud and honored that Barnes & Noble has chosen to support the work of the Creative Writing Program in supporting the efforts of developing writers, and thus, by extension, reading and literacy in our community," Standiford said.

The event will give students and faculty the opportunity to mingle with each other, as well as with Smith.

"It gives writers the chance to meet the authors and other writers. They can network that way," said Marta Lee, senior secretary of the English department.

Attendees will also receive complimentary refreshments, and will have the chance to ask the author questions about her book and her journey on becoming a published author.

The Barnes and Noble Writers on the Bay reading series is free and open to the public, and is tailored to those interested in books, reading and contemporary literature, according to Standiford.

The next lecture in the series

### ALTERNATIVE WINE STYLES



NATHAN VALENTINE/THE BEACON

**GRAPE-LESS WINE:** Mike McCabe, director of sales at Schnebly Winery, sets up a presentation for the Circle of Friends of Biscayne Bay club meeting Oct. 27.

will take place Dec. 4, and will feature Robert Wrigley and his collection of poetry. The time and location are yet to be determined.

"Here is a chance to see that great literature is produced by living, breathing, interesting people," Standiford said.

## Voter education fair informs about the real issues

**DAIANA KUCAWCA**  
Staff Writer

In its efforts to promote early voting, or voting at all, the Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus and BBC Campus Life will be holding a voter education fair.

"BBC Rocks the Vote" will take place Oct. 29 in Panther Square in the Wolfe University Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be free pizza and drinks for rally participants.

While the event was originally set to take place Oct. 15, SGC-BBC decided to move the event.

"[They] needed more time to

solidify organizational [efforts] to get political parties to come," said Natalie Cohen, marketing specialist for SGC-BBC.

As an additional incentive, a complimentary shuttle bus will be provided from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. to take people from BBC to the North Miami Public Library for early voting.

"The event is a rally to provide education to people on candidates, amendments and additional info on the ballot," Cohen said.

SGC-BBC has no political affiliation with any party or voter registration group, and is "not allowed to be

partisan," Cohen said.

The event is not related to the now famous "Rock the Vote" national campaign, despite the similarity in the two campaign names.

"I understand the confusion, but this is the 'BBC Rocks the Vote Event,'" Cohen said.

The event is free and open to the public, and because of the close proximity of several voting precincts to BBC, people from Aventura and North Miami with transportation difficulties are encouraged to take the shuttle bus.

"The event is meant to target students, but anyone can come," said

Craig Cunningham, director of the Division of Student Affairs at BBC.

The "BBC Rocks the Vote" fair will also include possible "political and/or celebrity appearances," according to an SGC-BBC flyer.

Stonewall BBC, the League of Women Voters, Federal Jack, Florida Red and Blue, NAACP and College Democrats have confirmed their appearance.

Though SGC-BBC doesn't have any other confirmed appearances, groups from any political persuasion are encouraged to participate," according to Cunningham

The voter registration deadline

has already passed in Florida, but the early voting window is still open through Nov. 2, according to [www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com).

Not all voting sites are open before the general election on Nov. 4. Potential voters need to be aware of their nearest voting sites, especially for early voting.

To find your local early voting site and become educated on the Florida Ballot, visit <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/>.

"Because there's so much interest in this election, there will be long lines, so we encourage early voting," Cunningham said.

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# Carnival gift to result in new student center

**MONIQUE TAVARES**  
Contributing Writer

Carnival Cruise Lines and the School of Hospitality Management have come together in a venture, which according to a proposal made by the School to Carnival, will help the School meet the challenges of the new millennium.

The company awarded the School a \$900,000 grant, which is matched with \$700,000 from the state of Florida.

This gift will be used toward the creation of a student center and additional scholarships, according to Jessica Siskind, director of development for the School of Hospitality Management.

"The student center will be a place that will meet some of the needs of the students," Siskind said. "Since so many of our students live off campus, having a formal and informal gathering place is essential to developing a collegial and professional atmosphere for growth and development."

The center, which will be named The Carnival Student Center, will feature meeting rooms to be used by student organizations, an advising office, a resource room and a space for special projects. It will be 2,600 square-feet, overlooking the bay.

The new student center is estimated to be open by the end of 2009, according to Interim

Assistant Dean Mohammad A. Qureshi.

"It was Dean [Joseph] West who felt that there was a need for students to be able to gather, socialize, have computer access and hold meetings all in one place," said Qureshi, who is also in charge of facilities. "With this gift, we will be able to renovate and upgrade our resources."

The Carnival Scholarship Endowment fund was created to help the School recruit and educate the best students in the industry, according to Siskind.

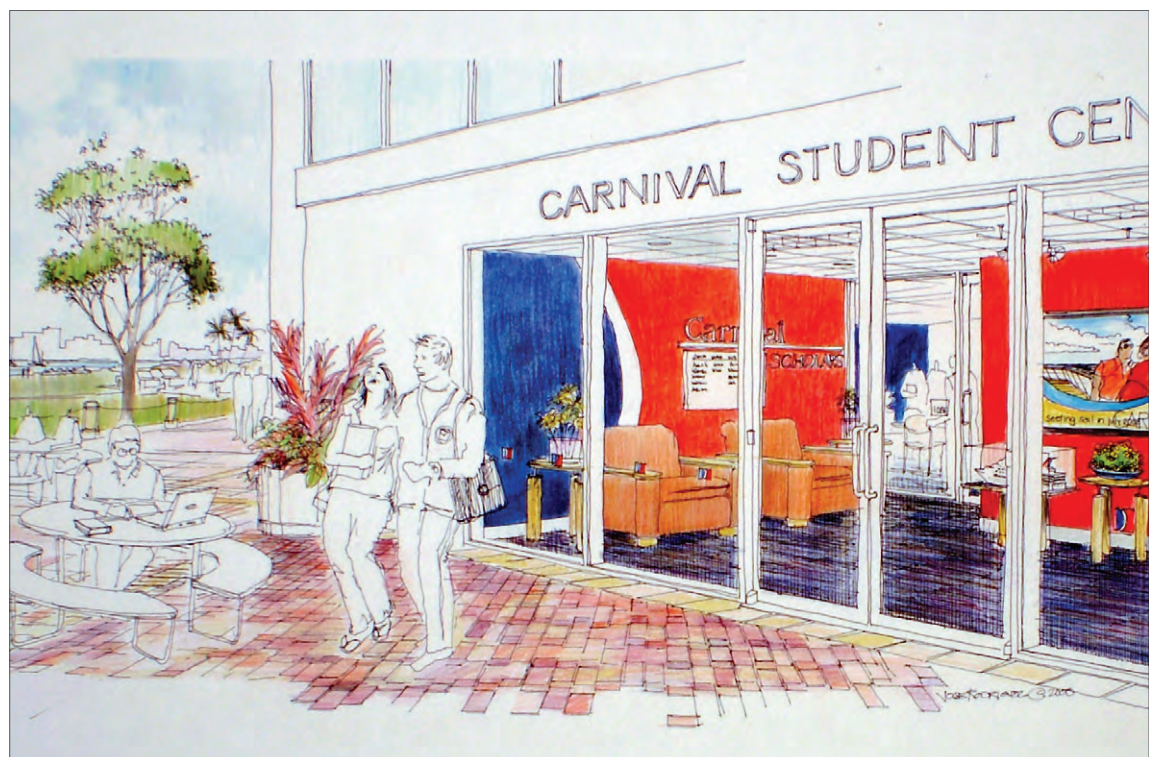
"It will provide outstanding students with a high-quality college education at a reasonable cost," Siskind said.

The scholarships will be available to undergraduate and graduate students who show outstanding academic performance and a passion for the industry of hospitality and tourism, according to the proposal written to Carnival.

The School is one of the best in its class, with a 100 percent placement rate for graduates according to its Web site. It has also been named a "Program of Distinction" by the former Florida Board of Regents, and four faculty members were recognized among the "85 Most Prolific Authors."

Students and faculty of the School are appreciative of the award and what it will bring to the program.

"It was my first time to hear this news, and we are grateful



PROVIDED BY JESSICA SISKIND

**STUDENT LOUNGE:** The plans for the new Carnival Student Center are underway, including the drawings of what the actual facility will look like.

for the money," said Yumi Yokoi, a junior majoring in hospitality management.

The School and Carnival have a long-standing partnership, and

several School of Hospitality Management alumni are currently employed by the cruise line.

There will be a reception Oct. 30 to celebrate the grant, held at

the Reagan House at University Park. It will be hosted by University President Modesto A. Maidique and his wife, as well as Dean Joseph J. West.

# Hospitality Management law professor dies at 81

**PAMELA DUQUE**  
Assistant News Director

Elio C. Bellucci, J.D., a naval veteran of World War II and professor of law at the School of Hospitality Management, died Oct. 22.

Dr. Bellucci, who suffered from diabetes, had been in intensive care for the last three weeks, but lost the battle from complications at the age of 81.

"He was a wonderful man. If we had more people like him in this world, this would be a better place," said Steven Moll, associate professor in the School of Hospitality Management.

Bellucci came to the University 25 years ago, according to Moll, and was introduced to the University by Anthony G. Marshall, former dean of the School, and since then got involved in several activities.

He was a seminar leader, a lecturer, author and nationally recognized expert on laws that apply to the hospitality industry, according to the School of Hospitality Management Web site.

He served three terms as member of the University's Faculty Senate, and was a member of the University's Provost's Council of 51 as the representative of the School of Hospitality Management and of

the University Graduate Council.

He was also the Faculty Assembly Committee president.

Bellucci founded the International Food Service Executive Association Chapters at both the Biscayne Bay and Pembroke Pines campuses, and was a faculty adviser to the FIU Student Chapter of the National Association of Catering Executives.

He also helped international students get informed about their rights while being in the United States, by conducting seminars at the beginning of each semester.

"He had a passion for communicating to students what he knew. He never met a student that he didn't love. He was an advocate for them,"

Moll said. "Even when he was sick, he would ask for a wheelchair so he could teach."

Bellucci also established the Elio C. Bellucci Scholarship Fund, which according to the school's Web site, donates royalties from some of his publications from journals he used to write for to needy students.

These journals include the New Jersey Beverage Journal, the Indiana Beverage Journal and the Illinois Beverage Journal.

In his passing, he left his wife, Mary, two daughters, three grandchildren and two great grand daughters.

Bellucci will be buried in his home state of Massachusetts.



BELLUCCI

HPV FACTS:

#9

CONDOMS MAY NOT FULLY PROTECT AGAINST IT

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## SUNSHINE CHIC

### Despite the heat, winter wear should still be cool

**KISHORE SAWH**  
Staff Writer

Halloween is right around the corner, so naturally we've skipped Thanksgiving décor and Christmas decorations are up; the leaves are a kaleidoscope of brilliant autumnal hues and the air is so crisp and cool you could snap it like a cucumber. It must be October.

But we're in Miami. And it's hot. Still so oppressively hot in fact, that the crickets can't be bothered to sing and you and I will hide even under a blade of grass for the minutest reprieve.

The foliage here is more of a green wash, and the air shares more of a likeness to a damp towel than a cool vegetable.

But there is evidence to support that I'm wrong.

I've noticed in South Beach, where unfortunately I spend a great deal of time, as soon as Sept. 21 hits and summer is officially declared over, people start to wear pieces from what seem to be part of an Inuit's wardrobe.

I'm talking turtlenecks, down jackets, boots with the furrrrr. The lot.

At first, when I moved from Toronto I thought these people were off-the-reservation-mad, but now I've grown accustomed to it all, and, frankly, I like it. This part of the country is seasonless and there are a lot of people who dress as such, which is about as exciting as beige paint.

It's neutral and goes with anything, but it screams, "I have no imagination."

Now I'm not suggesting that you wear your underwear on the outside, nor am I condoning fashion fads that will cause you to burn pictures of yourself a few years down the line.

But for heaven's sake, have some sense of style so we all don't look like we were cut out of some cookie cutter mold.

This matter of style is something I recently tried to explain to a guest where I work.

His mentality made me believe much of it has to do with age; he has a problem with most young fashions like spiked hair, slim jeans, pants with no pleats and anything urban.

And like most people who complain about style, he had none, so it boiled down to this: Gore Vidal once said, "Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say and not giving a damn."

I think this idea is often lost. For me it's not so much a question of "what is style," as it is what is it made of.

Style – the most elusive of qualities cannot be fabricated because it can't be entirely quantified. It's an anthology of traits, a whisky of many spirits.

Trying to wage this to a person whose closet is made entirely by that famous duo Poly & Ester, is as pointless as trying to rationalize even wearing clothes to a dog. So I let it go, as

I let him go out the door with his cell attached to his belt.

Mind you, I think there are boundaries and that one should know the rules before you set out to break them, like this wristband fad or beanies.

Last time I was in the airport or anywhere else for that matter, I've noticed for ages now that dangling just below the hips of travelers was a rainbow of colors.

It seems everyone has wristbands for a cause, even if just to promote "Pedro for President."

They've metastasized like the cancers they are meant to help cure.

At first it was cool and for a good cause when no one else had a bright yellow wristband, and some exclusivity never hurt ... but now there are ones for everything, from Katrina relief to Napoleon Dynamite sayings.

I can't stand it.

I agree totally with author Tim Lott who said in regard to the phenomenon, "The more you start making a statement about virtue, you're not virtuous yourself."

So, by all means, buy a band to be a patron to a cause, but wear it now and you only endorse yourself.

And as far as the beanies are concerned, they're ski hats without the tassel.

These beanies or skull caps or whatever they're called now cover the

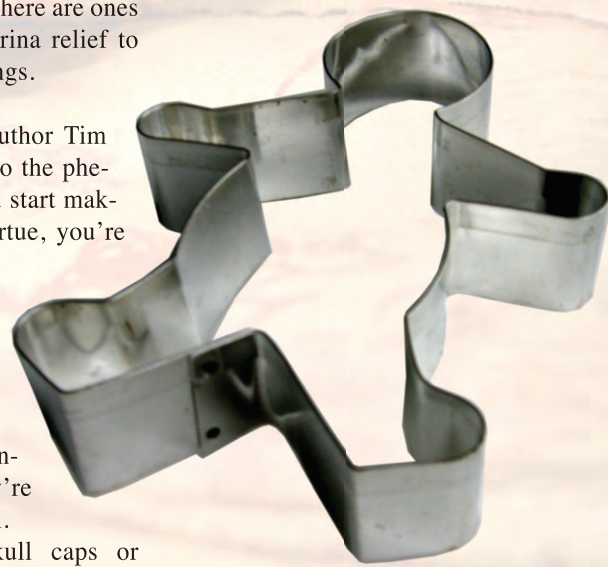
heads of the preppy guys in desperate need of street cred everywhere.

I mean, just as I was leaving work this week, I saw a group of guys wearing them outside in the dead heat.

In the Jazz heyday these were worn by the likes of Miles Davis and company and were a groovy bit of Bohemian flair – symbolic even – of genius just barely tamed. Now you have everyone from Bruce Willis to Justin Timberlake doing it.

It is time for individuality. Let's break the monotony and do it with style.

Oh, and haven't you heard, Justin? Your ghetto pass has been revoked!



## Even in the midst of crisis, students can beat stress

**ODETTE BARRIENTOS**  
Staff Writer

The economic situation we are facing is leading us to make numerous, dangerous cuts. We are following a pattern where health insurance is too pricey to keep it a priority in our budgets. Over the last few years, more Americans have become uninsured or underinsured.

Statistics from an August 2008 report from the Commonwealth Fund Biennial Health Insurance Survey show that in 2007, approximately two-thirds of U.S. adults struggled to pay medical bills. Among adults with chronic health problems, more than 60 percent who were uninsured during that year and 46 percent who were underinsured reported cutting back on medications because of the cost.

In 2005, 58 million of working-age adults reported having medical debt or problems paying medical bills, according to the Commonwealth Fund report. In 2007, the number increased to an alarming 72 million. In addition, 16 million people were underinsured in 2003. In 2007, 25 million were underinsured.

The patterns are beyond alarming. At the rate of these recent figures, it appears as though things could only worsen.

Personal care and health has been taken off the priority list due to the difficult circumstances

many American families face today. Families with low and moderate incomes are affected the most, and young adults and children are feeling the effects of this gloomy time. The stresses imposed upon these households are also threatening to learning environments.

Even the simple fear of losing one's job is troubling enough to endanger someone.

Based on 17 years of Pennsylvania unem-

ployment records, research suggests that employees affected by a mass layoff at a plant were 15 percent more likely to die of any cause over the next 20 years. Experts blame the aftermath of events and emotions that come after a layoff, including the loss of health insurance, according to the Aug. 11 issue of *Newsweek*.

There are ways for us as students to make

sure that our health is kept in check, even during these tumultuous times. Luckily for us, some resources are available to us right here on campus – and we do not need insurance for access.

As long as you are a registered student, the University Counseling and Psychological Services Center offers its services for free. These services include individual and group counsel-

*“Some of us have direct contact with our family on a daily basis. We are directly affected when our family faces these financial disturbances and economic troubles.”*

ing. There are locations at both University Park and Biscayne Bay, with walk-in hours and appointments.

We face a number of stressors every day that we cannot control; counseling, in turn, can help alleviate them.

“The factors that cause stress are universal; in fact, there's a thing called the Student Stress

Scale that lists a certain event and rates the impact of that event – being fired from a job, having financial problems, relationship problems, etc.,” said Dr. George Shepard, assistant director of Counseling & Psychological Services Center. “All of these things cause students to be stressed.”

Even though our school is primarily a commuter school, many students probably still live at home with parents. Some of us have direct contact with our family on a daily basis. We are directly affected when our family faces these financial disturbances and economic troubles.

“A lot of students definitely worry about their parents as well. Parents are helping them pay for college so they do feel bad about their problem; it affects everyone in their community,” Shepard said.

But there are other options besides counseling.

“Exercise is always a good thing to do, and it's available for free; yoga, meditation, eating, getting enough sleep also helps. Reach out to other people for support, counseling – here, or through your own health insurance. Come in and get some help,” Shepard said.

Things that do not seem to directly affect you probably do affect you more than you can imagine. As threatening as it is, this dark chapter in history should not take a toll on your life.



# TRAVEL

## at an affordable price

### A little extra planning saves a lot of money, makes your vacation dreams possible

Don't let the current economic crisis discourage you from fulfilling your travel goals.

Here are some tips to follow if you're still looking to travel this semester and wish to do so on a budget. You can find information online on how to travel cheap, but the University also offers ways to see the world while learning and traveling at the same time.

#### WHEN TO TRAVEL

You won't get the best deal by booking at the last minute. Getting the cheapest possible fare depends on your trip's timing, how far ahead you plan, how long you stay at your destination and how flexible you can be on days and hours of your travel.

Travelers have a better chance of finding a cheaper fare if they avoid peak hours of travel, such as early morning and late afternoon. Midday departures and red-eye flights are often cheaper.

Try departing midweek, on a Wednesday or Thursday, and return on a Monday or Tuesday.

#### CHOOSING YOUR AIRLINE

Some airlines list discounted trips each Wednesday for the following weekend. Airlines will also run frequent specials on their Web sites. *Priceline.com* seems to be very helpful. It lets the consumer bid for a flight and can come out with a surprisingly low rate. Another way to find low airfares is to choose a less crowded and less expensive airport to fly into or out of. The last piece of advise is to travel

when the tourist season is low. It is a great way to score reasonable prices.

#### WHERE TO STAY

In the United States, there are several camping sites in which the prices can start as low as \$8. In Central America, hotels are generally cheap all around. In Costa Rica, for example, you can find places to stay for \$5 to \$12 per night.

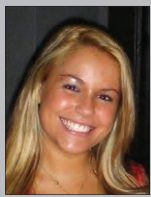
Stay away from tourist areas because prices are usually higher there. Instead, eat and sleep in a neighboring town and travel to your destination for sightseeing. Mexico has its bungalows or cabanas at low prices, in the \$30 to \$40 range if you stay in the smaller towns. It's best to commit to three days or a week at a hotel in order to get a better price.

Traveling in the off-season (July through Nov.) is always significantly cheaper than vacation months.

#### OTHER ALTERNATIVES

For students who want to kill two birds with one stone, there is always the possibility of signing up for a University study abroad program. The annual Study Abroad Fair is being held on Nov. 5 in the Graham Center Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to inform students on how to get involved in upcoming trips. Each year, approximately 500 University students participate in study abroad programs in over 20 different countries. The programs are open to both FIU and non-FIU students.

#### COMMENTARY



DIANA GARCIA



MARK KOVEN "A STONE'S THROW"/THE DORSCH GALLERY

## Concept art piece encourages participation

Stone throwing and Roman travesty: what a great way to spend a Friday evening.

There are two must-sees this week. At the Wynwood Art District, two galleries and two artists ironically and unknowingly link themselves in art history. Yet, literally and physically, they are just a stones throw away to each other.

Mark Koven, at the Dorsch Gallery, is a mid-career conceptual artist who enjoys creating works that engage people in

#### CRITIQUE CORNER



GENEVIEVE STEEL

social interactions that instigate pressure on them, forcing them to be themselves and then witnessing the consequences through his art.

Kahl Wilfert, at the Catalyst Gallery, is an emerging artist that selectively merges symbolic imagery in his paintings, depicting the past correlating to the historic present.

Successful art is work that is comprehensible, regardless of who you are, allowing you to digest the work, partake of a

STEEL, page 8

HPV FACTS: #9

AN ESTIMATED 8 OUT OF 10 WOMEN WILL GET HPV IN THEIR LIFETIME

HPV.COM





KAHL WILFERT "OATH"/CATALYST GALLERY

## Miami artist captures the masculine sensibility

STEEL, page 7

new idea, resurrect a memory or even an object.

At the Dorsch Gallery space, visitors add their contribution to an installation of 21 tons of sand. The featured Miami artist, Koven, creates a set of rules for the installation that forces participants to make decisions that mirror themselves and create consequences for their actions.

For example, in order to participate, you must make a stone, let it cure and give it up so you can move on to step two.

Another visitor will use the stone that you made. At step two, you choose to either skip it into the sea of sand leaving a trail or catapult it, instantly destroying what was created by another human being.

The term, "He who casts the first stone," has multiple moral, religious and political significances throughout history. Koven constructed a medieval style wooden catapult, which thrusts the stone into a wall, annihilating it. I chose to catapult mine, yet I felt bad afterward, like I missed out on being a part of the remaining installation left behind by other participants who chose the more peaceful and tranquil alternative of skipping.

"A Stone's Throw" reminds me of another successful artist who engages people of all walks of life in his work.

Felix Gonzalez Torres is known for works like "Placebo," in which he displays candies with wrappers in organized piles, in response to the AIDS epidemic, in which one out of three people diagnosed with HIV were given the placebo pill during early testing. Torres encouraged museum guards to interact with visitors and allow the visitors to take a piece of candy with them.

Much like Torres, the beauty of Koven's work is that you are a part of it and, that you leave something behind at the mercy of

another's discretion, or take something with you.

Fortunately, we are not in ancient Rome, where they threw stones as punishment.

However, Kahl Wilfert, my second artist pick of the week, who is represented at Catalyst Gallery, has depicted a very significant tale from Roman times.

In his painting, "Oath," Wilfert combines a group of Roman soldiers pledging themselves in front of a television. The entire painting has a background of news-

print propaganda which the artist plastered all over the canvas.

Wilfert, who is also a Miami artist, makes a bold reference to "The Oath of the Horatii," originally painted by the neoclassicist painter, Jacques-Louis David.

Wilfert exudes a sense of masculinity in all of his works, whether it addresses the drastic differences between female and male sexuality, or embraces how men are even objectified in our world today.

The magic of Wilfert's work is that in his abstract realism, he brings imagery that is appealing and presents it in such a way that you feel empathy and a connection with being a male and how, in current society, the commodity fetishes of our culture are constantly thrust upon men.

In all of Wilfert's work, two things remain consistent. He uses a newspaper background and he depicts flesh of a figure as having repetitive swirling in a variety of flesh tones. These swirls add a context of imperfection and emotion and, to the artist, this technique makes them "more human," resisting photorealism which is very similar to neoclassicism.

In "Oath," conceptually working with the issues of repetitive history, Wilfert juxtaposes two eras in art that oppose each other, Neo-classicism and the Baroque Era.

### MY LIFE! EXPERIENCE

## Recounting the passing of an influential loved one

I said bye to my grandmother for the last time this summer.

She'd been dying for quite a while — five years perhaps — from a cancer that was as persistent and determined as the woman it was slowly killing.

For my family and her neighbors, she was the anchor we all held on to, that wise voice we all sought to hear.

I never felt more overwhelmed than during her wake.

I remember more than a hundred people piled in her small house, lining the walls, overflowing onto the street where they sat in the piercing cold of El Callao, the main Peruvian seaport, at two in the morning.

I remember the final time she left the house she was born into. The coffin was held high by six black men, purebred chalcos born and raised in the port and, just as she exited, the sun broke through the piercing gray winter and shined down on her coffin as it passed through a thick curtain of multicolored rose petals that fell from the porch above.

I remember the exact moment of her death.

She spent weeks in one of the state hospitals that had five people to every room. The rooms had no walls, no doors and a small corridor separated hers from another room where five more terminally ill women slept.

I found myself, six days after my arrival, standing in the cold looking through a small window at my mother gently lifting,

repositioning and comforting my *abuelita*. My mom just happened to look up and motioned me to come inside, even though only one visitor was allowed in at a time, but it was an early Friday afternoon and not many people were around. It was quiet.

I sat down to the right of her as my mom talked quietly to a nurse on her left. I held her hand.

And then she gasped, as if she was trying to bring us to attention, and when I turned to look at her, one tear slid down her cheek.

The nurse called her death about 10 minutes later but she faded so quietly that I'm still not sure if she hadn't already left us after her last tear fell.

For half an hour, she lay there, my mom crying quietly on top of her and me at the foot of her bed. The whole building seemed to stand still and it was peaceful. Two nurses approached and I overheard one whisper to the other and remark how calm we were.

Even four months later, I can remember all this vividly, but what I remember most is her standing in my kitchen during the long summer months when she'd come up to take care of my brothers and me.

With one hand on her hip, the other stirring *arroz con leche* (one of my brother's favorite desserts) with a wooden spoon, she stood statuesque, more than half a foot taller than my petite five-foot and one-inch.

She rose above the limitations of her

### MY LIFE! EXPERIENCE



DANIELLA BACIGALUPO

BACIGALUPO, page 9

## LOOK OUT BELOW



GIOVANNI GUADARAMA/THE BEACON

**A HELPING HAND:** Miami-Dade County fire rescue responders J. Muvdi and O. Fumero look down an elevator shaft at the elevator that is stuck between floors below them.



# Fearless, relentless relative leaves enduring legacy

BACIGALUPO, page 8

generation — a Latin American woman living in a seaport ghetto with a high school education — and opened her own business in the mid-nineties.

She was fearless, innovative, tough. She was passionate and had ambition and nothing ever stopped her from reaching her goals.

I can't imagine what she could have accomplished had she been born into the life I've led.

I once wrote for a college application

that one day I'd like to look back on my life knowing I'd done my best just like her. More than anything I want to make her proud.

To the very end, and even after the end, she keeps skillfully, gracefully, forcefully conducting the heartbeat of the family like Leonard Bernstein masterfully leading his orchestra through "Candide."

I know that from above she's watching all of us grow, and although I said bye to her for the last time this summer, I know she walks beside me every day ... sometimes I can even hear her laugh when I wake up in the morning.

## NINJA INVASION



GIOVANNI GUADARAMA/THE BEACON

**NOT SO SNEAKY:** Junior economics major Juan Schmidt receives a card from a MiamiInsider.com ninja in the walkway between Graham Center and the Green Library.

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 27

**WHAT:** Flu Athletics and SGA Present: Kickin it for the cure  
**WHERE:** FIU Soccer  
**WHEN:** 7 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** FIU Rotaract Club Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 150  
**WHEN:** 6:15 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** New Times Iron Fork  
**WHERE:** Miami Science Museum  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$ 25

**WHAT:** Music Saves Lives  
**WHERE:** GC 305  
**WHEN:** 12:30 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Spread the Word! Spoken Word! Auditions  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**WHEN:** 10 p.m.

**WHAT:** Panther Pal Movie  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

**WHAT:** Dance Marathon General Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 314  
**WHEN:** 6 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Panther Promotions General Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 340  
**WHEN:** 3:30 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Undergraduate Economics Association Movie Series  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**WHEN:** 2 p.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

### THURSDAY • OCTOBER 28

**WHAT:** "Give Til It Hurts" Blood Drive  
**WHERE:** In front of GC Bookstore and between Blue and Gold Garages  
**WHEN:** 11 a.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** FREE

**WHAT:** Phi Sigma Sigma Make A Difference Week  
**WHERE:** GC Pit  
**WHEN:** 8 a.m.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free

**WHAT:** Students for a free Tibet Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 305  
**WHEN:** 4 p.m.

**WHAT:** Interfraternity Council Greek Night  
**WHERE:** Gracie's Grill  
**WHEN:** 5 p.m.

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

**WHAT:** Service for Peace Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 340  
**WHEN:** 5 p.m.

**WHAT:** Caribbean Student Association Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 140  
**WHEN:** 5 p.m.

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

**WHAT:** National Society of Collegiate Scholars Meeting  
**WHERE:** GC 314  
**WHEN:** 5 p.m.

**WHAT:** Yoga Club Meditations  
**WHERE:** GC 241  
**WHEN:** 8 p.m.

Compiled By: Rosalyn Delgado

**HPV FACTS: #9**

THERE IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO  
 ASK AT THE CAMPUS HEALTH CENTER

HPV.COM

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## ANOTHER LATE RUN?



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**MORE MAGIC:** Last season the FIU men's soccer team sat at 2-9-2 through 13 games, the same record they'll carry into tonight's game vs. Tulsa. FIU reached the Conference USA finals last year, can Jabhari Willis find some more magic this year?

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Russo: 'I think the team overachieved last year'

**AUDRINA BIGOS**  
Staff Writer

Being eliminated in the quarterfinal action of the 2008 Sun Belt Conference Championships in March was the end to a season full of injuries for women's basketball.

The loss of three starters forced the Golden Panthers to play two of their hurt players in order to maintain momentum and put points on the board.

In the 57-52 loss in the quarterfinals, Iva Ciglar stepped up with a season-high of 21 points, while injured Monika Bosilj added 14.

"Considering the situation we were in, I think the team overachieved last year," said head coach Cindy Russo.

Prior to the start of the 2007 season, three starters graduated. "We started playing the girls that were taking over the starters' positions from the year before, and then we lost them as well," Russo said.

### RESTRUCTURING

After losing two leading scorers during the off season, the Golden Panthers are finding out where their scoring will come from.

The Golden Panthers recruited sophomore

point guard Michelle Gonzalez during the off-season. Gonzalez played at Cisco Junior College in Texas.

Junior Monika Bosilj returns from a shoulder injury incurred during the quarterfinal game. Bosilj was the second highest scorer last year behind senior Laquetta Ferguson.

Bosilj ranked second in points per game with 11.4, total rebounds, and total minutes.

Junior forward Marquita Adley is returning after a season-ending hand injury six games into last the season against the University of South Florida.

Leading the team with 220 rebounds last season, senior forward Jasmine Jenkins is expected to contribute to scoring and defense.

Jenkins started in 30 of the team's 31 games and averaged over 27 minutes per contest. She also led the conference in blocked shots.

Hungry?

As the Golden Panthers seek to rebuild their team, they are focusing on cohesiveness and drive.

"We are a much less experienced team than last year but this team is hungrier and their work ethic is stronger," said Russo.

After finishing the season 13-18, the team still has key components on the court that need improvement.

# Teams mostly in rebuilding mode for next few seasons

GRAU, page 8

playoff push.

The Dolphins still need a playmaker that can take it to the house on any play, a quarterback of the future (we still don't know what Chad Henne has to offer) and help in the secondary (remember the game against Arizona or Houston?).

**Trick or treat?** Will the Marlins make any major moves in the offseason?

**Treat?** They'll make moves alright, just not the moves you expect. Look for the Marlins to deal first baseman Mike Jacobs, Jeremy Hermedia, Scott Olsen and Kevin Gregg for what else but some young arms.

This will open the door for Jorge Cantu or prospect Gabby Sanchez to take over at first. This will also allow Dallas McPherson to show the organization he has something left in the tank.

In AAA, he hit 42 home runs while slugging .618 and having an OPS of .998. The only concern: 168 strike outs - and the Marlins don't need any more of that.

With young pitchers like Ryan Tucker, Chris Volstad and Andrew Miller waiting in the wings, the loss of Gregg and Olsen should be seamless. According to The Miami Herald, the Marlins will be increase their payroll from \$22 million to \$33 or \$35 million.

This will allow the retention of a lot of their young talent - 16 of which are arbitration-eligible.

Any starter the Marlins lose this season can be easily replaced since their farm system is deep with talent.

**Trick or treat?** Will the Heat make the playoffs?

**Trick:** With Pat the Rat operating behind the scenes, the Heat is not looking to make a push for title this year and the make up of the roster will be completely different by the end of the season.

Don't expect the team to be as bad as last season, but a playoff spot is out of the picture as of now, unless the Heat makes a blockbuster deal during the season. Although the Heat have a healthy Dwyane Wade and a scoring machine in Michael Beasley, they don't yet have a personality. Rookie head coach Erik Spoelstra says he wants the team to push the ball more this year, but they don't have the point guard to do that and the rebounding ability to start a break.

This team has no identity as of now, and for anyone who says this roster has the ingredients to produce another run like the 2003-2004, think again.

That team had post presence in Lamar Odom and point guard in Rafer Alston who could move the ball and penetrate at will.

The main objective will be to get the Heat as far under the cap by July 2010 so they can make a run at LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Dwyane Wade, Amare Stoudemire, Carlos Boozer, Tracy McGrady and Tyson Chandler who will be free agents that summer.

But the key is to keep Wade happy and I think the team can contend before he decides to jump ship during the same summer.

## PEAKING AT THE....



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**...RIGHT TIME:** The Golden Panthers have won four of their past five matches after going winless over their first 12. Now FIU will play in the Sun Belt tournament in Denton, TX, Nov. 4-9 following their season ending contest at FAU on Oct. 31

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# UNSTOPPABLE FORCE

## Volleyball continues to dominate SBC with road sweep



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

**ANDREW JULIAN**  
 Sports Director

At 20-4 and 10-1 in Sun Belt conference play, the FIU volleyball team has positioned itself for a top finish in the upcoming conference tournament, which it will host Nov. 20-22.

The Golden Panthers picked up two more conference road wins, and extended their season high winning streak to eight games.

For head coach Danijela Tomic, it is the third straight season that she's guided her squad to a winning streak of at least eight contests. Both of the previous streaks were extended to nine games before they were snapped.

### FIU 3, UALR 1

The Golden Panthers visited the UALR Trojans, who entered the contest in second place in the Sun Belt west division, and were able to come away with a four-set victory.

It was the fifth consecutive road victory for FIU, who took the match 17-25, 25-17, 25-17, 25-19. It was the second time this season FIU dropped the first set and was still able to come back to win the match.

Junior setter Natalia Valentín played, arguably, her best match of the season, making significant contributions on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball.

Valentín had 42 assists, a season high six kills, and added 16 digs, another season high.

Offensively, Yarimar Rosa led the Golden Panthers once

again, with 23 kills, her 12th 20-plus-kill game this season. Gaby Jaimes had her best offensive match of the season, with a career high 11 kills and a .333 hitting percentage.

FIU played a sloppy first set, with a paltry .042 attack percentage for the opening frame that featured 11 FIU errors.

In set two, FIU found its offensive rhythm, making just one error in 21 total attacks, and hitting .619.

In the three sets the Golden Panthers won, they made a total of eight errors, three fewer than the whole first set.

Jonesboro, AR, on Oct. 25, in a match that was more one sided than the score indicates.

FIU had its highest team hitting percentage of the season, at .367, and several Golden Panthers shined on the offensive end.

Two-time All-American outside hitter Yarimar Rosa hit .455 and collected her 14th double double of the year, with 18 kills and 11 digs. Rosa continues to lead the nation in total kills, 471, and kills per set, 5.35.

Freshman Angelina Colon provided her fifth game of the season with double digit digs, providing support on the defensive end, with 14 digs.

FIU did drop the second set, but it was by no fault of the Golden Panther offense that hit .325.

The efficient scoring continued through the end of the match with FIU hitting .452 and .458 in sets three and four respectively.

Natalia Valentín set the table with 50 assists. It was the sixth 50-assist game for Valentín, who ranks fourth in the Sun Belt in assists per set, with 10.88

FIU will play just two more road contests.

Five straight home contests in conference

play preclude the Sun Belt tournament. FIU will have its only conference three-day weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 2, beginning with New Orleans at 7 p.m. on Halloween night. Nov. 1 FIU hosts Louisiana-Monroe, also at 7 p.m., and the weekend set finishes up with a matinee, against Louisiana-Lafayette

BOX SCORE		
	FIU	UALR
Kills	56	51
Errors	19	20
Total attacks	151	147
Attack %	.245	.211
Assists	51	51
Digs	64	63
Total blocks	8	6

	FIU	Ark St.
Kills	60	48
Errors	13	30
Total attacks	128	132
Attack %	.367	.136
Assists	54	47
Digs	49	45
Total blocks	13	3

### FIU 3, ARKANSAS ST. 1

FIU completed its Sun Belt conference road schedule with a victory at Arkansas State in

Two Trojans had double digit kills in the match. Amila Barakovic had 14 scores, and Anita Bucur added 13, for UALR who fell to 19-5 and 8-3 in Sun Belt conference play.

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**IN COMMAND:** Natalia Valentin (above) and Yarimar Rosa have both returned in seasons deserving of conference and national commendation at the end of this season.

## What surprises does the Great Pumpkin have in store?

**Trick or treat everyone.** What is the Great Pumpkin bringing this Halloween? Wins, losses, hope, talent, a championship? Let's see what he has in store for the local sports scene.

**Trick or treat?** Will the football team win the remainder of its schedule?

**Treat:** Super Mario and Co. have the chance to run the table on the Sun Belt. Their toughest game will come against Louisiana-Lafayette (4-3, 3-0) who have led the conference in rushing, averaging 311 yards per game and 6.9 yards per rush.

But look for the front seven of the Golden Panthers defense to smack around the Ragin' Cajuns offense line and force them to pass.

If the defense can force the Ragin' Cajuns to be one dimensional on offense, or if the offense can put up a lot of points, expect the Golden Panthers to escape Lafayette, La. with a win.

If the Golden Panthers can win this Saturday, it is possible they can finish the season with the five game win streak.

**Trick or treat?** Will FIU

be able to contend with the University of Miami in football within five years?

**Trick:** It's really hard to say yes or no to this question but UM has an advantage over FIU with its winning tradition and track record of sending players to the NFL.

That being said, a lot has changed in college football within the past five years.

No longer are teams like Penn State, Florida State, Florida, Michigan and Ohio State grabbing up all the talented high school football players in the country.

Growing football teams like FIU are giving seniors coming

COMMENTARY

CHARLIE GRAU

**Trick:** Whoever seriously thinks this is possible may also overdose on Snickers and Reeses on Halloween. Remember when the Jets made the playoffs when Eric Mangini took over has head coach?

Everyone thought they were on the right track and then bam, they landed flat on their face and got a reality check.

Dolfans need to remember that they could be in for a rude awakening next season if they start having dreams of contending for a AFC Championship next season. This team is still a ways away from making any major