

9-11-2009

# The Beacon, September 11, 2009

Florida International University

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## Volleyball faces tough weekend – including FSU

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## Beatles remasters bring back the love

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Find out which clubs you can get involved with at BBC this semester.

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September 11 changed our nation, but provided us with pivotal opportunities.

#### OPINION PAGE 4

Online education, though convenient, certainly has more flaws than intended.

#### OPINION PAGE 4



A graphic PSA on texting while driving delivers a needed message to teens.

#### LIFE! PAGE 6

Glamorous Golden Panther performer aims for a singing career while majoring in criminal justice.

#### LIFE! PAGE 6

Miami Night Life offers a wide variety of cultural experiences, from cheesy arepas to smoky hookahs.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8

Men's soccer has two wins this season in just three games – better than last season's four total.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8



Alabama coach lets media know he does not plan to underestimate any part of FIU.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Torino, Sept. 11, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Enjoy this award winning film by Clint Eastwood for free at GC 140.

Icons and Legends, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Catch this show and enjoy the musical stylings of some legendary artists. Entrance is just \$15 at the African Heritage Cultural Arts Center.

Bruce Springsteen, Sept. 13, 7 p.m. "The Boss" will shake up BankAtlantic Center with the E-Street Band this weekend. Tickets start at \$100.75.

#### WEATHER



**FRIDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 78 HIGH: 86



**SATURDAY**  
Scattered T-Storms  
LOW: 78 HIGH: 87



**SUNDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 78 HIGH: 88

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# READY TO ROLL

## Team gears up for No. 4 Alabama

**JONATHAN RAMOS**  
Asst. Sports Director

The Alabama Crimson Tide, coming off an undefeated regular season in 2008, looked like a team that will once again be national title contenders after defeating then-No. 7 ranked Virginia Tech 34-24 on Sept. 5.

Even so, Crimson Tide Coach Nick Saban warned that FIU could challenge his team and create matchup problems with their speed, specifically T.Y. Hilton.

"They actually have a lot of speed, a lot of team speed. They are

a wide-open throw the ball vertical passing game," Saban said. "Hilton is as good a player as anybody in the country."

Indeed, Hilton is a dynamic weapon who finished third in the country in all-purpose yards per game (180.3) in 2008.

The Golden Panthers, however, will have a lot more on their hands when they visit Alabama on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m., a team that sits at No. 4 in the Associated Press' Top 25 poll.

The Crimson Tide feature a ferocious run defense led by defensive tackle Terrance Cody, who helped set up Alabama's seventh ranked

scoring defense a year ago.

In addition, they showcase an explosive offense with several key playmakers that create matchup issues.

Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal said his team is very excited for the opportunity to play Alabama, but that the caliber of opponents they are makes the game the toughest the Golden Panthers have ever had to play.

**'DIFFERENT LEVEL'**

"They are on a different level

**FOOTBALL PREVIEW, page 7**

JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

## Public Safety expands: adds routes, officers

**JORGE VALENS**  
Asst. News Director

The University Public Safety Department is preparing for the new semester by expanding their work force and employing new patrolling tactics.

FIU currently has 40,151 enrolled students. According to Chief of Police Bill King, there are 45 police officers serving both Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses (one officer for every 892 students on campus.)

Two of those officers were recently hired and King said he expects to add one more officer in the coming weeks.

University police officers patrol both campuses 24 hours a day, everyday, and coordinate patrols in 10-hour shifts. There is always a minimum of three officers on patrol at MMC and two at BBC. However, King said that these shifts often overlap, so there are more officers on campus than the minimum.

King said that the current amount of officers can serve FIU well, but the department is quickly adapting as the University community continues to grow.

"Our staff levels are adequate," he said. "But at the same time, as the

**SAFETY, page 2**

## Police radios remain anything but flawless

**DAVID BARRIOS**  
Staff Writer

Three years have passed since the University's Public Safety Department first acquired its current radio system, which has been the target of complaints from officers since it was adapted.

Problems with the current system include an inability to report to police dispatch and "dead spots" throughout both campuses, including areas around the Graham

Center and Primera Casa at the Modesto Maidique Campus along with areas around the Wolfe University Center and the library at the Biscayne Bay Campus – all areas of heavy occupation and traffic.

"We did surveys and tests around the campus and we found that there are dead spots within our University with the county radio. Now and again you'll find spots where your frequency isn't picked up as clearly,"

said University Chief of Police Bill King.

He added that improvements have been and are continuing to be made.

King said that the most recent issue the radio system faced was last month, after lightning struck one of the repeaters.

"We did lose coverage at BBC. That repeater was then replaced and we haven't had any

**RADIO, page 2**

# Security officers prepare for football season

## SAFETY, page 1

student population grows and as the housing population grows ... staffing levels always become a concern.”

According to Lieutenant Rick Torres, the main areas of focus for patrolling officers are the residential areas, the Graham Center and the Green Library, particularly at night. He said these “are where most of the students are, and where most of the crimes occur on campus.”

In addition, the department is preparing for the upcoming football season. According to

King, campus police conducts regular operational meetings both internally and with Athletics to coordinate police coverage for athletic events. King said that football games are a primary concern due to their large turnouts.

“I think everything was done pretty well and everything was pretty well in place,” King said regarding last year’s football games.

Officer David Suarez, who patrols MMC from 2 p.m. to 12 a.m., said that University police also patrol outside of the campus.

“People from the outside

come in as well,” Suarez said noting that the campus is susceptible to a criminal element originating from outside the University, considering that both campuses are open to the public at all times.

University police use three primary methods of patrol: foot patrols, both marked and unmarked vehicles and bicycles.

Suarez said the bicycle units help campus police increase their visibility on both campuses and are used heavily to patrol BBC.

He said that they are ideal for patrolling in between

buildings and allow officers to respond quickly. Torres said that the majority of crimes that occur on campus are property crimes, or crimes that involve burglary or theft of personal property.

According to the most recent Campus Security Report, a report containing yearly crime statistics that the department is required to publish annually, in 2007 there were a total of 166 cases of property theft across both campuses. This is up from 155 cases in 2006 and 130 cases in 2005. These cases include burglary, robbery and motor

vehicle theft.

The 2008 crime statistics have yet to be published.

As of printing time, King did not respond to Student Media calls urging for a reaction to the above statements.

Suarez said that it is ultimately up to students to report crimes sooner rather than later and that students often delay reporting a theft because they are late for class, and this hinders campus police's ability to apprehend the individual or individuals involved.

University Public Safety can be reached at 305-348-2626.

# Urgent notices updated via text

**BLANCA MORALES**  
Contributing Writer

We are currently living in an age of instant information exchange through the use of Short Message Service, and FIU is no exception.

Panther Alerts is the University’s free SMS notification system that sends students, faculty, staff, friends and family emergency alerts through text messages. It is powered through Inspiron Logistics LLC Wireless Emergency Notification System.

In the case of emergencies and threats to campus safety, registered users will receive a text notification so that they may take proper safety precautions.

Panther Alerts was introduced in August 2008 by FIU’s Office of Emergency Management to ensure the safety of the University community. Students, faculty and staff can receive alerts on life-threatening

**PANTHER ALERT, page 3**

# SGA recruits driven interns

**MAUREEN NINO**  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association is handing out applications to give students a more active role in the University.

“We really want students to get involved and try to create a legacy, and the best way to do that is through our intern program,” said Christin “Cici” Battle, Student Government Council Biscayne Bay Campus vice president.

SGC at Modesto Maidique Campus applications are due Sept. 15 at 5 p.m. in the Graham Center room 211. SGC-BBC applications are due Sept. 11 at 5 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center room 141, inside the Office of Campus Life and Orientation. Applicants must be enrolled students, and have and

**SGA, page 3**

# Radios’ constant glitches hoped to diminish

## RADIO, page 1

more issues with that,” King said. “Now and again we do have some issues with disruptions but I feel that those are not anything uncommon that a number of departments and agencies have with radio systems.”

In a 2008 interview with StudentMedia, King explained that coverage on campus had improved by adjusting repeaters and the antennas for the system. He also acknowledged that there were still dead spots in the system.

“The system we have is an adequate system. Is it the best system? Absolutely not. Is it the worst? Absolutely not ... Every time we have something that occurs, we

end up addressing that as an issue,” King said in a recent interview.

The system, manufactured by Motorola Radios, is an ultra-high frequency system, strictly for University use, replacing an older state communications system. It is not the traditional county-wide radio system which most law enforcement departments use.

King also said that the department has purchased several handheld county radios, allowing both the dispatch center and officers to keep track of the county system and allowing them to communicate if needed.

“The current system is still unreliable,” said Brenan Coyle of the Dade County Police

Benevolent Association

Coyle is staff counsel for the Dade County PBA, which has been receiving complaints from officers about the radio system since 2006.

According to Coyle, he has been receiving e-mails about the issue and has gotten complaints as recently as last month.

“The improvements have been marginal at best,” Coyle said.

In 2005, when there were discussions about which system the department would adopt, there were three leading options: the county radio

system, upgrading the state communications system or reverting to the UHF system and buying new radios.

Initial estimates for the cost of converting to the UHF system were \$96,462. The department spent \$157,438 on the system as of December 2006, including hiring firms such as Code 3 Technology and Rapid Wireless of Florida to help improve the system.

The county-wide radio system was projected to cost more than \$277,545 at the time, though later estimates claimed that the system would have cost \$101,009.

“The Union endorses and still endorses the county system which is the best system for the University and its officers,” Coyle said.

At the time this article was published, King has not replied to multiple contact attempts from Student Media regarding this issue.

“Officer safety and the safety of the University community has not been jeopardized by our current radio system nor will it be because we do have some redundancy [in our communications system],” King said in an earlier interview.

## CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Sept. 9, in the article titled “Program signs two-year contract,” Gold Star signed a one-year contract with the University, not a two-year contract.

In the same article, the prices for the valet service should have been \$5 for two hours and \$12 for the entire day.

In the same issue, the picture on page 10 was taken by Linda Lee.

# THE BEACON

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## Campus Life fair showcases clubs to get students involved

**SABRENA JOHNSON**  
Contributing Writer

Students wanting to learn how to row, address community needs, or just enjoy writing and sharing poems, can start doing it right on campus.

Campus Life set out to get students more involved in campus activities by hosting its annual Involvement Fair on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

The fair was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Panther Square. Several clubs came together in an effort to recruit members and get students more involved in different campus activities.

"The purpose of the Involvement Fair is to make students aware of the different organizations we have available at the University," said Ivy Siegel, coordinator of Campus Life.

Representatives from several campus clubs were also present, one of which was Melissa Binns, vice president of the Student Programming Council.

"We are a very diverse club, and we host a list of campus events such as Fall Fest, the Homecoming Step Show, the Spring Fling Concert and Hispanic Heritage Week," said Binns. "We are recruiting new members because a lot of our current members are seniors."

SPC members meet every Thursday at 4 p.m. in WUC 154.

Other clubs included the NAACP, On Point Poetry, Marine Biology Club, Multicultural Club, Planned Parenthood, Stonewall 2 BBC, FIU Community Builders and the Rowing Club.

"Our club is actually the only On Point Poetry Club on either campus. Members can present their poems or just come out and listen to others," said Elvia Brazil, On Point Poetry president.

Students who would like to join On Point Poetry can sign up in Campus Life, WUC 141, to receive an e-mail with the dates and times of poetry readings.

Those who are interested in aquatic activities can join the Rowing Club, which was established on campus about 15 years ago, according to Henry Kupcheck, founder of the club.

"We currently have about 25 members. We are recruiting right now and will start practicing some time in the fall," Kupcheck said.

In order to join the Rowing Club, students must be good swimmers and know how to tread water for at least 10 minutes. Students interested in joining can e-mail club officials at [crew@fiu.edu](mailto:crew@fiu.edu) to

receive a notification of the practice dates and times.

Students who want to get more involved with activities outside the University can join the Community Builders Club.

"Our club is designed to get students actively involved in the community. We try to promote a more engaged experience of learning by volunteering for different projects in the district area, advocating for university initiatives and addressing the needs of the community," said Esperanza Ibuka, president of the Community Builders Club.

Ibuka's club will be holding its first conference of the semester Sept. 17 in WUC 244AB from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students who would like to join can also sign up at that time.

All organizations are free and open to University students.

"I wasn't aware they had so many different clubs available at the school," said Elmira Denver, a freshman English major. "I especially like the poetry club. Poetry is my passion so I'll probably sign up for that one."

Students who were unable to come to the fair, but want to join a club, can stop by Campus Life to pick up applications for all clubs at BBC.

## Students stay posted via SMS

**PANTHER ALERT, page 2**

incidents such as active shooting, or property-threatening incidents like hurricanes or tornadoes.

University Public Safety receives notifications from Miami-Dade County's Emergency Management and other commendable sources.

The University police's communications department then sends out alerts for crimes on campus or in campus vicinity, fire and other safety threats to all those registered for Panther Alerts.

Public Safety does not want students to take emergency messages for granted nor disregard them as unimportant, so students will not see a constant stream of these texts in their inbox on a regular basis.

"It's similar to the electronic emergency messages on the highways. The messages are for only true emergencies," said Alex

Silva, the University police communications director.

Students can sign up online to receive Panther Alerts text messages. The service is free but the cell-phone carrier's normal text messages fees do apply.

Only a very small percentage of FIU's population are signed up for this service.

According to the Office of Emergency Management, there are approximately 17,000 students signed up for Panther Alerts, compared to nearly 40,000 registered students at FIU. There are even less staff, faculty and "others" signed up.

"I have [registered]. It's convenient when there is a hurricane," said student Elizabeth Argenal.

When there is a tropical storm warning, she knows there's no need to leave her house in vain. Panther Alerts will let her know the University is closed.

Silva said that the FIU

community needs to be signed up to Panther Alerts and suggests that they also sign up for text notification from the county-wide alert system, Miami Dade Alerts, on the county's Web site.

"It's an extra thing to have," he said.

The county sends out alerts for hurricane activity, tornado warnings, crime incidents and other public safety concerns.

Recently, the county sent out text notifications for fires on 152nd Avenue and 8th Street.

"Something like that is good to be aware of since it is so close to campus," Silva said.

Robin Yang, program assistant at the Office of Emergency Management, said it is also important to "let others know of the alerts you receive," since not all students are enrolled in the Panther Alerts program.

"We need more people to be informed," Yang said.

## ALGEBRA COUNTS



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

**CHANGE:** Natalya Cohen, SGC-BBC senator-at-large, explains a proposed resolution to make MAC 1105 College Algebra a University Core Curriculum course for math to Arley Sepulveda, a freshman creative writing major, during SGA Day on Sept. 9 in Panther Square.

## Student government interns to get hands-on experience

**SGA, page 2**

maintain a 2.5 college GPA. Freshmen applicants must have a 3.0 GPA.

Students will be able to apply for an internship at both campuses. Each campus will have its own internship coordinator. Kielia Samuels will lead SGC-BBC interns, and both Mercy Lavado, MMC internship coordinator, and Laura Farinas, co-intern coordinator, will be responsible for SGC-MMC interns.

Students must complete the intern application, which can be found on the SGA's Web site, [www.fiu.edu/~sga](http://www.fiu.edu/~sga).

Those selected must attend a mandatory retreat, which has yet to be scheduled, attend mandatory intern class meetings, complete assigned campus projects, join at least one student club, complete three office hours a week and attend SGA general meetings.

"The idea is for interns to get insight into what SGA does, so then the following year, the interns can run for office," said Rafael Zapata, SGC-BBC advisor. "It is always going to provide leadership opportunities and train you to know what it would be like to work in that position."

According to Battle, who served as last year's internship coordinator, it is essential to keep interns involved in activities in order

to keep their interest.

"One thing about retention is making people feel needed. If you have things for them to do as soon as they come in, they will be more likely to stay," she said. "Now they will have tons to do and be involved."

In SGC-MMC, interns will be part of a mentoring program that will require students to shadow different SGA council members.

The program will also have a Merit Point System in order to keep track of the interns' involvement. Interns will receive points based on their participation in the council, and different prizes and opportunities will be given to those with the largest amount of points. According to Lavado, the intern with the most merit points at the end of the program will receive a \$500 scholarship.

At BBC, Samuels wants to get interns involved with the president's goals and create student leaders through hands-on experience.

"Our president has outlined certain goals that we will accomplish, and my interns will be a part of it 100 percent," said Samuels. "They will learn to make decisions and learn how decisions are made."

One goal already assigned to SGC-BBC interns is to determine what students want in the game room that will be located on the second floor of the Wolfe University

Center.

This year, the intern program may use several methods to give students a broader understanding of the organization, but no strategies have been finalized, according to Zapata. Samuels plans on having the interns work with the different student organizations at BBC to help them learn more about campus life.

"We want this year's interns to be well-rounded, and we believe that they can learn something from each council," Samuels said.

Interviews for SGC-BBC applicants are scheduled to begin about a week after the deadline, according to Samuels. SGC-MMC intern coordinators will start conducting group interviews Sept. 23 in the GC ballrooms, and individual interviews with the president, vice president, chief of staff and two intern coordinators Sept. 30.

No resumes are required for the interviews, but proper attire is expected.

"Our ideal intern is one that yearns for all that the program is offering, someone who wants to be active in the school community and is willing to learn the ways of student government - an intern that is driven for growth and vows commitment to the structure of the program," said Samuels.

## Still much to learn from Sept. 11 attacks

ROMNEY MANASSA  
Staff Writer

Is there any effective way to capture the raw disorder and sadness that followed such a calamity as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks? This was once an average day, and now, the seemingly innocuous combination of the numbers 9 and 11 invoke reflections of anger, tragedy, fear and terror.

One could argue that we have merely moved forward from darker times, following the course of time. After all, we should not allow ourselves to be held back in sorrow and anger. We must always remember the many heroes, average people like us, who died that day, and continue on with their sacrifices in our memory.

But there is sadly more to Sept. 11 than senseless death; many repercussions – and their lessons – remain to be learned. I recall during a conference on American foreign policy a dictum on the event: it was not Sept. 11 itself that changed the world, but our reaction to it. If you think about it, none of the events that transpired after the attacks needed ever to have happened. We did not have to forsake our civil liberties under an increasingly powerful executive branch. Our complacency with the Patriot Act, our stance on water-boarding and other forms of torture and unwarranted wiretapping on American citizens is inexcusable.

We did not have to support wars that to this day claim more blood and remain a haunting legacy of that time – over 30,000 Americans have been wounded since the Iraq invasion in 2003, according to *GlobalSecurity.org*, a database of figures collected over the course of six years. Additionally, over 4,000 American troops and over 90,000 Iraqi civilians have been killed.

Moreover, we did not have to succumb to the fear and paranoia that allowed those in power to exploit our rightful call to justice for their own selfish interests.

Sept. 11 became a significant but fleeting boost to our unity and sense of pride as a nation. There was immense good will and patriotism following that fateful event. To think it took the loss of 3,000 lives to get us to come together as a nation. It wasn't long before we reverted back to the political deadlock and public polarization that continues to plague our progress today. Must we only come together in the face of certain doom or out of insecurity?

We allowed Sept. 11 to grip us in a state of victimization and panic that was naively complacent. This came to be exploited with horrific consequences – consequences that we and the world experience to this very day. Admittedly, it's far easier to note these things in retrospect, and one could argue that, given the circumstances, our actions (and inactions) could not be helped.

But this does not invalidate the lessons to be learned.

With every crisis, even those as horrific as Sept. 11, comes opportunity. We can still learn from the repercussions of that atrocious event. We must not be blind to the world outside our own, which we had meddled in and provoked ghastly vengeance from in the form of Sept. 11. We cannot let ourselves fall into a cycle of revenge that may entrench future generations – namely today's and tomorrow's youth – for generations.

As a nation, we need to hold together, not due to terrible tragedies like the attacks, but because we all have a stake in one another's future as Americans. As we deal with the current glut of crises that will likely affect us for years to come, the lessons of Sept. 11 – of composure and solidarity in the face of disaster, of loving our fellow Americans and working to compromise – ring as loudly as ever.

TEXTING SERIES: PART 2 OF 2

## Cellphone use, driving a deadly mix

VANESSA ESPINEL  
Staff Writer

Before you disregard this as another “texting while driving is dangerous” article, you must come to terms with the fact there can never be enough warnings. With QWERTY keypads making their way onto every mobile device, texting has been undoubtedly on the rise and inevitably ending lives. According to a study conducted by Students Against Destructive Decisions, texting was proven to be the greatest distraction for drivers. These unsurprising findings are the tragic accidents that are later viewed on the news, after the fact.

For many people it is difficult, maybe even close to the point of impossible, to imagine what life was like before texting. With 160 characters, texting found its way into our daily lives and incorporated itself into human instinct.

A text message, however trivial, is still enough to cause countless accidents. Texting is no longer only affecting your life, but unknowing bystanders as well.

Not only are drivers advised against texting, but drivers of all motor vehicles need to find the will to restrain from such a distraction. Recent events associated with texting while on the road or tracks have proven deadly as well. In May, a 24 year-

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COMMENT AT FIUSM.COM

old conductor caused a Boston trolley accident that injured 49 passengers because he sent a text message.

Commuters on the West Coast are also familiar with texting-related tragedies. According to *The Los Angeles Times*, the September 2008 Metrolink crash – which killed 25 people and injured 130 – was the result of a texting conductor.

It has been my experience that we mentally live in a “not me” world. As human beings, we know that we are not immune to accidents, but we go about with the illusion that they happen to others, “not me.” Unfortunately, as real world happenings have proven, at times we become these “others.” Countless warnings have been issued to prevent texting while driving, but the sense of sight might just prove to overpower that of hearing.

Officials through airwaves abroad are collaborating in a persuasive effort to bring an end to texting while driving before it has a chance to end your life. The British have been running a PSA considered too graphic for U.S. tubes. The video can still be seen via YouTube. The four-minute clip from

Gwent, Wales has taken on the role of a short film depicting explicit bloody scenes, but, unlike most films, the events transpiring are very much life-like.

The PSA depicts three girls, two of which (including the driver) are too distracted over sending a text message, which results in a horrific car accident. In the other car, a couple is supposedly dead, leaving a child crying for her parents. After the viewer witnesses the full extent of the damage, the texting driver remains the sole survivor among her friends – and is left with the devastating aftermath.

The too-real clip may be too graphic for the U.S. airwaves, but it has received mention on three major media outlets; CNN along with MSNBC's *The Today Show* were two of the first U.S. networks to air segments of the PSA in late August.

Early last week, a radio station, Y-100, held a discussion on the PSA and encouraged listeners to view the powerful message, providing links on their Web site. Of course, the major source for video viewing, the PSA on YouTube, has reached over a million hits.

In an era where violent films at times surpass “R” ratings and 8-year-olds are blowing up heads in video games (for fun), it is time this serious and potentially deadly issue is allowed the recognition it deserves.

## Online education raises grades, suspicion

ERIC M. FELDMAN  
Staff Writer

When I see a college degree hanging on a wall, it represents that the person has gone through four years or more of schooling – attending classes, being involved on their campus and all the other facets that come with a college education.

In reality, however, it is starting to mean that the person did a large amount of online research, chatted with other classmates through e-mail and watched slides on their computers.

This trend should be expected to grow even more, considering that a Department of Education report that analyzed years of classes has found that students taking equivalent classes online and in person performed better online.

In fact, when comparing multitudes of studies of students taking the same courses in both formats, the online students actually fared

nine percentile points higher than their in-classroom peers. These numbers are promising, because it means that not only does online education enable more people to have access to learning from more places, but that it may actually enhance education as a whole.

Though I am still weary of the thought of sprawling college campuses being replaced by a network of laptops, online classes certainly have their advantages and disadvantages.

Personally, every semester I take one online class. This enables me to complete the 15 credits required of me without having to show up to five different classes a week, but I wouldn't do more than this online.

Even though I see online classes as a fine supplement to the rest of college, reading the textbook and throwing up posts on Blackboard Learning System doesn't seem the same as being challenged in person by professors who are experts in their field, seeing their personality, and being able to ask questions and getting an

answer on the spot.

Another thing that concerns me about the expanding trend of online learning is taking

Though I am still weary of the thought of campuses being replaced by laptops, online classes certainly have their advantages and disadvantages.

tests online. I'm not going to advocate school being harder than it already is – but I also understand that a degree is only as valuable as it was challenging to get.

The typical exam administered over Blackboard is timed as to provide some sort of challenge to the student, but there is no way to prevent the use of book or notes, or most importantly, verify that the student signed into the exam is the one actually enrolled in the class.

Already in my limited years

in college, I have seen a shift from professors requiring you to bring a photo ID to class in order to take an exam to telling you to go home and take the exam online without any sort of identity verification – shirking work to grade in the process.

Perhaps this freedom to cheat even accounts for the couple percentile points that online students scored over traditional ones.

In addition, online learning is a big business. Not only does it expand the capacity of people that a University can enroll, but at many institutions, such as ours, the school gets to charge extra money for the courses while not having to build extra classrooms or parking spaces.

Online learning will continue to expand, but the push to put entire degree programs online should be looked at with extreme scrutiny.

When you see a flier on the side of the road that says “Earn your degree from home,” you dismiss it as a scam. So, why should adding FIU's logo to the concept make it any different?

### DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon Editorial Board. These views are separate from editorials and reflect individual perspectives of contributing writers and/or members of the University community.

### WINNER/LOSER



Apple CEO Steve Jobs received a 45-second standing ovation when he made his first appearance after a liver transplant. Jobs overcame cancer and noted to the audience that he was now “vertical.” The audience, who stood clapping for the better part of a minute, was as well.



The Coral Gables city commissioners approved a 14 percent property tax increase. City Manager Pat Salemo defended this decision by saying anything less than 14 would have resulted in cuts to the police staff and several unjustifiable parking tickets for himself.

### OPINIONPIECE

# 51

The percentage of teens that text while driving is on the rise, as well as motor-fatalities attributed to cell phone use.

### QUOTATIONATION

“Is it any wonder that many of the sick and elderly are concerned that the Democrats' proposals will ultimately lead to rationing of their health care by – dare I say it – death panels?”

Former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin commenting on healthcare legislation

# GOLDEN (PANTHER) GIRL



## Student balances school life, limelight

TIFFANY HUERTAS  
Contributing Writer

She may seem like any other FIU student, but María Lourdes Borrajero plans to become a star. She already has steady work as a model, dancer, actress and singer.

The oldest of two, born to parents of Cuban descent, Borrajero was raised in Elizabeth, New Jersey until the age of 5 when she moved to Miami.

Borrajero's family has supported her for as long as she could remember, providing the foundation that she hopes will lead her to success. Borrajero has performed in national choirs and has 15 years of dance training including lyrical, classical ballet, jazz, tap and belly dancing.

"The doors opened for my career when I entered the World Beauty Championship in 2005," said Borrajero. "I then found the opportunity I have been waiting for and I began to work with big channels such as Univision, Galavision and Telefuturo."

Borrajero then began to sing in front of large crowds and on television and radio.

The aspiring star has just released her new CD album called *Sin Genero*, which is composed of songs from an eclectic mix of musical genres. The album sold briskly in North and South Carolina, selling out in the first week. She also works as a background singer for the TV show "Sabado Gigante," on Univision.

Despite a blossoming entertainment career, Borrajero still puts education at the top of her priority list. She is currently working on a degree in criminal justice at FIU.

"She is not only a talented person, but a hard working student," said Veronica Gonzalez, a close friend who has known Borrajero since the age of 6.

She was recently seen on the Modesto Maidique Campus, not for a performance, but to promote the criminal justice national honor society, Alpha Phi Sigma.

While she enjoys being both a singer and a student, she knows which role is more important for her in the long run.

"I love the other side of my life; the singing, the audience, the recording studios and makeup, but that has an age limit and I

want something as an academic career to just back me up in the long run," Borrajero said.

Apart from singing and studying, Borrajero enjoys performing community service. She participates in fundraising projects for the International Rescue Committee, Josefiná Kidney Foundation for Dialysis, Relay for Life and many others. She has also helped organize a charity event to raise funds for a disabled child that needed medical attention for the past two years. Borrajero's involvement in charity work can partially be attributed to her idol.

"My favorite artist is Celine Dion, because she has done so much charity work and has so much fame and, in the long run, she is truly down to earth," Borrajero said.

She wants to put her extra energy into becoming a role model for young audiences and her biggest fan - her younger sister who follows her everywhere she goes.

"I have a little sister that is in gifted and is in tap, jazz and drama," said Borrajero. "Pretty much following my footsteps and my heart is fulfilled and in peace."

Who knows, we could have another talented Borrajero sister at FIU in the near future.

## NEON NIGHTS

# Hookahs, hot dogs: Keep it steamy, saucy with this itinerary for late-night frivolity

It's good to know a sexy place to take someone on a night out on the town. It's even better when you can also watch them handle a hookah pipe teasingly while cherry smoke slowly drifts out of their breath.

Hookah bars are undeniably one of the hippest trends sweeping across our post-Sept. 11 society. Combine outside seating, belly dancing talent and delicious, stuffed grape leaves and you've got somewhere you can feel like a sultan every Friday and Saturday night. This is Aladdin's, and it's located on 3415 Main Highway in Coconut Grove.

For two people, a hookah is \$15 and refills are \$8. Not sure what to try? I recommend the White Tiger mix, it's got a fresh citrus bite and tastes like fame and fortune - if you could pack it and smoke it.

If I'm paying for dinner, I like to try something not usually offered around the house, so I went for the lamb kebab. This place is open late but I suggest getting there before 12 a.m. so you can hit the expressway, let the smoke subside and the food digest in time for your next stop: the Purdy Lounge.

Purdy Lounge prides itself on its low bull excrement output. It's located on South

Beach, on 1811 Purdy Avenue, so that's saying a lot. Here, you're still technically by the beach and with enough ambition and friends who don't mind the walk, you can be there.

The point of coming here though is that you'd want to get away from the Ed Hardy-wearing, fight-starting, jager-bombing roughnecks at those clubs where you'd pay \$20 to get into anyway. So how much is cover here? There is none at all no matter what day of the week it is.

Monday nights are reggae nights, a favorite among my friends since they love their \$4 Red Stripes.

Thursday is ladies night and Sunday nights cater to a more hip-hop oriented crowd. Adjust your plans accordingly.

The drive home often includes a short discussion of places to eat now that the night's excitement has settled back into your pores along with the smell of sweat and cigarettes.

Since this is Miami, you will one day be expected to know where to find fresh and cheesy *arepas* at any time of day, so you should know about Los Perros.

Los Perros is a Colombian eatery on 13313 S.W. 42 St. that is open until 6 a.m. on weekends. This is what a hot dog stand would look like if it channeled the spirit of

a South Beach club.

Their Superperro is not so super when you're a hot dog aficionado like me, but the Chorriperro is meaty enough to absorb any drink specials your friends have been hoarding all night.

They carry a mildly spicy green sauce with a name that escapes me, but that's all that gets away: I never leave this place without taking at least three plastic vials of it.

The regulars here always go for the extra pineapple puree which complements the hot dogs in the kind of cultural flavor fusion you will only find here in Miami.

Miami prides itself on being the sexiest city on this side of the equator, and it owes that to the cultural chemistry you will find if you take a minute to explore.

Take this weekend as an opportunity to wow your friends with your new appreciation of the many cultural experiences that Miami has to offer on a late night.

I'd be genuinely surprised if you found a better city to squeeze the beach, reggae, *arepas* and belly dancing all into just one weekend.

*The Beacon reviewers do not receive free food or services in exchange for positive reviews. The views expressed in this article solely represent those of the author.*

## POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

# Remastered albums rekindle love of the Beatles

Every household has certain immutable laws that all members of a family must abide by.

My family didn't have a lot of these rules, but we had a few.

For instance, my mom is from Puerto Rico and my dad is from Pittsburgh, so I have lionized Roberto Clemente my entire life.

To this day, I won't stand for somebody speaking ill of the greatest right fielder in the history of baseball.

Another rule was that you had to like the Beatles.

I was raised under the shadows of John, Paul, George and Ringo almost literally; we practically had a shrine in our living room with an original *Hard Day's Night* movie poster and various other knick knacks related to the fab four.

Even at the deepest depths of my sister's over-emotional, sensitive-guy rock phase, the Beatles were always the one thing we could all agree on.

It was something I had just accepted as a part of my being until I was in about eighth grade; I liked the Beatles, they were my favorite band.

But in eighth grade, for some reason, I decided I needed to delve deeper into their catalog and started with a copy of *Let It Be* that I nicked from my uncle's house so I could burn it.

If you remember back to about 2000 or so, CD burning technology was still a little raw, so the burned copy I had produced a lot of blemishes in the rerecording process.

But still, I listened the hell out of that album.

I had been operating under the auspices that I loved the Beatles without knowing what it was about them I loved.

It was like an eighth grader raised in a Reagan Republican's household discovering *Atlas Shrugged* and figuring out why what they believed was right the whole time.

I can't remember the last time I had a really original, fully immersive relationship with an album, but this was certainly the first time.

To this day when I hear "I've Got a Feeling," it doesn't feel quite right if it doesn't skip at least twice during the intro like my copy did.

I am having somewhat of a similar experience as I sit here listening to the newly remastered copy of *Abbey Road* - my favorite Beatles album - that I have recently procured.

Because it's a remastered version, I guess I've been paying more attention to individual details than I normally would. Maybe it's because I already know I love the songs (each and every one on this album in particular), but I'm noticing little things that I've never taken note of

# Details make remasters rewarding

POP, page 5

before. I could write a weekly column about Paul McCartney's bass playing from *Abbey Road* if my editor would let me, but even saying that, it must be noted that Paul is by far the biggest beneficiary of these remasters.

Where before his playing sounded like big fat dollops of paint on a music sheet due to the way it was mastered on the original CD releases, on this new CD release, it truly reminds you of why Paul was the most melodic bass player in music at the time.

Ringo also benefits greatly, and being able to hear each individual voice clearly rather than a wall of harmonies must be mentioned as well. These are the kind of details you might not notice when they aren't there, but it completely improves the listening experience.

But the best part is the little unintentional things you find when you listen for the details. A spare vocal that didn't get cut out properly, the random missed guitar note, John flubbing a lyric that you may not have noticed before; these are the things we accidentally fall in love with in music, much like my butchered copy of *Let It Be*.

I've already written a column about these reissues when they were announced, but that wasn't really about the music. I complained about Apple using it as an excuse to squeeze as much money as possible from fans, and that still holds true.

The limited-run box sets have been creating artificial demand, so if you have your gripes about the massive monolithic money-making machine, the Beatles, then you will have plenty to complain about.

But as for me, as I sit here falling back in love with the first band I ever liked, and then subsequently loved, I'm having a hard time finding the words for it.

IS IT WORTH IT?

# SPC picks great film to screen in *Gran Torino*

DAVID BARRIOS  
Staff Writer

Clint Eastwood is one of America's great enigmas.

Behind the grizzled, worn face and the no-nonsense, "Greatest Generation" veneer is a deeply personal and layered filmmaker; not just an actor but a director and a composer; as fearless and honest in his ideals as he is old fashioned and traditional in his story telling. He is the blending of old and new America.

That's what makes films like *Gran Torino* worth watching.

Eastwood plays Walt Kowalski, a recent widower and veteran of the Korean War. Retired from the auto industry, and with his family seemingly disinterested in him, all Walt really has time to do is sit on his front porch, drink a beer and complain, especially about his neighborhood and his new neighbors: Hmong immigrants from Southeast Asia.

Times certainly have changed for Walt, but unlike his 1972 *Gran Torino*, which sits in his driveway, a sign of tradition, Walt pushed to change as he tries to guide his young neighbor, Thao, played with great honesty by Bee Vang, after Thao tries to steal his *Gran Torino*.

In trying to teach Thao, who he refers to lovingly as "Toad," along with many other racial slurs, Walt will have to confront not only his prejudices but also find a reason to keep living.

Eastwood is a master storyteller at heart. The plot of the film unfolds with perfect measure which each of the major characters gaining depth. In another filmmaker's hands, Thao would have been played as a Shia Labeouf-type: an annoying, jumpy nerd. But Eastwood, aided by Nick Schenk's screenplay, allows Thao to be a real teenager with awkwardness, impatience and naiveté. Eastwood is a living icon who is not scared to play with his image.

Ahney Her is particularly affecting as Thao's sister, Sue, who tries to break through Walt's exterior. It seems that Eastwood isn't scared to cast unknowns, but the one fault of the film is that while the cast acts excellently as an ensemble, Eastwood's performance is a powerhouse, easily his best since 1992's *Unforgiven*. This leaves a gap between the cast and the lead but, in the end, this is a film about Walt's redemption.

Still, it is one of Eastwood's twilight mas-

terpieces. How wonderful it must be to reach an age where most actors choose to retire, only to reach a new stride not only as an actor but as a director.

It is fitting that the Student Programming Council has scheduled this film to be screened on the eighth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. This is a film about prejudice and redemption. Eastwood succeeds in having an open dialogue about race in America because, unlike Paul Haggis' film, *Crash*, *Gran Torino* isn't pushing it out there in a gaudy manner.

It's also a statement about getting old in America and if it is related to any recent film, then it must be Pixar's *Up*. Both films are about men in the twilight of their lives trying to find new relevance after their wives have passed on. Of course, Carl Fredrickson in *Up* wouldn't brandish an M-1 Garand rifle and point it at someone's face.

So, enough of my rambling. Go watch this. Easily one of the best films of 2008.

"Is it worth it?" is a weekly feature rating the relative quality of films screened by SPC.

THE SISTERS OF THETA PI ARE DYING TO KEEP A SECRET.

# SORORITY ROW

MOBILE USERS: For Showtimes, Text Message SORORITY and Your ZIP CODE to 43KIX (43549)

**IN THEATRES FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

## THIS WEEKEND

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 11

#### GRAND TORINO

Enjoy this Clint Eastwood flick with fellow FIU students.  
WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 140

#### HOT NIGHTS, COOL JAZZ



Let the Dave Fernandez Quartet jazz up your weekend!  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: Bass Museum of Art

#### ASIAN CLUB: MOVIE

Come to this event and learn about the Asian culture through film.  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 150

#### CALAHONEY



Enjoy the alternative folk tunes of this delightful duo tonight!  
WHEN: 9 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: Tobacco Road

#### GLASS CANDY

Enjoy this Italian band presented by your favorite local gem, Sweet Records.  
WHEN: 11 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: The Vagabond

#### LAUGHING GAS COMEDY

Start the weekend laughing to this weekly Improv show.  
WHEN: 11 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$12  
WHERE: Main Street Playhouse

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 12

#### FUTURE CLASSIC FESTIVAL

Enjoy a concert by N.E.R.D. and Miami's best local acts!  
WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$20-\$70  
WHERE: Soho Studios

#### ICONS & LEGENDS



Catch this show and enjoy the musical stylings of some legendary artists.  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$15  
WHERE: African Heritage Cultural Arts Center

#### LA GUNS

Catch this glam metal show tonight!  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$42  
WHERE: Culture Room

#### 30 YEARS OF PUNK

Miami's favorite hole in the wall is celebrating their survival with legendary local bands.  
WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: Churchill's

#### TAKEOVER

Enjoy Drum'n'bass and dubstep spun by several DJs tonight!  
WHEN: 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Maracas

#### ART WORKS BY CUNDO BERMEDEZ



Enjoy an exhibit by one of Cuba's greatest artists.  
WHEN: 11 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Freedom Tower Building

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

#### BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN



"The Boss" will shake up BankAtlantic Center with the E-Street Band this weekend.  
WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$100.75  
WHERE: BankAtlantic Center

#### MIAMI SCI-FI/FANTASY MEETUP

Discuss the unknown this Sunday afternoon.  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Wallflower gallery

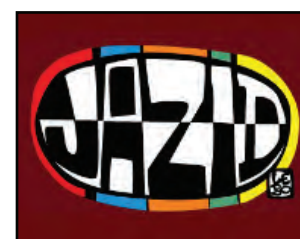
#### LAUGH IN PEACE TOUR

Watch what happens when you put a Muslim and a Jew on stage.  
WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$20-\$25  
WHERE: Dave & Mary Alper JCC

#### TOMMY DAVIDSON

Enjoy the stand up of this actor, comedian, musician and singer.  
WHEN: 8:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$21.40  
WHERE: Miami Improv

#### KULCHA SHOK MUZIK



A night of live reggae music featuring Fourth Dimension.  
WHEN: 11 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Jazid

#### SPEED THE PLOW

Spend a Sunday night watching a play about selling out in Hollywood.  
WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$42.50  
WHERE: Gablestage

## Coach respects FIU, urges players to follow his lead

TOWERS, page 8

team that Saban is worried about.

Maybe it's that he has already lost to a Sun Belt team before, an embarrassing 21-14 loss to University of Louisiana-Monroe in his first season and wants to make sure his players don't sleep walk through the next two weeks, including another game against a Sun Belt team next week.

### 'RESPECT'

FIU probably isn't going to win this game.

Despite Saban's public reservations, the Crimson Tide are just too talented to not beat FIU.

Coach Mario Cristobal often talks about how important it is to be competitive at the point of attack, the line of scrimmage, and while FIU has a lot of talent at the skill positions, it is on the lines where they have big question marks.

But Saban spent a good part of his time during this press conference reminding the reporters (or perhaps telling them for the first time) that FIU isn't quite the pushover many might expect them to be. He talked about respect, and that has to mean a lot.

It says something very big about FIU and Alabama that Saban felt compelled to make such comments in such clear words.

Saban was probably speaking to his players more than anyone when he talked about respecting your opponent; it's all too easy to look past an opponent and get blind-sided if they want it more. But FIU can take something out of them too.

"Whatever your perception is of what they ought to be, I don't think it's that. And I don't want our players to think that, either. Now, as fans, you all can think that as much as you want," he said. "And you create that perception, which just creates more problems for me because the players read the paper, too."

FIU can take a little extra swagger in this game and know that there is something about them eating away at Saban and even if they don't win, and even if they don't give them much of a fight, they can know they may have put a few extra gray hairs on his head as he game planned.

Sometimes that kind of mental edge can carry on throughout the season.

This offense especially can give coaches headaches all year, and when you have to plan for a player like Hilton, it can really cause you to overcompensate.

"Now," Saban said, "is that a good one to end on or do you want to ask something else while I'm getting fired up here?"

No thank you, coach Saban. You've said more than enough.

## Cristobal looking for strong start by keeping ball on the ground

FOOTBALL PREVIEW, page 1

because they change the line of scrimmage every single play," Cristobal said. "They are up the field; they're explosive. They're going to shed guys; they're going to take on fullbacks and chase quarterbacks down."

The last time the Golden Panthers faced the Crimson Tide they endured a 38-3 loss on Oct. 28, 2006 at Tuscaloosa, Ala.

In that instance, FIU was playing 18 players short after suspensions or dismissals were given to players involved in an altercation with Miami the week before.

This time around, the Golden Panthers are coming off of their best season since moving up to the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2006 (five wins) and are a picture of nearly perfect health.

In order to attack Alabama's strong defense, Cristobal said beginning the game well will be critical.

"It's important to look at a game like a heavyweight fight where you're going to go 15 rounds and you're going to go the full distance because emotions are so high," Cristobal said. "You want to start fast, you preach it, practice it and design plays to start fast. But if they don't go your way you have to be prepared with your counter punch."

**It's important to look at a game like a heavyweight fight where you're going to go 15 rounds and you're going to go the full distance...**

Mario Cristobal, coach  
Football

Cristobal said one way to start fast will be to attempt to establish a running game that was often absent last season.

"You have to stick to the run," Cristobal said. "If you don't do it, then it's easy for them to pin their ears back and get after your quarterback. We have improved through weight room but there has to be a transfer to the football field."

Where Alabama is inexperienced is at the quarterback position, where Greg McElroy will be starting his second career game.

Defensively for FIU, they cannot afford to let Crimson Tide playmakers like running back Mark Ingram and wide receiver Julio Jones break away for big gains.

### CONTAIN

Linebacker Scott Bryant said the main focus is to be balanced on defense, but putting pressure on McElroy will be an area of focus for FIU.

"We're going to take advantage of

his inexperience, throw a lot of looks at him," Bryant said. "Pressure busts pipes."

Bryant did not play in the teams matchup in 2006, but he will start and be an important piece to the Golden Panthers as they face one of the nation's best.

"I thank God for this opportunity," he said.

### WHERE AND HOW

- Catch live blogging on [FIUSM.com](http://FIUSM.com). Any scores, updates and key plays will be available online.
- Official FIU Football Road Watch Party at Sports Grill on 40th St. and SW 117 Ave.
- Game will be broadcast live on 790 AM The Ticket

### CLASSIFIEDS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Pizza plus other rewards!  
Undergraduate students give us your opinion on September 10th in GC 1235.  
11:00-12:00 any student, 12:30-1:30 females, 2:00-3:00 males, 3:30-4:30 campus leaders Email: [goglobal@fiu](mailto:goglobal@fiu).

### JOBS

Part-time work, good English skills, mornings or weekends – knowledge of music and photos helpful. Call 305-551-6926.

South Beach based father seeks part-time nanny/helper for 13 yr old son. Light cooking, errands, help son with homework. Non-smoker, English speaking, hours are late afternoon and early evenings. Must be able to live in when father is away on occasion. Send CV and recent photo to : DSL, APT 3001, Miami Beach, FL 33139

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## OPEN HOUSE



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

### Team arrives home to face tough opponents

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers began preparing for their highly anticipated home opener for the FIU/UM Invitational on Tuesday after finishing a successful 5-1 road trip to begin the season.

They will try to build on the success they have earned going into this weekend against two quality opponents in Albany and No. 22 Florida State.

"You want to build on the momentum, have that winning attitude going into conference play," Coach Danijela Tomic said. "We always schedule our preseason to be tough; we want our conference play to be easier than the preseason."

Yarimar Rosa, the Sun Belt's Preseason Player of the Year, participated in practice on Sept. 8. She has not played so far this season after aggravating a hip injury she acquired over the summer just before the season started. Whether she plays depends on how her hip is feeling. The practices have also been geared toward shoring up on defense, and the team has been able to make strides in the right direction.

"Our defense has improved tremendously," Tomic said. "That was the focus of our spring season. We're focusing more on defense in practices now."

The Panthers go up against Albany on Sept. 11, then take on No. 22 FSU in the last game of

**You want to build on the momentum, have that winning attitude going into conference play.**

Danijela Tomic, coach  
Volleyball

the FIU/UM Invitational.

#### UPSTATE CHALLENGE

The Florida State Seminoles come to Miami after getting off to a quick 5-1 start, their best start since 2000. One of their victories was a 3-0 sweep over then-No. 8 Illinois that propelled them into the top 25. Senior Mira Djuric leads the Seminoles on offense with a team-best 58 kills and 8 aces.

The Golden Panthers, who

have won just six times in their 28 meetings against the Seminoles, hope to change their fortunes against FSU on Saturday.

"Everybody has improved; I think they're smarter volleyball players. They have more experience; they're reading the game better. For defense... you have to know pretty much what's going to happen before your opponent knows what's going to happen and then defense becomes easy," Tomic said.

### Nick Saban not taking FIU lightly

It wasn't quite coach Mike Leach getting red in the face and yelling at a reporter during a press conference, but Alabama Coach Nick Saban slipped out of his southern gentleman persona just a tad during last Monday's press conference.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

A reporter asked how confident he was his team would be able to avoid a let down going from last week's matchup against ranked Virginia Tech to FIU.

"I don't have confidence in anything. OK?"

That's not what you expect to hear from the head coach of a national powerhouse football program going into a game against a team with almost 780 less wins as a program.

Alabama should be able to handle FIU pretty easily, and yet during Monday's press conference he stated "in no uncertain terms" that FIU is not what they are perceived as being.

Is there something about FIU that worries coach Saban going into his home opener tomorrow?

#### COACH'S NIGHTMARE

Well, there is that one guy with the No. 4 across his chest who caused some problems last season for opposing coaches.

"This guy No. 4 is a better offensive player than anybody we played against last week. You understand that?" Saban asked the reporters in the press conference.

For Saban to specifically mention T.Y. Hilton, FIU's star receiver, twice in the span of a few minutes and say he is a better player than anyone on the then No. 7 ranked team's offense is high praise indeed.

"Their receiver No. 4 Hilton is as good a player as anybody in the country."

There is definitely something about this

TOWERS, page 7

#### MEN'S SOCCER: FIU 2, UNC WILMINGTON 0

### Strong defense leads team to second straight win

**ANA DIAZ**  
Contributing Writer

The Golden Panthers men's soccer team had to rely on the defense to shut down UNC Wilmington for 73 minutes before midfielder Sebastian Frings hit the top left corner to break the 0-0 tie.

Frings scored his second goal of the season and Steven Jair Cabas scored on a penalty kick to seal the 2-0 victory on Friday. Coach Munga Eketebi was confident that the defense was key to the Golden Panthers obtaining their second victory of the season. The team had a total of four wins last season.

"We could have scored more shots," Eketebi said. "Defensively, we were good, but offensively we were

sloppy. The defense stayed strong and kept the other team from scoring."

Phillip Lamar had two saves and did not start the opener, but will be kept this season as the starting goal keeper.

Frings leads the team in goals, yet he feels he can improve his game. He has only been in Miami for three weeks and plans on adjusting to the climate.

"The weather has made it difficult for me. I'm not used to playing in this weather, but I'll get used to it by working harder and conditioning harder," Frings said.

A penalty kick was awarded to the Golden Panthers, 88 minutes into the game, when an offensive player from the UNC Wilmington Seahawks committed a foul inside the box and

received a red card.

"We pushed near the box a lot, kept finding good space and just had a good feeling," Cabas said.

Cabas started his first game on Sunday, yet seemed comfortable playing with new teammates.

"We are going to get better once we have all our injured and suspended players back, we need to start working together so we can be familiar with one another's style of play," Cabas said.

The defense allowed 14 shots in the home opener vs. Florida Gulf Coast University. Against UNC Wilmington, the defense allowed just four shots the entire game.

"Defense stayed organized and solid, didn't put themselves in danger so I did not fear a loss," Eketebi said.



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**BACK IN ACTION:** Steven Jair Cabas scored on a penalty kick and had an assist to help the Golden Panthers win their second game.