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Our View:
Juicy Campus should not be banned despite content.
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THE BEACON

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 21, Issue 43

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November 24, 2008

MEDIA INDUSTRY

Professionals speak to students

SLASHER SOCIETY

Gore, guts, define us

RED CARPET TURKEYS

"Seven Pounds" stars donate

VOLLEYBALL UPSET

Team falls in conference semis

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OPINION PAGE 4

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SGC-UP tries squeezing out Juicy Campus

RICK MARTINEZ
FIUSM.com Editor

The debate regarding *Juicy Campus*, a Web site that allows anyone to post messages or gossip anonymously, has hit the Senate floor of the Student Government Council-University Park.

The Senate voted to pass a resolution Nov. 17 that would send a message to the University saying that the UP student body wants the Web site blocked from the University's Internet access.

The majority of senators present voted for the resolution after heavy deliberation, but the

voting was invalidated due to the lack of quorum, according to Sen. Chris Cabral of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In order to reach quorum, the majority of the Senate must be present to vote.

During debates, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was often a point of discussion.

"Free speech means that there's a person that's accountable," said Sen. David Dial of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "No one knows who is writing these things."

Sen. Jeff Molinaro of the College of Law argued against the passing of the resolution.

"Each one of us here has the right not to go to *Juicy Campus*," Molinaro said.

"The beauty about the constitutional system is that things you hate, things you despise the most in this world, are protected, so you have the right to say something to them."

Cabral had another argument against the resolution, arguing that SGC-UP should recommend to ban the Web site because students have a choice to go to this Web site or not.

"You don't have to go to this Web site, you don't have to make

it your home page, you don't have to care about what some cowardly idiot has to say about you," Cabral said.

Rep. at Large Jennifer Fuentes, who favored the resolution, argued that a line has to be drawn when it comes to First Amendment rights.

"I believe that in the Constitution it clearly states that there's a limit to our freedom of speech," Fuentes said.

"When you are offending the integrity of an individual, when you are offending the integrity of an organization, when you are offending the integrity of the

University as a whole, that's when you've surpassed your limit."

Molinaro offered an alternative to banning *Juicy Campus*.

He believes that students should instead be working to boycott it and that it would be a more effective solution to the problem.

My position is that students should boycott the site, not that the government should ban it.

Jeff Molinaro, Senator
Student Government Council-UP

"If a student says, 'I choose not to look at this,' that's their right. But when a government comes in and says, 'You can't look at that,' part of it becomes, 'I want to look at it now just out of spite,'" Molinaro said.

"My position is that students should boycott the site, not that the government should ban it."

Cabral believes that attention given to SGA for wanting to ban the Web site will just cause more people to learn about it and then go to it.

"I think the less attention we give to this Web site, the better," Cabral said.

SGC-UP President A.J. Meyer could not be reached for comment.

The *Juicy Campus* resolution is not yet finalized and will be brought up at the SGA Senate meeting Nov. 24 at 4 p.m., according to an e-mail sent by Speaker of the Senate Jean Roseme.

"Senators may still amend it as they see fit," Roseme said.

COMEBACK TO LATE



NICE HANDS: Sophomore wide receiver Greg Ellingson catches a touchdown pass in the third quarter in the Golden Panthers 31-27 loss to Louisiana-Monroe.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Maidique supports tuition increase proposal, reforms

BILL KACZOR
AP Wire

Trustees at all of Florida's 11 state universities could raise tuition up to 15 percent a year under a proposal Gov. Charlie Crist announced Thursday, but it immediately drew opposition from a top Democratic lawmaker.

Republican leaders of the GOP-controlled Legislature, though, praised the governor for an idea university officials called "bold," "sweeping" and a "landmark."

President Modesto A. Maidique said in a Nov. 20 University release that the proposal was a "courageous move on Gov. Crist's part" and that these "bold moves" were necessary to "build an educational infrastructure to support a 21st century economy."

Crist's plan also addresses other

university issues and would require changes in state law. It would permit boards of trustees at each school to raise tuition with approval from the Board of Governors, which oversees the State University System.

The Legislature now sets tuition although the board and others are challenging that authority in a lawsuit.

Maidique said in the statement that the proposal would help "clear up governance issues" and give "our local boards the ability to adjust tuition with community and student input."

Most importantly, he said, the proposal would help the University hire more faculty and advisers, and "ultimately it may give us the resources to lift the enrollment cap that has been in place since last year."

If all universities impose the full 15 percent, it would generate

\$72 million a year, said University System Spokesman Bill Edmonds. That's \$16 million more than what is being collected this year by the five largest schools that already have authority to charge what is known as differential tuition.

One of those schools is FIU, which gained differential tuition this past summer.

At the Nov. 13 Board of Trustees' Finances and Audit Committee meeting, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Vivian Sanchez explained that differential tuition helped generate \$5.1 million this year and projected \$5 million during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

In addition to recruiting and retaining faculty and improving quality, 30 percent of the proceeds under Crist's plan would go to financial aid

TUITION, page 2

ENJOYING THE BREEZE



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

NICE WEATHER: Stephen Robinson, a psychology major, and Solange Douglas, a political science major, take advantage of the beautiful weather on Nov. 19 by the pool in the housing quad.

Increase not covered by Bright Futures

TUITION, page 1

quence help the state move forward since “our future as a state depends on our ability to deliver quality higher education,” Maidique said in the statement.

Senate Democratic Leader Al Lawson, though, said Crist’s proposal would put higher education out of reach for students facing economic strains.

“Florida ranks among the highest for foreclosures, job loss and bankruptcies,” the Tallahassee lawmaker said in a statement. “Dumping tuition hikes into the laps of students and their families is the wrong move at the wrong time.”

Senate Majority Leader Ken Pruitt, R-Port St. Lucie, supported the plan. He said he couldn’t “think of a more crucial time than now” to strengthen the state’s higher education system, which then

can serve as a catalyst for economic growth.

The proposal is part of a flip-flop by Crist, who vetoed a 5 percent across-the-board tuition increase last year. He said then he didn’t think it was right to make students and their families pay more while other living expenses were rapidly rising.

“Things evolved,” Crist said, surrounded by university presidents and board members at a news conference.

The governor noted he also initially opposed a bill that last year let three universities raise tuition. He eventually signed it, as well as a bill this year that added FIU and the University of Central Florida.

“It was after having good consultation with a lot of the people that stand with me today and the realization that

you produce good jobs by having great education,” Crist said.

The increases would not be covered by the popular Bright Futures scholarship program, which provides 100 percent of base tuition for students with top grades and test scores. Those a notch below get 75 percent.

The extra tuition, though, would not affect prepaid tuition contracts.

Crist’s plan also would clarify the duties of boards of trustees, including appointing university presidents and overseeing budgets and day-to-day operations, and the Board of Governors, such as approving curriculum changes, program expansion and long-term planning.

Additional reporting by Daniella Bacigalupo

Land-line phones become obsolete in residence halls

OLGA VELEZ
Staff Writer

Students weren’t using them and the University was tired of paying for them.

That is why land-line telephones no longer exist in the majority of residence hall buildings at University Park.

“FIU used to [spend] a total of \$350,000 a year to pay Bellsouth for the land lines in the residential halls in the University Park campus,” said Executive Director of Operations and Auxiliary Services James Wassenaar.

In Everglades Hall, Panther Hall, University Park Towers and the the Lake View dorms, land-line jacks for telephones were removed two years ago and other universities are following in suit because the students were not using them.

The money saved by taking out the land lines was invested in other student services.

“Before removing the land-lines, we surveyed the students and found out that 85 percent of them were using their cell-phone instead of a land line telephone,” Wassenaar said.

The University of Florida saves \$600,000 per year by taking out land-line telephones, according to a *Palm Beach Post* article published in October. Florida Atlantic University saved \$100,000 last year, while the University of Central Florida still uses residence hall land lines.

According to Wassenaar, the savings were used to increase security in the dorms and give the students living on campus access to the Internet.

“The University took the savings and deployed two new emergency broadcast systems. [It also] invested in maintaining the Internet infrastructure, and installed the Emergency Call Box system in the residence halls on the University Park campus,” Wassenaar said.

Student safety was a major factor in deciding to install emergency call boxes.

“The University needs to ensure that students have access to emergency services,” said Wassenaar. “In the residence hall dorms, students have access to emergency call

boxes. This allows them to speak with Public Safety by pushing a button on the call box. They don’t need a land line telephone to contact Public Safety in the dorms.”

Yet the Univeristy Park Apartments and the Biscayne Bay Vista housing still give students the option of using a land line, according to Wassenaar.

“However, the University Park Apartments and the Biscayne Bay Campus dorms are older and more expensive to retrofit. It is cheaper to have the land-line telephones in the University Park Apartments and the Biscayne Bay Campus dorms than to install the call boxes,” he said.

Sophomore Corey Bourne lives in Lake View North and finds no use for land lines.

“I would not want [a land-line] because I am hardly [in the room] and my cell phone is a more convenient way for people to contact me,” Bourne said.

Amandine Smith, a sophomore staying at University Park Towers, also finds cellphones to be a much more convenient means of reaching her.

“I have no land-line telephone because I would never pick up, or my roommates would pick up and I might not get [the] messages,” said Smith. “I always have my cell phone on me; therefore, I have no need for a land line.”

Employees from Panther Hall declined to comment.

According to Kathy Taylor, a program assistant at the Bay Vista Housing, the phone connection is provided to students. Yet the phone is not given to them.

“Bay Vista Housing provides the jack connection in each room in the Biscayne Bay Campus,” Taylor said.

Although most of the land lines have been removed from UP, the residence halls that still have them are more cost effective than before.

“The University now uses the Internet Protocol system in BBC and in the UP Apartments, instead of using Bellsouth for the land lines,” said Wassenaar. “This change was made to save the University money.”

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POLICE NOTES

Nov. 13: An officer was flagged down by a motorist who approached the officer with an orange wallet in hand, stating that he found the wallet after it was lost by the owner.

The motorist gave the wallet to the police who are currently trying to contact its owner.

Nov. 14: Police were called to the U.S. Century Back arena in reference to several cell phones that had been stolen after a basketball game.

Upon arrival, police made contact with three female victims who stated that their property was stored in room 122 during the basketball game.

Upon returning to the insecure room after the game, their cell phones had been stolen by unknown suspect(s).

Nov. 18: Unknown subject(s) entered room #102 in the Owa Ehan building, which was opened.

The subject(s) removed a door off of the hinges where the VCR in the room was encased; then the subject(s) cut two cables and removed the VCR.

-Compiled by David A. Barrios

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ICC preps students for media industry

ANDREA CRUZ
Staff Writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications welcomed communications professionals at the Integrated Communications Council's first forum, "Leaders of Today Speaking to the Leaders of Tomorrow."

The professional development event took place Nov. 20 at the Wolfe University Center. It featured five guest speakers who work in different areas of the communications field.

Among them were Fernando Figueredo, SJMC professor, and chair of the Department of Public Relations and Advertising; alumna Melissa Gonzales, brand specialist for Team Enterprises; Spero Canton, regional director of public relations for Comcast; Rey Gutierrez, an entrepreneur in video production, gaming and marketing and Carolina Schwarz, director of communications for the Voices of Children Foundation, Inc.

Over 50 students attended the event.

"I think a forum is just a great way for students to get a feel for the types of problems that the professionals and the actual industry are facing at the moment," said Erika Arriola, president of the Associations of Women in Communications. "And what they can do to prepare themselves for a successful career."

The topics discussed varied from the importance of internships and the use of video games as a marketing tool, to tips for

sending resumes and the influence of the media and technology in the recent elections.

"Obama was more viral," said Canton, as he suggested that President-Elect Barack Obama's marketing strategies, including internet games and ads, might have won him the election.

"The communications field is always changing; it is becoming more of a social media environment," he said.

The speakers also discussed the significance of networking in the communications field.

"When you network with people, they see you face-to-face and see how you sell yourself," said Gonzales. "If you have a likeable personality and you can go up and talk to somebody, they will say 'I want to work with somebody like this.' The most important thing is to start early. It's about getting involved and getting experience."

After the forum discussions, students had the opportunity to practice the networking skills encouraged by the speakers.

"I have just given out about 20 business cards," said Gonzales. "I am excited to speak to all of those individuals and help them."

David Berry, SJMC marketing director, was the moderator for the nearly three-hour event and said he was impressed with the student involvement.

"To have the level of speakers that we had come in is rare for us," said Berry. "The fact that people were asking questions and being engaged shows that they are very interested too, and that they want more opportunities like this."

GIFTS FROM ABOVE



PRAISED PARACHUTES: The Intersivity club hosted the "Make a Parachute for Colombia" event Nov. 19. Club members Mary Beth Doozan (right) and Terri Stanier (left) sewed parachute pieces together, then folded and piled the finished parachutes that will be used to drop relief supplies to Colombia.

Future of campus discussed

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

Expansion and renovation are the long-term goals of the University, according to a forum held on Nov. 19 at BBC.

Academic Space Management hosted a focus group for students in the Marine Biology building for "input, mostly from students, who care what the campus will look like in the next five years," said Ana Maria Silva, BBC Student Government Council president.

The focus group was divided

into two presentations, a discussion on the master planning of the Health Science Center at University Park, and another one showing how several classrooms were renovated.

"The idea is to pick your brain as students to have students' opinions and points of view with some of the things within the classroom, outside the classroom, within the building and on the campus," said Gloria Jacomino, ASM director.

Universities are required to create a master plan and update it every five years, according to Jose Rodriguez, real estate development planning director.

"We want to make the buildings more collaborative to work in unison," he said.

At BBC, 28 classrooms were renovated last summer, said Jacomino.

Improved campus security, desk replacements, more seating with access to electrical outlets, more study areas, bay-view outdoor seating and game areas are being considered for renovations at BBC.

"This is a 20-year vision that anticipates a very different vision from what the campus is today," said Rodriguez. "The intent is to have green space and walking space, using close to 20-something acres."

Opening the door on energy conservation: Everyone's job

Walking down the hallway toward the exit, hands in your pockets with an elbow outstretched to hit the automatic door opener marked handicapped, and *whoosh*.

There goes approximately 25 seconds of manufactured atmosphere by central air conditioning, gone without a chance of recovering the costly effort to make every student's local atmosphere on campus more comfortable. So much for "going green" when all your green is spent on the thermostat.

Abusing technology is nothing new to anyone familiar with the electronic luxuries of the new millennium. From texting and web surfing in that dreaded lecture class, to listening to mp3 players to shut out unwanted interruptions, we have made our luxuries into bad habits.

Any South Floridian knows the refreshing feeling of walking near open doors in the summertime. That arctic blast of wasted air conditioning spilling out to the humid summer weather cools you down just long enough to remind you of how hot you are.

This is what happens when students push

the handicapped button, which opens the doors and lets cool air escape outward for approximately 25 seconds, until they close.

Opening doors with our own hands is not much to ask of our fellow students. Yet, why do students at BBC who carry nothing to encumber them from opening a door go out of their way to push the automated button, instead of manually opening the doors? This waste of a service is not what was intended by installing the devices.

The intended use, as stated by Zach K. Trautenberg, information technology and marketing specialist for Student Organization Reservations, is "to help people with limitations open the door."

It's clear that a loose interpretation of "people with limitations" has been adopted by students who frequently use the button instead of opening the door with their hands.

Trautenberg also said that he has seen people mash the button with their fist, their butt and even their foot with a swift kick. So, instead of using some muscle to open the door, students are practicing their martial arts and booty shaking skills.

"This annoys me for two reasons. One, they could break the button, and two, the button is dirty afterward and I don't want to touch it," Trautenberg, who uses a wheelchair, said.

Not only is the intended use of the button being disregarded, but so are the financial efforts of the University. FIU has been dealing with a budget crisis, resulting in numerous service cutbacks, but the University needs everyone's participation to reduce waste.

Students must care for the University, starting with not pressing the automated door-opening button, unless there is a necessity for doing so. If the misuse of the button wasn't such an everyday occurrence it might not be so bothersome, but it seems as though whenever I walk through the Wolfe University Center I see it happening frequently.

Vania Lederman, dietetic intern at the recreation center at BBC, used the button while carrying a few bags of food into the building.

"Students need to think that this device should be used by people who really need to use it," Lederman said. "I use it only when I have my hands full."

In some bizarre cases, the automated door opening is passed off as a gallant gesture, as though being awkwardly lazy and running to

hit the handicap button before your significant other reaches the doors is chivalrous.

Though this display of affection may or may not be an acceptable option for chivalry in our world of automation, this action wastes energy – not only the energy required to open both doors and keep them open, but the energy used in the heating or cooling of the room. Let's not forget that burst of personal energy expended, racing to push the button, either.

Saving electricity translates to saving resources used in generating electricity, whether fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Reducing energy waste with small steps like not letting almost half a minute of air conditioning escape from the buildings saves the University money as well as the power companies resources.

All this wasted energy results in higher electric bills. Appropriating more funds for electricity usage is fine when merited, but for a university short on funding and short on green-conscious students, it is not warranted.

Here's a simple solution: remove your hands from your pockets and use them to open the doors. If students make a conscious attempt to reduce frivolous energy consumption, they can further the "Go Green" efforts at FIU and in their personal lives.



GO GREEN

NATHAN VALENTINE

THE BEACON | Editorial

SGC-UP wrong to try and ban Juicy Campus

Juicy Campus is creating quite a stir on college campuses nationwide and FIU is no exception. The Web site allows anyone interested to anonymously post gossip about fellow students without fear of retribution or consequence.

The Student Government Council at University Park recently tried, unsuccessfully, to pass a measure recommending to the University that it should bar access to the site from the University network, with proponents arguing that the site poses a significant danger to students' emotional well being and could potentially lead to suicide in the worst of cases.

Though a majority of senators present at the meeting voted to pass the initiative, too few were present to meet quorum, and the initiative failed. The measure will be up for vote again when the senate reconvenes on Nov. 24.

Though *The Beacon* recognizes that using this site or any other to anonymously spread lies about or deface others is the epitome of cowardice and immaturity, SGC-UP is wandering into dangerous territory by trying to ban students from an open forum, regardless of its incendiary content.

The council should not be trying to force students to do, or not do, anything. If SGC-UP feels *Juicy Campus* is a legitimate issue, which it is, then it should be following in the footsteps of other institutions faced with the same questions and be educating students on the dangers of the site and letting them come to their own conclusions, rather than deciding for them.

The growing popularity of anonymous gossip sites like *Juicy Campus* have forced student governments at universities nationwide to consider the ethics of such sites.

At least one public institution, Tennessee State University, has

opted to ban access to the site.

Not all universities, however, feel an outright ban of the site is the proper course of action, and understandably so. Besides the fact that banning something rarely has the intended effect of curbing interest in it, there are other avenues from which the problem can be approached.

SGC-UP's goal should be to discourage students from participating in the site and challenging them to stand up against such malicious and defamatory content. Across the country, the student government at Santa Clara University in California aims to do just that and appeal to the best in its students to reject the slander.

SCU has started a pledge for students to sign against anonymous negative blogging in general and is also considering ordering armbands urging students to "rise above it" and to "keep it classy," according to an article in *The Santa Clara*, SCU's weekly student newspaper.

Such measures may seem ineffective when compared to an outright ban of the site, but they help give students a sense of the harm the site can have on people. Most importantly, it lets students decide for themselves on what to do about the site and helps them make educated decisions. Though there will always be those who feel the need to attack others anonymously, their impact would be significantly reduced.

Banning the Web site also raises legitimate First Amendment concerns. Public forums shouldn't be barred simply because malicious ideas can be echoed there.

SGC-UP is right to condemn the site, but trying to outright ban the site would set a bad precedent and prevents students from having the right to decide for themselves what Web sites are worthy of their time.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Florida learning shouldn't be digitized

Matt Ruckman's article about online schooling is fantastic! He is absolutely right; the ability to completely pass through required schooling without the benefit of social interaction, not to mention the benefit of an instructor to rely on, is indeed a travesty.

The only conceivable way I can see this as a good thing is for those students whose families are in the military and move around constantly, sparing them otherwise damaging feelings of rejection or inability to assimilate to social environs – but otherwise, I have to agree with Ruckman entirely.

Besides the issue of cost, it

seems like the State wants to put accountability for the quality of education on the students rather than the schools; if a student performs poorly, it would be because they didn't "follow directions" or "read the emails carefully enough" rather than the student balking at the chance to be tutored by a classmate or speaking to a teacher.

Sure, Charlie Crist saved us a few bucks, but at the expense of a functioning education.

Joseph Marhee
Sophomore
English

BLOOD SPAT

Horror is the villain of box office

CHRIS LEE REYES
Staff Writer

Blood shatters all over an eroded concrete floor, as a helpless victim is forced to saw away his leg in a last desperate heave to save his life, and escape the prison-type torture chamber that has slaughtered a slew of other victims through diabolical torture machines.

This was a mildly violent scene from motion picture *Saw*. Now with four more films added to its chronology, most recently *Saw V*, the films' gratuitous violence is embedded in viewers' minds so deeply that gore is now common, and the *Saw* series' plot is parallel to a Disney Classic.

Films such as *Hostel* and *Saw* glorify human torture, depicting gory, grotesque and inhumane scenes.

They are by every definition, cult classics, of the modern age of horror film making.

The following of this genre (for lack of a better term) is enormous. In fact, it has assimilated so effectively, that its themes have become culturally acceptable and a good source of entertainment.

"Family-fun" is gone and a new age of filmmaking is clearly making notice – I call it the "no-family, some buns, more guns" movement, where gory and sexually-explicit-driven movies atop the top ten list of almost every average Joe below the stratosphere.

Moviegoers have been enthralled by violence for a long time in the history of American cinema, there's no question about it. But today filmmakers have gone too far.

Think about this for a second: Is it wrong for one human being to applaud and cheer an act of a vicious beheading or depraved bloodshed of another human being?

Quite frankly, if you were part of the Mongolian Empire in 1220 A.D. or a member of rapper 50 Cent's entourage, then maybe you can get away with saying yes.

Otherwise, I would argue you need therapy.

Don't get me wrong, a movie without any action could be as boring as a pep rally led by NASA engineers and a senior citizens' chess club, but honestly, how far is too far?

Nowadays, viewers have not only let these types of films integrate with our culture, but they have permitted them to become the pure essence of entertainment.

There seems to be two distinctive perspectives on how films have been ferociously marketed and distributed within our modern society, through the mediums of mass communication, in such a lightly manner: Hollywood or human nature.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children exposed to violence are more likely to assume that acts of violence are acceptable behavior.

Viewing violence can lead to emotional desensitization toward violence in real life and can increase fear of becoming a victim of violence, with a resultant increase in self-protective behaviors and a mistrust of others.

The American Psychological Association has stated in the past that violence is not a natural state, and it is heavily influenced by societal factors such as the media.

That being said, some may argue that before we were filming Indians we were killing them, so where exactly is the ultimatum? Well, if you feel wayward about it, then

Films such as *Hostel* and *Saw* glorify human torture, depicting gory, grotesque and inhumane scenes. They are by every definition, cult classics ...

let me point you to some commonsensical perspectives.

The fact is, one can't help to agree with two very distinctive figures in world history who carry two amply different ideologies yet similar point of views – Sigmund Freud and Jesus Christ. They pointed out that all humans are inherently malicious. Of course, Jesus established that first, but he wouldn't brag.

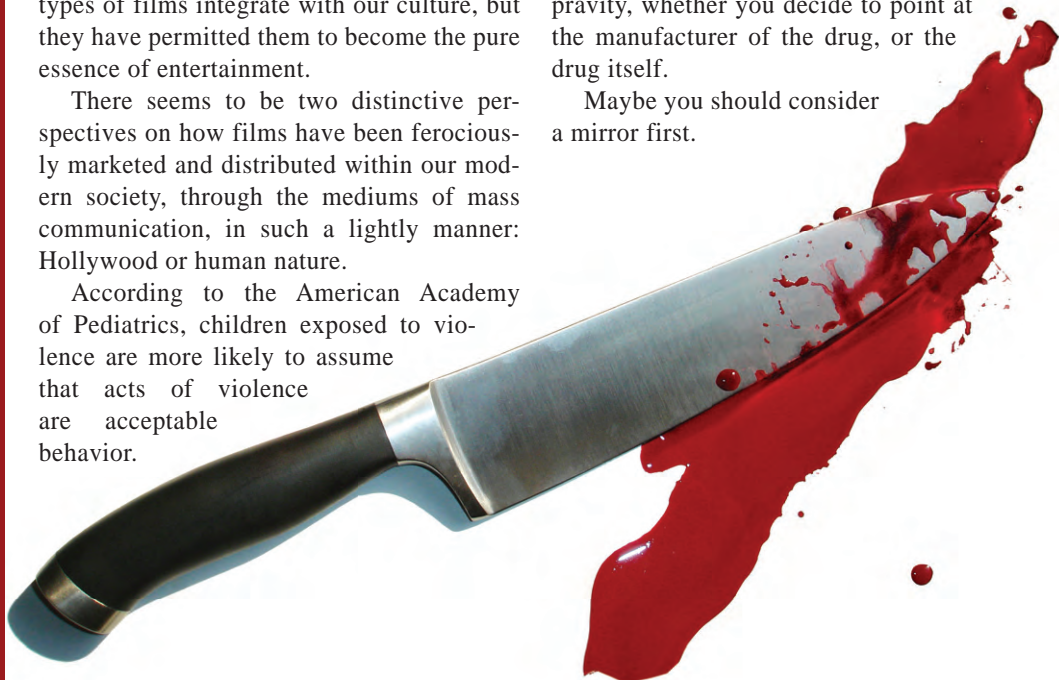
I believe human nature is to blame too.

This makes human nature the culprit, and our soul the victim.

And if that's the case, then Hollywood is the cocaine trafficker, and gory movies are simply ill-produced coca bushes.

Either way you look at it, one cannot help but see how society has truly departed from some of the imperative principles that distinguish us from brute beasts and total depravity, whether you decide to point at the manufacturer of the drug, or the drug itself.

Maybe you should consider a mirror first.



RED CARPET PLEDGE

Helping man Smith gives back at latest premiere

STEVEN MESA
Staff Writer

Call him Mr. July. Call him Mr. Blockbuster if you will, but do not call him ungenerous.

Will Smith ("Bad Boys II") and Rosario Dawson ("Rent") were on-hand in Miami on Nov. 17 promoting their latest movie, "Seven Pounds." Coming out on Dec. 19, "Seven Pounds" is about a suicidal IRS agent who goes on a journey to redeem himself by helping out seven strangers, including Dawson's character. Directed by Gabriele Muccino ("The Pursuit of Happyness"), the film also stars Woody Harrelson ("No Country for Old Men") and Barry Pepper ("61").

Throughout most of the day, Smith and Dawson sat down to talk to reporters from several publications, including *The Beacon*. "Seven Pounds" is the first movie that Smith and Dawson have starred in together. Six years ago, they worked with each other in another Will Smith blockbuster, "Men in Black II." Smith said that they have matured a lot since then, and Dawson responded jokingly by saying he has more gray hairs than

the last time they worked together.

"It is fun to watch someone make choices and become better," Smith said. "To watch Rosario scratch and fight to be better is inspiring to me and makes me want to become better."

Dawson shared similar thoughts on Smith.

"I am really grateful not only to work [with] Will again on this film, but for the audience," Dawson said. "Because of who Will is, it gives audiences around the world an opportunity to watch a film like this."

As soon as they were done speaking to the Miami television and print media at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Smith and Dawson made a surprising visit to the editors of the *Miami Herald* at their news meeting.

Wrapping things up for the day was a charity movie premiere of "Seven Pounds."

It was held at The Shops at Sunset Place and benefited the Florida Marlins Community Foundation charity. If moviegoers wanted a chance to see Will Smith and his new movie, they

would have to bring at least a can of food to get in. It was there where Smith and Dawson donated 300 turkeys, and both of them were presented with Florida Marlins jerseys by the president of the Florida Marlins, David Samson. Afterward, Smith approached a stage-like set up near the mall and told spectators that he would be back to sign autographs after the presentation. Keeping his promise, he returned to the remaining spectators.

The Beacon asked the two stars why they stopped in Miami to promote "Seven Pounds."

Aside from getting a chance to visit her family, Dawson said that she loves the weather, the warm water, the food and the shopping.

Smith had a dif-

ferent take.

"I think there is a city somewhere in the world that matches your personal emotional patterns, and Miami is that place for me," Smith said.



STEVEN MESA/THE BEACON

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • NOVEMBER 24

WHAT: FIU Music: Wind Ensemble
WHERE: FIU WPAC Concert Hall, 10910 SW. 17 Street.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5- FIU Students, \$10- FIU Faculty, \$15- General Admission

WHAT: FIU Men's Basketball vs. Toledo*
WHERE: FIU Arena
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

WHAT: Miami Heat vs. Houston Rockets
WHERE: American Airlines Arena, 601 Biscayne Blvd.
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Ticket Prices Vary

* Listen to WRGP Radiate FM on 88.1, 95.3 and 96.9 FM for live game coverage hosted by Sports Director Andrew Julian.

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 25

WHAT: FIU Music: Symphony Orchestra
WHERE: FIU WPAC Concert Hall, 10910 SW. 17 Street.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5- FIU Students, \$10- FIU Faculty, \$15- General Admission

WHAT: FIU Men's Basketball vs. West Virginia*
WHERE: FIU Arena
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

WHAT: FIU Women's Basketball vs. Miami (FL)*
WHERE: FIU Arena
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

* Listen to WRGP Radiate FM on 88.1, 95.3 and 96.9 FM for live game coverage hosted by Andrew Julian

- Compiled by Paulo O' Swath

SAY 'GRACE'



WEN-JU CHIEN/THE BEACON

PRE-FEAST: The American Marketing Association hosted a pre-Thanksgiving potluck for students at the University on Wednesday, Nov. 19.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

First of two trips to the Pac-10 comes up short

GREGG BELL
AP Wire

Jon Brockman stomped and snarled. He grabbed teammates. At times it looked like he needed something to punch.

All he really needed was to turn Washington's slogging night over to guards Justin Dentmon and Isaiah Thomas.

Dentmon showed senior savvy and a burst of energy while scoring 14 of his game-high 21 points in the second half and Thomas added 19 in his third collegiate game as Washington survived an off night from Brockman and a halftime deficit to beat Florida International 74-51 on Thursday.

"If you look in past years, every big game we've played in we've stepped up to the challenge," Dentmon said. "I think we'll play to the best of our abilities. I'm just waiting to see what the best of our abilities is."

Dentmon, who made seven of 11 shots in all, took over the game by scoring seven points in the first four minutes after halftime. That turned Washington's one-point deficit into a 38-32 lead. The edge grew to 55-43 with 8½ minutes left on five consecutive points by freshman Elston Turner — his only five of the game — then to 66-47 while FIU went almost five minutes without scoring.

Russell Hicks scored 15 points for Florida International (2-1), which was missing four injured players. Deep shooter Michael Dominguez, the Panthers' leading scorer, was 0-for-8 from the field and had just four points.

FIU coach Sergio Rouco, who got a technical foul in the first half for berating an official while well onto the court, refused to comment afterward while already on the bus with his hurrying team for the all-night flight home.

The Huskies didn't look ready early on. Washington shot 22 percent — 7-for-32 — in a dreary first half that coach Lorenzo Romar said sprang from his team trying to force "home-run plays" against the Panthers, who retreated back to play defense early instead of trying to rebound their own missed shots. Hence, Washington's 46-31 edge on the boards.

"This game is going to prove to be a valuable non-conference game," Romar predicted, thinking of how the Huskies successfully adjusted in the second half by being more patient and sharing with the ball.

Brockman had 53 points and 27 rebounds in Washington's first two games. He scored just eight on 4-for-8 shooting and had eight rebounds while uncharacteristically turning the ball over five times against the Panthers. It was the first time Brockman hadn't scored at least 10 points since Feb. 24, 2007, at Oregon.

The senior spent some of Washington's cold first half screaming at freshman guard Scott Suggs to reward his good position near the basket. After Suggs declined to pass to him three consecutive times late in the half, Brockman stomped over to Suggs during a dead-ball period, pounded the new guy in the chest, grabbed his jersey and demanded, "Get the ball to the low post!"

ROAD NOT KIND TO FIU



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

STARTING SLOW: FIU dropped two games on the road, on Nov. 20, the Goldne Panthers were stifled by Jacksonville 51-43, and shot just 35 percent. FIU then lost at West Virginia, in overtime, 67-59. Monika Bosilj averaged over 17 points in the two games

Warhawks defense, penalties too much for FIU to overcome

FOOTBALL, page 8

34.

The next two completions were to Greg Ellingson, in heavy traffic, the first being on a third down play, and the next, immediately following, as he corralled the pass off the helmet of a ULM defender, as he was falling backward in the end zone, to cut the lead to 21-10.

The Warhawks punted on their nest drive, FIU's first stop since the first quarter, but when T.Y. Hilton attempted to field the bounding ball that had been kicked away from him, it took an awkward hop, and Hilton mishandled the ball. ULM recovered at the 23-yard line, and took just three plays to come up with the answer, a 19-yard touchdown toss to Anthony McCall, that was initially tipped by Dez Johnson, but McCall was able to hold on for a 28-10 lead.

FIU responded with a quick drive of its own, just four plays, and covering 62 yards. T.Y. Hilton ran a skinny post and caught his fifth touch down of the season. The outstanding freshman finished the game with eight catches, a career high, for 93 yards and the score. The 93 yards tied Hilton for the single-season school record for receiving yards in a season, with Chandler Williams' total of 870, set in 2005.

With the score 28-17, ULM was able to pick up another field goal, and make the score 31-17, near the end of the third quarter.

After a rushed three and out and punt, taking just 47 seconds off the clock, Dez Johnson intercepted a Lancaster pass, that set up FIU in its opponent's territory. FIU seized the opportunity for its third score of the second half, a two-yard run by Julian Reams. The senior halfback rushed for 122 yards in the game, and was the first 100-yard rusher for FIU since A'mod Ned, who left the game in the first half with a knee injury, posted a 152-yard effort against the Warhawks, last sea-

son in Monroe.

FIU could only muster a field goal on its next drive, and was able to get the ball back with over three minutes remaining, but after keeping their quarterback upright all game, the FIU offensive line blinked on three successive plays, allowing Paul McCall to be sacked twice and the junior quarterback to be stopped once for no gain.

"We don't have enough gas in the tank to overcome a such a poor half" said head coach Mario Cristobal. Despite the loss, however, the FIU head man did not see a complete step back with the loss. "I think in a lot of ways we took steps forward... I don't think its any different than any other game, in terms of sometimes you get better and sometimes you take a hit."

McCall quietly had a very efficient day, 18-of-31, 239 yards, two touchdowns, but would rather get better as his team win games, "You hate learning by losses, but the fact is, if you learn at the time, you wont make those mistakes again, and you become a better football team"

FIU has two remaining contests, both of them in South Florida, beginning with FAU, at Dolphins Stadium, and Senior Night, Dec. 6 when the Golden Panthers host Western Kentucky.

BOX SCORE

	ULM	FIU
First Downs	19	17
Rushes-Yards	41-173	32-124
Passing	156	239
Comp-Att-Int	25-14-2	31-18-0
Return Yards	33	14
Punts Avg.	5-32.2	4-41.0
Penalties-Yards	6-50	10-75
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Time of Possesion	34:27	25:33

RUSHING — FIU: Reams 21-122, McCall 7-3, Ned 1-2, Mertile 2-1, Rolle 1- -1 **ULM:** Frank 23-93, Lancaster 13-71, Taylor 1-8, Lovett 2-5, McNeal 1-0, Ambrose 1- -4

PASSING — FIU: McCall 18-31-0-239 **ULM:** Lancaster 14-25-2-156

RECEIVING — FIU: Hilton 8-93, Ellingson 5-81, Reams 2-20, Frierson 1-27, Facher 1-20, Dickens 1- -2 **ULM:** Zacharie 5-59, Goodin 4-37, McCall 2-39, McNeal 1-21, McCoy 1-6, Taylor 1-4,

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IT'S ALL OVER

After dominating at home, New Orleans drops FIU in semis

JONATHAN ALPERT
Asst. Sports Director

After taking care of South Alabama in the first round of the Sun Belt Volleyball tournament in four sets, FIU fell to New Orleans in three sets in the semifinals. FIU lost for the second time at U.S. Century Bank Arena, and for only the seventh time this season. New Orleans went on to fall to Western Kentucky in the finals. WKU earned an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament by winning the conference tournament.

FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 1

The top seeded Golden Panthers volleyball defended home court opening up the conference tournament disposing of South Alabama in 4 sets (25-13, 22-25, 27-55, 25-20).

FIU dominated the first set taking it 25-13. They led the entirety of the set. The closest South Alabama came to FIU was two points, when the score was 8-6.

South Alabama rebounded in the second set out-muscling FIU squeezing out a victory. The match consisted of nine ties, but FIU couldn't pull ahead. The Golden Panthers and Jaguars were tied nine times, with the final tie coming at 19-19. South Alabama went on a 6-3 run to close out the second set and take it 25-22.

FIU and South Alabama continued to play competitive volleyball in the third set, and a deuce was forced. Neither team led by more than 2 points the entire set. FIU led 24-22, but couldn't close out the Jaguars.

South Alabama notched three straight points to take a 25-24 lead, forcing Tomic to use a time out. FIU reeled off 3 straight points to take the set 27-25. South Alabama successfully scored on 73 percent of their attacks, opposed to FIU's 66 percent.

FIU controlled the fourth set after a slow start. FIU trailed 8-5 early, but fought back to tie the set at 10.

The Golden Panthers didn't relinquish the lead the rest of the set after taking an 11-10 lead on a bad set by South Alabama. FIU took the set 25-20, and the match.

Junior Isadora Rangel played stellar defense, notching 20 digs, and added 12 kills on offense. Two freshmen had double-digit kills, with Sabrina Gonzalez scoring a career high 11, an Andrea Lakovic scoring 10.

Despite the win, head coach Tomic wasn't pleased with the team's effort, and offered words of encouragement. "I didn't feel we

played confident today," she said. "We have to expect the other team to fight because nobody is going to come in here and just give us a win."

"I think it's going to be a good learning experience for us. In a way I'm glad we had a tough first round because I think we will come more prepared tomorrow."

NEW ORLEANS 3, FIU 0

Fifth seeded New Orleans shocked top seeded FIU in three sets in the semi-finals of the Sun Belt tournament (25-19, 25-23, 25-19) to send the Golden Panthers home early from the conference tournament for the second straight year. New Orleans entered the match on a seven match winning streak and was more accurate than FIU, hitting .237 opposed to FIU's .137.

Sun Belt player of the year Yarimar Rosa was held to single digit kills for the second time all year when playing in every set.

The first set was all New Orleans with the Privateers taking a 4-3 lead and not surrendering the rest of the set. FIU tied the set at 6 but couldn't gain any momentum; FIU fell in the opening set of the semi-finals 25-19. FIU hit .143 and committed seven errors during the set.

New Orleans jumped out to an early 6-0 second set lead, but FIU answered with four straight of their own. FIU came close a few times in the second set, but could never pull ahead of New Orleans. The Golden Panthers trailed 14-13, and eventually tied it at 22, but didn't lead the entire set. The Privateers went on a 3-1 run to take the second set 25-23.

The third and decisive set didn't get much better for the Golden Panthers. FIU's only lead of the set was at 2-0, and the closest they came after that was within one at 9-8. UNO went on a 10-6 run to take a 19-14 lead. FIU couldn't contain UNO staunch defense, and surrendered the set 25-19.

FIU was blocked 23 times, comparing to just eight blocks FIU has against UNO. FIU committed 21 sloppy errors with New Orleans committing 15.

"They were able to stop Yarimar and we can not win big matches without her, we got as much as we could out of our freshmen," said Tomic. "I don't want to put pressure on Yari. She carried this team through the whole season. We wouldn't be in this position without her. She is human even though sometimes we think she's super woman."

Junior Isadora Rangel had her sixth dou-



ble-double of the season with 10 kills and 10 digs. Freshman Sabrina Gonzalez had seven kills and no errors hitting .583 for the match.

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite having the best record in the Sun Belt and being 21st in the RPI, FIU is on the bubble of being invited to the field of 64. The Golden Panthers will need to handily beat USF (17-13) on Nov. 26 to have any hope of making the tournament.

Tomic addressed the team's prospects of making the big dance after the disappointing loss to New Orleans.

"I know that we have to beat South Florida," she said. "It depends how teams in other conferences are going to do. We didn't want to be in this position. We wanted to control our own destiny."

The NCAA Volleyball Tournament will announce its field of 64 during its selection show on Sunday Nov. 30 from 10-10:30 p.m. and will be aired on ESPNU.



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

AMBUSHED: FIU lost just its second home game of the 2008 season, in the Sun Belt tournament. The Golden Panthers have to regroup quickly for South Florida on Nov. 26.

Learning how to win is not a single season process

Many moons ago, I opined on these very pages, that the FIU volleyball team had matured, to the point of becoming a championship caliber squad. Many readers of the preceding article, might assume I've since changed my tune concerning the melodies of success and further predictions thereof, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Championship teams can sometimes go through swoons in a season, or in a given game,

therefore I don't subscribe to the idea that a play-off gaffe does anything to a great season other than end it. It does not sully or stain the year, rather, and this holds true especially in college athletics for teams that bring back myriad starters, and conference stars at that (read FIU VOLLEYBALL), it serves to build a base.

This team may still yet make the NCAA tournament, and have a literal banner year, for the first time since

2002, and the sting of losing on your home floor in the tournament will linger, but the lesson will be learned...or perhaps, as a columnist who enjoys employing expressions of victory, than those of defeat, I just hope so.

Regardless of what you or I think, it'll take a dominant performance in the regular season finale, at South Florida on Nov. 26, to attract the attention of the selection committee, to accompany the then-28 wins, and RPI top-25 ranking.

Perhaps more importantly, it'll take a dominant performance to remind FIU

that it can be dominant, the kind of show that reminds everyone in the building, not just

The Golden Panthers didn't play well in the Sun Belt tournament, and it will need a turnaround match to swab the bad taste from their mouths, and South Florida might catch an awfully sullen FIU volleyball team, looking to make a statement.

What ever the outcome, the reasoning is the same; to inspire for the next match; to be able to play with confidence again, and shed the shroud of scruple and impudence, and in ef-

fect, prepare, mentally for the next step, weather that be the opener for the season in 2009, or the opener for the NCAA tournament in December.

At this final stage of the season, its on the players

more than the coaches to ready the team for play, the question is, will the 2008 regular season Sun Belt champs fade into the winter, or prepare, through it, be there one game or more, for the run next fall?

COMMENTARY



ANDREW JULIAN

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PHOTO CREDIT/THE BEACON

WOUNDED WARRIOR: Sophomore cornerback Anthony Gaitor watches the scoreboard as time runs out on the Golden Panthers' 31-27 loss to the Warhawks of Louisiana at Monroe.

STUNNED AT HOME

Second half rally comes up just short

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

In what was really a tale of two halves, University of Louisiana at Monroe winning the first, 21-3, and FIU winning the second, 24-10, the Warhawks (4-8, 3-4 Sun Belt) survived their trip to Miami, and the Golden Panthers (4-6, 3-3), will have some work to do before taking their act to Dolphin Stadium for the Shula Bowl on Nov. 29.

A terrific effort from the ULM offensive line carried the Warhawks to a very efficient first half, but it wasn't without mistake. On the first pass he threw, Kinsmon Lancaster was intercepted by Anthony Gaitor. It was Gaitor's fourth interception of the season.

The Golden Panthers quickly converted the turnover into three points, and took the early lead.

The Warhawks would storm back though, scoring on the opening possession of the second quarter. The march covered 75-yards over nine plays, and culminated with a Lancaster 16-yard scamper for a touchdown.

FIU quickly had a three-and-out on its next series, and the Warhawk offense continued rolling, but not without the help of FIU. After a 50 yard punt by Carlos Munera, and a 34-yard punt return by Darrell McNeal, FIU was flagged for a 15-yard personal foul which advanced the ball to the FIU 25, effectively netting one yard

on the punt play.

ULM scored on four plays on the 25-yard drive, and were assisted by another FIU penalty, this one an offside call on FIU. The Golden Panthers were whistled for 10 penalties for 17 yards, and that doesn't take into account the yardage FIU gave up on the opening kickoff that Dustin Rivest kicked out of bounds.

After another FIU punt, the Warhawks marched down the field for another score, this one a 12-play 74-yard drive, capped by a touchdown pass from Lancaster to tight end Zeek Zacharie. Lancaster finished the day 14-of-25 for 156 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

The 21-3 halftime deficit was the largest for an on campus FIU home game since ULM took a 14 point lead into halftime at FIU stadium on Nov. 11, 2006.

FIU came out of the intermission roaring, and scored of a 51 yard drive, that was set up by a personal foul on the kickoff return that allowed the Golden Panthers to open their possession on their own 49-yard line. The drive was highlighted by three stellar passing plays from quarterback Paul McCall. First, on a second and 20, following an FIU penalty, McCall connected with Jason Frierson for a 26-yard play. Frierson broke two tackles as he made the reception and he carried the ball down to the ULM

FOOTBALL, page 6

Promising weekend ends in defeat for FIU sports

It was a weekend that started out with so much promise.

The volleyball team stood on top of the Sun Belt and was looking to make quick work of the conference tournament, being held on their home court where they had gone 13-1.

The football team was looking to reach .500 on the season and keep their post season hopes alive,

hosting the hapless University of Louisiana at Monroe Warhawks who had yet to record a road victory.

It was the arguably the biggest weekend of the year for FIU's athletes, and they seemed poised to continue their winning ways and help establish legitimacy for their perspective programs.

But by the end of Saturday night, both teams saw their seasons effectively ended in upset fashion.

The volleyball team was downed in straight sets on Nov. 21 by a New Orleans team that must have played their best game of the season, as they were subsequently swept by Western Kentucky.

And then the following night, in front of the sparsest crowd yet in the new FIU stadium, the football team stumbled early and came up just short of an 18 point second half come back. Once again, the story of the game for the Golden Panthers was their inability to avoid penalties.

Despite their relatively successful season thus far, the football team has had a very narrow margin of error. Five of the team's nine games were decided by 10 points or less, and in the three losses by that margin, the team accumulated 30 penalties.

That is going to be the difference for this season between a fourth place conference finish and a bowl berth, which is all but out of the question now.

FALLING SHORT

FIU managed to take an early lead follow-

ing Anthony Gaitor's first quarter interception and Dustin Rivest's 41-yard field goal and the defense had played fairly stout through the first frame, keeping the Warhawks scoreless.

By the end of the first half, however, ULM had pulled away with three unanswered touchdowns to put the Golden Panthers on the defensive.

This, along with the penalties, had FIU in a hole that even T.Y. Hilton's playmaking abilities and Julian Reams' and Paul McCall's best days of the year couldn't get them out of.

Hilton continued his excellent first season, catching eight balls for 93 yards to put him at 870 yards, tying Chandler William's single season receiving yards mark.

Reams had his strongest showing of the season, carrying 21 times for 122 and running with a decisiveness to his cuts that hasn't been seen all year. McCall went 18-31 for 239 yards and two late scores to try to bring them back

Unfortunately, following a three-and-out by the defense with 2 minutes left, McCall's protection broke down for the first time

all game and led to him being pressured or sacked on every play of the final drive, killing the come back attempt.

WHAT'S LEFT?

Obviously, with two games remaining, the season isn't over, and there is still plenty for the Panthers to play for, between a rivalry game last week and their first .500 finish in program history.

Regardless of what happens from here on out, this still young team should be able to make another run at the conference title next year, with a senior quarterback at the helm and a young, fast corps of receivers led by one of the nation's top young playmakers and a ball hungry defense that plays with manages to play with more intensity as the game wears on.

However, looking ahead to next year might do this year's team a disservice, as it isn't entirely out of the question that they might still be playing for a bowl bid over the next two weeks, beginning with next week's match up against FAU.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS