

9-18-2009

The Beacon, September 18, 2009

Florida International University

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Florida International University, "The Beacon, September 18, 2009" (2009). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 387.
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Weekend eatery hours inconvenient for students

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Arbetter's: better than your average frank

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SPOTLIGHT

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Campus listens as activist shares his experiences being a victim of hate crimes.

AT THE BAY PAGE 3



Weekends With Paradise: Paradise shares her low-key birthday celebration – eating the best tres leches she's ever had.

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The Coral Gables High stabbing raises questions on campus safety.

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Letter to the Editor: A&S fees need to be spent responsibly.

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Miami Spice offers sugar, spice, everything nice for a low price.

SPORTS PAGE 8

Towers: Despite challenge ahead, Golden Panthers have good chance to upset Rutgers.

SPORTS PAGE 8



Women's soccer are coming off their second win of the season and are preparing to face off Arkansas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPC Move Night, Sept. 18, p.m. Enjoy a free screening of *Angels and Demons*, starring Tom Hanks and Audrey Tatou.

Jazzilla, Sept. 18, 7 p.m. Have a fun, time at this night of Jazz, cupcakes, books and more at Books & Books in Coral Gables.

The Rat Opera, Sept. 19, 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a night of music at Tobacco Road in a show inspired by a local music fixture.

Acoustic Night, Sept. 20, 9:00 p.m. Listen to local music at John Martin's pub this Sunday; there is no charge for the music, though the same can't be said of the food.

WEATHER



FRIDAY

Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 88



SATURDAY

Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87



SUNDAY

Scattered T-Storms
LOW: 79 HIGH: 87

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NEON NIGHTS

BARE IT ALL

Overcoming your insecurities

"Let's go to the nude beach."

I had turned down my friend's request gently before, saying that I was not against nudity but that I'd just need time to warm up to the idea and take the appropriate hair removal measures. I didn't want to appear close-minded about something so natural as the human body.

This time, however, I'd seem like a flake if I left the possibility open again just to defer it to another weekend.

"Do you think I could get a ride? My car is getting worked on right now."

That was true, my car is messed up and I thought this was a blessing in disguise, a sort of get-out-of-being-nude-in-public-free card. My friend lives close to the nude beach, which is located on 10800 Collins Avenue in Haulover Beach.

I knew the idea of driving all the way to Kendall to pick me up just to come back to the beach would

be enough to deter my friend and buy me another week of clothed security.

"I'll pick you up," he said.

There I was, in the bathroom staring down at the bottle of Nair and the body of a grown man in the mirror.

"Come on Bobby Joe, I've seen you naked before."

Really? If he's thinking about what I'm looking at in the mirror, then to me that should sound more like a reason for me not to go.

Yet, a voice inside whispered to me "love yourself." If I don't go, it would be like admitting to being self-loathing. I did not come out of the closet just to remain self-loathing.

This is something we all must fight at any cost, even if it means getting butt naked.

"Fine. I'll go."

Some picture a nude beach as a swirling kaleidoscope of young, svelte, naked models glistening under a blue sky as bare as the bodies below it. This is not the case.

In fact, it rained the whole time we were there and not everyone was naked. I wasn't

COLUMNIST



BOBBY JOE BRACY

NEON NIGHTS, page 6

Mujica: SGA's newest senator

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

Reserved since the start of Fall as a meeting where committees would draft their function in the bylaws, the Sept. 14 meeting of the Student Government Council Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus saw its time expire as senators voted in a new senator, heard a portion of Finance Committee presentations, and watched an advertisement reel provided by Target.

The meeting was halved to include the senate's regular business and the drafting of the committees' jobs descriptions. It ended with no official time for the committees to meet, and only getting to half of the business the Finance Committee was slated to present.

"I know this was supposed to be a working meeting," Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez told the senate. "I strongly recommend you guys actually get together."

When the new constitution was ratified last year, it created four new senatorial committees without job descriptions.

Since the campus bylaws also lack these functions, the commit-

tees were charged with coming up with their functions by Sept. 14.

Based on the descriptions the committees create for themselves, a council bill would be presented to the senate and, if approved, would be added to the bylaws. "I want to see council bills by next meeting,"

Hussain was asked to present at the Sept. 14 meeting, but while in front of the senate, time ran out. The Finance Committee did not have enough members present at the end of the meeting to hold an impromptu hearing, so Hussain was asked again to come back later.

My goal is to renew a sense of civic engagement within the FIU community and encourage students to give back to the ... global community.

Hector Mujica, senator
Business school

Ramirez said.

Rezwan Hussain, President of FIU Microlenders, was for a third time not allowed to make a presentation requesting money from SGA. This time it was because time ran out.

For the past three weeks, Hussain went to SGA to make a presentation, only to be asked to come back the following week. The first two times he was unable to present because the Finance Committee did not have enough members to make quorum.

He could not be reached for comment as he exited the room.

To combat the Finance Committees' recent lack of potency, Comptroller Cristina "Raven" Morales previously announced at the meeting that there will be a new system to tackle the committee's lack of quorum.

"We are starting a merit program," Morales said.

The program would see a committee member removed if he

SGC-MMC, page 2

Donation allows for innovation

BLANCA MORALES
Staff Writer

The College of Engineering and Computing received a \$250,000 donation that will foster education and research opportunities for students and faculty.

The college held a dedication ceremony on Sept. 14 to name their Structures and Construction Laboratory after their supporters, Titan America LLC, the eastern United States' premier cement and buildings producer.

Now called the Titan America LLC Structures and Construction Testing Laboratory, it will be well-equipped to serve the needs of the college through research and development of innovative construction materials.

The donation qualifies for the state to match those funds, doubling the amount.

The lab, which opened three years ago at the FIU Engineering Center, is a collaborative result of more than 20 companies in the field.

Previous project sponsors include Florida Department of Transportation and the National

LAB, page 2

Partnership with Titan expected to spur creativity

LAB, page 1

Cooperative Highway Research Program.

The lab is one of the largest facilities of its kind in the state of Florida and the only one certified by Miami-Dade County Building Operation.

The 2,250-square-foot facility, with a 15-foot tall steel testing frame, tests full-scale structural members such as a 65 foot bridge girder. The lab also boasts a 10-ton overhead crane, heat chamber and a compression machine.

The TSCL supports the research of innovative hurricane-resistant and durable construction materials.

Product development

and tests for code compliance evaluate existing products and research geoenvironmental systems and geotechnical materials. Scientific support includes forensic and failure investigation, structural diagnosis and rehabilitation recommendations.

The TSCL is also the site of professional development certification seminars and industry training workshops.

The college's dean, Dr. Amir Mirmiran, said that graduate students will be involved with the college's future endeavors to develop innovative methods to ensure safer homes and roadways in the area.

"Titan America's generous

gift will help our laboratory continue its mission of keeping our community safe, making products more economical and the industry more competitive," Mirmiran said in a press release. "We are excited about working with Titan America, an industry leader, and look forward to a long and fruitful relationship."

Mirmiran, who got his Ph.D. in civil engineering at the University of Maryland, was recognized for his excellence in educational service and teaching. This year, he is the recipient of the Engineer of the Year Award for the Miami-Dade branch of the American Association of Civil Engineers.

The partnership with Titan America will create educational opportunities for students and serve for faculty research. Hardy Johnson, president of Tarmac America LLC, which is associated with Titan America, said he hopes to see FIU bring innovation to the

industry through the use of the laboratory.

"It's win-win for everyone involved, [FIU COEC] has our support from now on," he said.

Titan America LLC produces heavy building material in the eastern U.S., operating cement plants, ready-mixed concrete plants, quarries and fly ash beneficiation facilities. Its headquarters are in Virginia.

"Titan America serves as a model for corporate generosity, for their support of higher education," Mirmiran said.

"The partnership we're forming with FIU reflects Titan America's dedication to corporate social responsibility, one of our core values," said Aris Papadopoulos, CEO of Titan America, in a press release. "At a time when we are in the midst of an economic storm, this shows the deep commitment to education and progress of both FIU and Titan."

FIU dignitaries, faculty,



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

TA-DA: Amir Mirmiran, dean of the College of Engineering and Computing, unveils an honorary plaque in recognition of Titan America LLC's \$250,000 gift to the college.

staff, students and representatives of Titan America witnessed the honorary plaque commemorating the support of Titan America and the college's past benefactors.

"I will take an FIU graduate in my business any time," Papadopoulos said when accepting the dedication.

The FIU College of Engineering and Computing ranks

as the 22nd largest undergraduate engineering program in the nation, and the leading engineering education resource in South Florida.

Mirmiran said it has had a "successful report card," and now with Titan America's endowment, the college will continue to increase in its prestige and mission.

NEWS FLASH

FIU

Memo alerts faculty on H1N1 symptoms

FIU's Vice President of Human Resources Jaffus Hardrick released a memo detailing procedures faculty should follow regarding the H1N1 virus.

The memo, released Sept. 15, explained what faculty members should do should they be diagnosed with the illness, and explained the virus' symptoms.

According to the memo, faculty members who have a fever of 104 degrees or higher, along with a cough or sore throat, should stay home until they show no symptoms for at least 24 hours.

LOCAL

Rodriguez appears in court for Coral Gables high school murder

The 17-year-old boy accused of stabbing a Coral Gables Senior High School student appeared in court for the first time on Sept. 16.

The suspect, Andy Jesus Rodriguez, was charged with second-degree murder after killing Juan Carlos Rivera during school hours on Sept. 15.

According to WPLG, the judge denied the suspect's family's request to hold Rodriguez in house arrest. He will be held until Oct. 6, when a hearing will be scheduled to decide whether he will be tried as an adult.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

SGC-MMC, page 1

or she had three unexcused absences. An absence would be considered excused if the member made his absence known 48 hours prior to a meeting.

Finance Chair Marcos Oyola said the new merit policy would most likely begin

now, and not count retroactively.

"We are still looking into it," Oyola told Student Media. "The finance code may have rules on this."

The SGAFinance Policy, which houses rules that govern the Finance Committee, states in Article 6 Section 6.3.2 that if members are "absent two or more times

(unexcused) he or she will be removed."

Any replacements would be appointed by the SGC-MMC president and comptroller.

When asked about the lack of quorum with the committee, Ramirez said she was disappointed and that in general, SGA members need to be in it "whole-heartedly."

The senate heard an appeal from a student rejected by the Finance Committee because his request would only benefit one student. He had asked for \$2,292.97 for travel, hotel and fees to present at the International Conference of Applied Behavior Analysis in Oslo, Norway. The appeal was voted down.

Some of the time was taken to vote on a new senator. Hector Mujica was elected by the senate as the new senator for the business school.

Mujica, a junior majoring in business administration and international business, told the senate he plans to open SGA interaction with its constituency and harbor a new sense of community within and out of the University.

"My goal is to renew a sense of civic engagement within the FIU community," Mujica wrote in his application, "and encourage students to give back to the local, national and global community."

The senate also watched a 17-minute advertisement reel from the Target Corporation as a Target representative distributed Target branded tout bags and notebooks.

The video was bookended by Victor Rota, a campus recruiter for Target. He spoke of how he got involved with Target through an internship and at the end, Rota mentioned the partnership Target has forged with the Frost Art Museum, and mildly hinted at partnerships Target might be willing to form with student leaders and organizations.

"It was a bit long," said Senator William Jose Velez. He was, however, optimistic about the possibility of getting funds from Target.

"It's a great opportunity for student organizations," said Senator Vignesh Doraiswamy. "The video was a little long for my taste."

Senate fails to draft bylaws by deadline

MICROWAVED



COURTNEY BAAS/THE BEACON

KITCHENLESS: Natasha Pytlík, senior in international relations, teaches Lakeview North residents how to cook a chicken quesadilla in their dorms at the "Cook Without A Kitchen" event on Sept. 14.

THE BEACON

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Hate crime talk on campus

Activist shares stories about discrimination

SABRENA JOHNSON
Staff Writer

When Thomas Howard was a teenager, he was bullied at school for being gay. Today, he is not afraid of teaching people across the country about the importance of accepting differences.

“The vantage point through which I speak is from personal experiences. It’s not my desire to change your values or your beliefs. But what I do hope is that after hearing my story and the story of others, you begin to look at the world a little bit differently,” he said.

Howard spoke to Biscayne Bay Campus students on Sept. 15 as a representative of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. It was the first time someone from the foundation has come to BBC. The Matthew Shepard Foundation was founded by Dennis and Judy Shepard in memory of their 21-year-old son, Matthew, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in Wyoming in October 1998.

Since then, Dennis and Judy

have been traveling around the world telling Matthew’s story in an effort to promote awareness of hate crimes of all kinds, not just those against the gay community.

Every seat in the room was taken during Tuesday’s speech, as students and professors listened to the details of Matthew Shepard’s death, and the stories of others who were beaten and murdered because of their sexuality. Howard also spoke about middle school students who committed suicide because they were being bullied in school for being gay.

“It was an eye-opener, very educational and it will change the way I view hate crimes,” said Aliyah Omar-Ali, senior hospitality management major.

About 10 members from Stonewall 2 BBC, a club that supports gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, were also present. Daniel Anzueto, the club’s president and a senior psychology major, was excited to see representatives from this foundation come to campus, and was especially

moved by Howard’s speech.

“It was really impressive,” he said. “I liked listening to what he was saying in a very personal level, which makes it easier to understand. He had a very good message, and it was very nice to hear that there are other people working toward a common goal like that.”

Howard studied at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he earned a master’s degree in adolescent risk and prevention. Since then, he has been spreading the word about hate crimes.

“I hope that this will be the start of a conversation that you will take back with you to your community, and that you will begin to take a closer look at how you view and treat people who are different from you,” said Howard. “This is not a gay thing; this is a different thing. Yes, Mat was murdered because of his sexual orientation, but replace it with any of the things that make us different, and it is the exact same thing.”

For Anzueto, speeches and lectures that constantly remind students about hate crimes are important to help stop the cycle of violence.

“Hopefully, these lectures will let people know that this

COOKOUT



PHILIPPE BUTEAU/THE BEACON

COME AND EAT: (From left) Richard Reixach, junior in hospitality, Adriana Egozcue, senior in hospitality and Robert Egert, a catering professor for HM, prepare food for the HM Welcome Back BBQ at the HM Patio on Sept. 16.

thing happened and that hopefully it doesn’t repeat itself,” Anzueto said.

Although hate crimes are still present, Anzueto said that in the four years he’s been at the University, they’ve decreased. What he wants is acceptance, not tolerance for other people who are different.

“Over the past few years, we’ve been working to make LGBT more accepted – not so much tolerated but accepted,” he said. “Tolerance means you

don’t like it but you deal with it. Acceptance means you learn about it and come to understand it.”

Howard said he joined the foundation in order to promote awareness about hate crimes and shed light on an issue that is often ignored by society. Since he was once a victim of hate crimes as a gay college student, he knows what it feels like to be bullied, discriminated against and mistreated.

“These crimes were moti-

vated by fear. People fear what they do not understand. That’s why we are going out into the community – to promote understanding,” said Howard. “Why does someone’s sexual orientation make them any less of a person? I am no less of a person than the person sitting next to you, so don’t treat me like I am.”

To find out more about the Matthew Shepard Foundation, visit www.matthewshepard.org.

BISCAYNE BAY IN MEMORIAM

Marcel Escoffier, associate professor in the School of Hospitality Management, died Sept. 15 of a heart attack.

Escoffier was a University professor since 1989 in the College of Business and in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Managemet.

Prior to becoming a professor, he worked in the hospitality industry for 25 years. He also published several journal articles, six books and served as chair of the Faculty Senate at FIU.

Shirley Dennis Escoffier, his wife, asks for donations to HM instead of flowers in his husband’s memory.

A Celebration of Life Service will be scheduled within the following weeks. Time and place are yet to be announced.

HATE CRIMES

Swastikas have been drawn twice on doors in the Wolfe University Center’s men’s restroom.

A faculty member filed a report with University police on Sept. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

If anyone has information, University Public Safety is asking to call 305-348-2626.

WEEKENDS WITH PARADISE

Simple birthday celebration to remember

It finally happened. I’m legal!

While it’s very exciting to be 21, there is nothing in the world that I hate more than big birthday parties – at least for myself.

But since this is my 21st birthday, I feel obligated to do something. So I did, just low key and cheap.

I decided to get a bottle of wine as my first legal alcoholic purchase, so I drove over to ABC Fine Wine & Spirits located at 12620 S.W. 120th St., Miami. For the newly 21-year-old, this place is heaven.

There was so much wine to choose from, but I was on a mission to get something cheap. I ended up settling for Lost Horizon’s cabernet sauvignon, which was on sale for \$6.95.

Paying for my first legal bottle was such a strange feeling.

The whole time I was at the counter, I was convinced that she would think my license was fake. She swiped my card, and I held my breath, counted to three and it was over, like a shot.

I paid for my bottle and left. It felt great!

As I was still on my high from buying a bottle of wine, I realized something. I didn’t have cake, and there is no point of getting older unless there is cake involved.

I first went to the French Bakery & Café at 12591 Biscayne Blvd. in North Miami. From the outside, the place looked adorable and welcoming. On the inside, well, it was dead.

I always have horrid experiences when I go to new places, and I have no idea why. They did not sell birthday cake by the slice, and I did not

want to look fat and eat a whole cake by myself, so I ordered a slice of coffee cake for \$1.50 instead.

It was probably the best idea I had all day, because everything else was a little overpriced. Paying \$1.50 for a foot-long baguette when I can go to Publix and get one twice the size for about the same price seems wrong.

The woman behind the counter seemed annoyed that I was in her store from the moment I walked in, even though I was the only paying customer there. And on my way out, she looked

From the outside, the place looked adorable and welcoming. On the inside, well, it was dead.

right through me.

No joke.

She asked me how I was paying without making any eye contact whatsoever. When I said cash, she took my \$2 and just stood there. Apparently, she couldn’t open the register, so instead of waiting for her to give me 50 cents, I just left.

There is no way I am staying alone in a café with a bitter woman who doesn’t know how to run a business. I took a bite of the cake in the car, realized it wasn’t anything better than what

I could get at Starbucks, and threw it out.

Luckily, I picked up one of my best friends, Carolyn, and enlisted her on my “I need something sweet for my birthday” mission.

We ended up at the Manhattan Bakery located at 18240 Collins Ave. Sunny Isles, and I am so glad we did.

This place looked like a typical New York bakery to me, with specials written in chalk on a massive blackboard that took up two walls.

I ordered a *tres leches* for \$2.50, and let me tell you, it was the best thing I have ever eaten. Everything about the treat made me smile. It was creamy and melted in my mouth; I absolutely loved it.

The bakery had a “homey” feel because of its long dining-room like tables. There was little privacy, so you were forced to talk to those around you, but I wouldn’t have wanted it any other way.

While I am not going to drink that bottle of wine for a while, I want to keep it as a memory of my first drink. I am never going to forget my mission for a great birthday.

Sitting in a bakery with my best friend, eating a yummy dessert and sharing warm conversations are all I need to be happy.

It was a perfect birthday – low key and simple.

Read *Weekends with Paradise* every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. The columnist pays for all food and experiences. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.afshar@fiusm.com.

Weekends leave housing students hungry for more

FRANCESCA COSTA
Contributing Writer

Have you ever been laying out by the pool, unwinding from the previous week, only to be shooed out at 5:30 p.m.? Have you ever walked to Fresh Foods only to look into an empty room from the other side of the locked door? Let's not even mention the time you walked into the Graham Center on a Sunday and felt like the last person alive.

Most food and recreation venues are closed during the weekend and, if not, they close unreasonably early. For a housing resident like myself, there is nothing more frustrating.

Although FIU is coined as a "commuter school," approximately 8 percent of the student body lives on campus; that is 2,527 people that remain here over the weekend. Those students need a place to eat or hang out.

Our pool is open until 7 p.m. on a Monday, yet it closes at 6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. On a typical weeknight, you won't find me at the pool, but in my dorm trying to eat dinner, finish a paper and clean my room. Students are more likely to relax in the pool on a Sunday rather than

on a weekday when they are swamped with classes, clubs, sports and homework.

While the pool may be empty during these hours throughout the week, on a Saturday afternoon, you'll most likely find a throng of carefree students listening to music and throwing around a Frisbee in the water, some trying to walk in at the last second, oblivious to the closing time.

What I find more shocking are the restaurant hours. Both our hair salon Santi (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Waves Spa (11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) are open on Saturdays, yet Burger King isn't. Any student is more likely to go get lunch than cut their hair or get a massage.

Breezeway Café, located underneath the University Park Towers, closes at 9 p.m. over the weekend as opposed to midnight during the week. Take a walk around the housing quad after 9 p.m. on a Friday and you'll quickly notice that it's littered with hungry students wishing that Breezeway was still open.

Camille's Sidewalk Café, found inside the Recreation Center, proclaims, "Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Anytime!" However, that announcement couldn't be further from the truth.

The Café is closed Saturdays and

HEARTLESS



Sundays. The only time I'd grab a bite to eat after a workout is during the weekend. Over the week, I rush to the gym between classes and seldom finish with minutes to spare.

Though some venues open on Saturdays, their early weekend hours allow little time to fit anything into our schedules. We are forced to rush from place to place or sacrifice one activity for the other. Even The Fresh Food Company closes early, and that leaves students who rely on meal plans out in the cold.

Venues should focus on opening around

noon and closing later at night, making themselves available during peak hours.

Some may argue that many students return home for the weekend, leaving the eateries with no business. However, students opt for home because everything else ends up closed. Keeping venues open would bring students back on campus over the weekend and recreate the lively atmosphere that is usually found in GC.

For many students, FIU is now their home, and the campus should feel and run like any hometown would.

Student death reflects lack of school staff

SOFIA CASADA
Contributing Writer

Violence has once again erupted in the classroom.

Juan Carlos Rivera was fatally stabbed by fellow student Andy Rodriguez on Sept. 15 at Coral Gables High School.

The incident occurred shortly after 9 a.m. According to Miami-Dade Superintendent Alberto Carvalho, the "altercation escalated into a fight," and one student drew a weapon and assaulted the other at least three times. Students at the scene later said that the altercation between the students began over a girl.

As a 2007 Gables graduate, it upsets me to see that my alma mater is no longer a safe place to be – that the teachers and administrators can no longer stand between harm's way and the students they pledged to educate and care for.

I know that Gables High, like many other schools in South Florida, is not immune to acts of violence. What surprises me is that a student can be killed by another during the change of periods, in a good neighborhood, and the chance to prevent it escapes.

There is a tremendous difference between your typical high school spat where most of the time the outcome is a black eye, and making the conscious decision to take someone's life.

It's outrageous to think that such events are happening in an affluent city like Coral Gables, but as these acts of violence occur more frequently, we can no longer believe that solely underprivileged parts of Miami bear witness to crime and tragedy.

This isn't the first time tragedy has struck: in 2007 at Piper High in Sunrise, Kern O'Sullivan killed football player Courtney Carroll by stabbing him in the heart with a screwdriver. In 2008 at Dillard High, Teah Wimberly, 15, killed her best friend Amanda Collette.

In my years spent as a Cavalier, whenever a fight started it was quickly extinguished by teachers or pivotal security personnel that were close by.

But those guards weren't there on Tuesday.

According to student testimony, the fight occurred outside the gym, in broad daylight. A crowd had gathered to watch the fight. Since it occurred in close proximity to classrooms, it is unacceptable for there to be a lack

of response from both faculty and security.

With the budget cuts that plagued South Florida's education system, it seems that Gables has suffered the ultimate consequence: losing the life of a student by not being able to sustain enough security personnel to protect the student population.

Our superintendent asks us why children resort to violence: the only response I have for this question is that we don't educate them enough.

I could easily blame television or video games – but that wouldn't be realistic. It wasn't either of these things that drove Rodriguez to kill Rivera, but rather it was his ignorance in how to deal with life and his lack of fear.

Nowadays, people forget to respect boundaries, and just do as they please. It's not the education system that's failing, but rather, the students themselves. They act up and no longer fear rules and the consequences of their actions.

Maybe, if we took the time to teach morals, values and the importance of the human life to students, maybe Juan would have been able to graduate as a Cavalier.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student fees should be spent more responsibly

It has come to my attention that student government has been frivolously spending student funds. I was first alarmed with your paper's coverage of the amount of money spent on their annual retreat.

While I understand the senate decided to pass a resolution for better spending, I still saw that President Anthony Rionda continued spending at an alarming rate.

\$115,971 for carpet in the GC Ballrooms? With events ranging from orientation to honors college convocation, the ballrooms see plenty of dirty shoes and food spills.

I feel that this renovation should have been for durability, not aesthetic value. And in that sentiment, durable, easy-to-clean carpets are typically cheaper than what is being spent.

Furthermore, while the new study area on the second floor of GC is nice, I think some of \$118,500 should have been spent on repairing or replacing desks within the actual class-

rooms because, unfortunately, more than paint is necessary. The waiting area he has created has top-of-the-line tables and computer chairs, but is far less utilized than the 20 or so classrooms just beyond it.

When the concept of PantherTV was first introduced, excitement ran wild throughout the campus.

TV production majors would get hands-on experience in their new field. Unfortunately, three-fourths of the trust for this program has been allocated to eight LCD TVs, which even the largest models generally run for much less than \$3,750 per unit when purchased responsibly.

The mission of the group I am representing is to encourage and push for reform of SGA so student monies are spent wisely and for the students. Not simply on the whim of a president's "pet project."

Joanne Myler
Sophomore, Chemistry
Member of the Coalition of Students for Reform

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.

OPINIONPIECE

\$3,763

The average price of on-campus housing at FIU without financial aid.

WINNER/LOSER



Dan Brown's sequel to "The Da Vinci Code" – "The Lost Symbol" – was released on Sept. 15 to great fanfare when it sold 18,000 copies in the first few hours. Like any Brown novel, the sequel is replete with page-long chapters and religious fanaticism.



ACORN, the infamous government-funded community-based organization from the presidential elections, is now fraught with even more controversy. In a staged sting video, an ACORN employee admits to running an underage escort service and killing her husband.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Got a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts in to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 240 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

DAILYQUERY

After a student was killed in a local high school, concerns have arisen regarding safety on campuses in general. In light of the killings at Coral Gables High School, do you feel safe at FIU? Send responses to opinion@fiusm.com

SPICE IT UP

Miami's annual event draws big crowds

ADRIAN ESPINOSA
Contributing Writer

For a short time, the taste of expensive gourmet dining is within reach of the masses, even college students.

Since early August until the end of September, people have a chance to indulge in some of the best cuisine the city has to offer at a lower price thanks to the Miami Spice Food Festival.

Each participating restaurant has a special menu that offers patrons their choice of a three course lunch or dinner for a set price – \$35 covers dinner, and lunch is set at \$22 at every restaurant.

The festival ends on Sept. 30 and is an opportunity for many to have an affordable meal at gourmet eateries such as Emeril's on Miami Beach, Timo in Sunny Isles Beach and Pascal's in Coral Gables.

The list of participants doesn't run short either; there are more than 100 spots to visit and many of them are only a 20-minute drive from both the Modesto Maidique and Biscayne Bay Campuses.

One distinguished participating

establishment is Wish, on Miami Beach.

Rated a four-star restaurant by the Mobil travel guide, it has experienced an increase in business as a result of the festival, according to sous chef Andres Kaifer, the second in command.

Kaifer believes the Miami Spice festival benefits the participating restaurants, even if they offer food at lower prices.

"If it weren't for Miami Spice we wouldn't be getting as much business as we are now, and the atmosphere is definitely a lot more vibrant," Kaifer said.

During this time of year, tourist revenue isn't as strong as in the earlier months of summer and restaurants are in need of exposure and funds, especially in the current financial climate.

"What I like most about it," Kaifer said, "is the that idea that even after Miami Spice is over, the industry will have advertised itself and will bring in more people during the slow months."

Kaifer also believes the program provides a unique opportunity for students.

"I think it is a great chance for students to take a break from their fast paced weekends and enjoy an upscale dining experience. You get to see a part of Miami that usually

isn't as accessible or practical for the majority of the population," he said.

That sentiment isn't lost on Sara Montero, a freshman majoring in English.

"First of all the food was amazing and I couldn't have asked for a better meal. I visited Novecento with a few friends of mine and it was definitely one of the best dining experiences I've had in a while. Miami is an expensive city, this is a deal I would never miss."

For Katharina Tomisato, a freshman majoring in international relations, the festival offers an opportunity to learn about the culinary scene in Miami for the first time.

She moved down from Orlando only two weeks ago and hasn't had the chance to see much of what Miami has hiding up its sleeves.

"It's perfect for people who are not from the area and wish to see what this city has to offer," Tomisato said.

For more information on Miami Spice and a full list of participating restaurants from throughout the South Florida area, visit ilovemiami-spice.com.

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

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Miami's iconic Arbetter's delivers a tasty meal on the go

When it comes to hot dogs, New York City has Grey Papaya and Nathan's, Hollywood has Pink's and Miami has Arbetter's.

Arbetter Hot Dogs set up shop in 1960 and has since established itself as a cult classic for post-game consolation prizes and the perfect spot to score a cheap meal on the run.

The actual building itself is of humble means and size, but outdoor seating alleviates any volume control issues that may occur.

Arbetter's uses the "dirty water" method to cook their hot dogs, leaving them void of grill marks but retaining their flavor and juiciness without interrupting the experience with a burnt taste.

This is one hot dog stand that doesn't get too fancy with their toppings. While some vendors may offer exotic toppings such as guacamole, salsa, or mango chutney as condiments, Arbetter's sticks to the tried-and-true basics of mustard, relish, sauer-

kraut and chili. Any of these may be added for well under the \$2 range.

Arbetter's also manages to stick close to the roots of hot dog culture when it comes to their one and only side order: fries.

Although they offer toppings such as cheese and chili, the plain fries with salt suffice. I found that the nacho cheese they used turned my fries into a sopping mess.

The chili they use – a heavy mixture of beans, onions and a mild kick of spice – didn't fare too well with the spuds, but it does add a bit of interest to a plain hot dog.

Even so, I found that their signature kraut dog tasted the best out of all of their varieties.

True, they didn't use anything else besides the ordinary mustard and sauerkraut that can be found in the local supermarket. However, that is the beauty of it; they didn't need mustard imported from elsewhere or a special pickling recipe for

RESTAURANT INFORMATION

Location: Arbetter's Hot Dogs

Address: 8747 S.W. 40th St. Miami, FL 33165

Phone Number: (305) 207-0555

Pros: Hot dogs (of course), fries, mustard, low prices

Cons: Limited selection of toppings

the sauerkraut.

The tanginess of regular yellow mustard united with the crunchy texture of the sauerkraut along with the main attraction of the hot dog satiated my craving for old-school American flavor.

The straightforwardness of that combination is a testament to why Arbetter's has

managed to garner steady-even booming-business for close to 50 years.

The pricing at Arbetter's is also a big help in keeping business afloat. A full meal – hot dog, fries and a soda – could run just over \$5, making it a great option for eating out when money is tight.

True, Arbetter's is not known for its five-star restaurant rating, its posh ambience or its celebrity chefs.

However, it has sealed a special place in Miami history as the one place where a hungry student, a busy mother or jet-setting businessman can score a decent taste of Americana for little money and a ton of flavor.

At times, a basic recipe is all a restaurant needs to make it a worthwhile eatery. Arbetter's Hot Dogs manages to capture that.

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COLUMNIST



JASMYN ELLIOTT

THIS WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

FRIDAY MOVIES



Enjoy a screening of Angels and Demons!

WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

HOT NIGHTS, COOL JAZZ

Start the weekend with some smooth tunes.

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Bass Museum of Art
CONTACT: (305) 673-7530

JAZILLA



Enjoy great cupcakes, books and free jazz!

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Books & Books

BOBBY LEE

Spend a night with former Mad TV' cast member!

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$21.40
WHERE: Miami Improv
CONTACT: (305) 441-8200

MODERNAGE



Party with this local band tonight!

WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: The Vagabond
CONTACT: (305) 379-0508

BOWLING FOR SOUP

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Revolution Live
CONTACT: (305)866-6925

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

BEHOLD THE RUINS



Behold this punk rock show at the Dugout!

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: The Dugout

WAY OUT WEST

Catch a show by this England DJ Duo!

WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Shine
CONTACT: (305) 341-1318

HELP THE BUBBLE

Help a local venue survive with this fund raiser!

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Bubble
CONTACT: (305) 761-6392

HEAP US 'ROUND OUR RUINS

Enjoy films with this film tour at Sweat!

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$10
WHERE: Sweat Records

THE RAT OPERA



A concert dedicated to "Rat Bastard," aka Frank Falestra.

WHEN: 5 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$5
WHERE: Tobacco Road

JOHN DAHLBACK



Enjoy a show by this Sweedish electronic DJ!

WHEN: 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$15
WHERE: Mansion

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

MARIJUANA-LOGUES



Laugh and enjoy this popular show at the Improv!

WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$19.08
WHERE: Seminole Hard Rock

STITCHBIRD CRAFT WORKSHOP

Make art and adorable figures at this event!

WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: \$35
WHERE: Bear & Bird Gallery
CONTACT: (305) 532-1233

VINTAGE SOUL NIGHT

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
WHERE: Van Dyke Cafe

CHOCOLATE SUNDAYS

WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Purdy Lounge

THROUGH THE LENS

Get a chance to view the photography from this museum's permanent collection

WHEN: 10 a.m.
CONTACT: (305) 284-3535
WHERE: Lowe Art Museum

DETOX SUNDAYS

Enjoy this weekly party to end your weekend!

WHEN: 11 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Finnegan's on the River

ACOUSTIC NIGHT



Enjoy a relaxing lazy Sunday with local music.

WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: John Martin's Pub

NEON NIGHTS

Baring it all on nude beach helps shed shame and self-loathing

NEON NIGHTS, page 1

either at first. While I can't prove that no one here was ever a model at some point in their life, they were surely 30 years and pounds past that point in their life.

That's what you get when you look at the world with a superficial lens.

As we unfolded our beach towels and put down the cooler, a sense of happiness and comfort settled in. It is strange, but great. I couldn't help but feel enthusiastic that people here, in spite of what they looked like and what I perceived to be their defects, are disarmingly comfortable as if they considered their nudity mundane.

It's easy to laugh at someone with a wrinkly behind, but the power of his or her confidence is something to envy.

Haven't we been taught to feel shame about at least some part of our bodies? The smiles on their faces as they frolicked, drank beers, played cards and volleyball naked was something I began to envy.

So I got rid of my shorts.

The weather being as bad as it was, I was unable to get rid of my tan lines. This means I'll have to come back again someday.

The feeling of being just as naked as the birds above and the fish below in the middle of the ocean while it

rains is something I'll keep as a gem of a memory.

It dawned on me that perhaps this is what God, whoever he is, intended. Somewhere along the tan line, we felt that we needed to be shamed. We needed to add something else to our bodies other than what God designed

“Somewhere along the tan line, we felt that we needed to be ashamed ... but there's no reason for it.

us with. Shame is no stranger to any of us, and we have all been seduced by the rewards that were promised to us if we just felt a little more of it. I, as much as anybody, feel it strongly – but there's no reason for it.

So there I was, naked as a shameless baby and comforted by the feeling that someone upstairs, above those dark and angry clouds, was not embarrassed by me one bit.

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Defense should exploit young QB to have success

TOWERS, page 8

awful in their 47-15 season and home opening loss to the Cincinnati Bearcats, but it seems as if some of the Golden Panther faithfuls expecting an upset might get more than they bargained for.

QUESTIONS

The fact of the matter is we don't know who FIU is.

We know this team, the rosters, and who is going to be where, but there's really no way of knowing what to expect from them.

The team that gave Alabama a hell of a scare for three quarters last week might not be the one that shows up in New Jersey.

We might end up seeing the team that got pushed around and bullied in the fourth quarter, as the Crimson Tide literally ran away with the game late.

Rutgers came into the season with sky high expectations for their offensive line, and while they haven't generated the type of production they would've hoped, there are still some legitimate NFL prospects on that line, something FIU cannot boast for the guys they are going to be throwing on the opposite side.

If the right Rutgers shows up, FIU is going to have a tough time trying to get any pressure on true freshman quarterback Tom Savage, who passed for 223 yards on 8-of-13 passing last week against Howard.

Couple that with the fact that FIU will have to try to slow down Tim Brown, the diminutive Scarlet Knight deep threat that makes FIU's own undersized playmaker T.Y. Hilton look like a giant, and it could be another long day for the FIU defense.

Brown is averaging 20-plus yards per catch dating back to last season and has

averaged 100 yards per game this season.

POSITIVES

It's not all bad for FIU, obviously. They have more than enough talent to compete with Rutgers, and it would be very surprising if they get blown out.

The key for FIU is forcing Rutgers into passing downs.

Last week against Howard, one of the worst teams in the Football Championship Subdivision, Savage was forced to throw just 14 times, opting instead to hand the ball off 44 times and push around a clearly inferior opponent.

If they can force the young quarterback into 3rd and longs, the opportunity to make plays on defense is vast, so the onus is on the front seven to shut down the rushing attack.

The Scarlet Knights have been extremely unhappy with the offensive line play so far, using 11 different linemen against Howard.

FIU will need to be creative in finding ways to get into the backfield and further frustrate the line.

TEMPER EXPECTATIONS

Ultimately, it is still too much to ask of this team to go into a huge out of conference road game and take one from a pretty good opponent.

This isn't the same Rutgers team that won 11 games a few years back, but it also isn't the same one that was one of the worst teams in Division I before that.

Both teams feature potentially explosive offenses, and it will be difficult for their defenses to keep up.

This has the potential to be a high-scoring game, but in the end, the Scarlet Knights' experience on the lines should get them a bit more than the Golden Panthers can handle.

Rutgers defense will try to stop Golden Panthers wide receivers

FOOTBALL, page 8

who plays in the Big East Conference, would be the first win FIU has ever had against a Bowl Championship Series opponent.

The Golden Panthers enter the contest encouraged by the way their offense performed vs. No. 4 Alabama in their season opening 40-14 loss. Despite the loss, receivers T.Y. Hilton and Greg Ellingson had five catches each and quarterback Paul McCall led the offense on an impressive second-quarter scoring drive.

Ellingson will continue to be a cog in the FIU attack, and will be in position to make more plays against a strong Rutgers defense.

'SPARKED THE OFFENSE'

"You look at Virginia Tech against Alabama, Virginia Tech is obviously a good football team and we had more success than they did against Alabama's defense," Cristobal said. "I think when you start off deep in your territory like we did on a third and long situation [on the first procession of the Alabama game] and Greg comes up

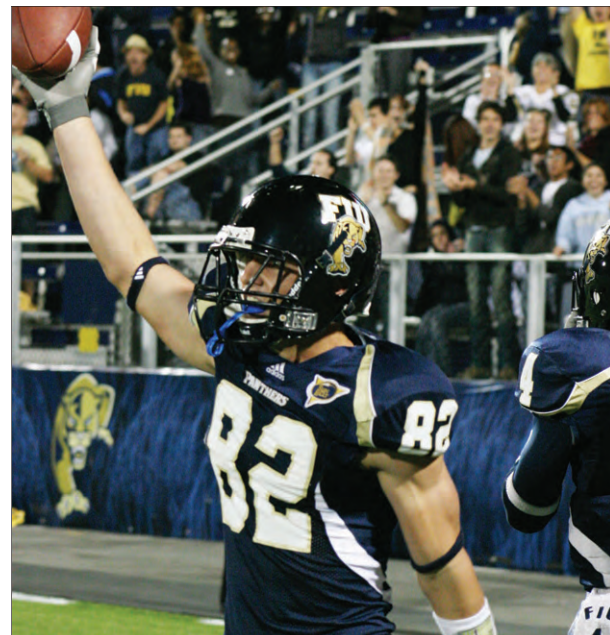
with a play that he was just about pass interfered with, it sparked the offense."

Ellingson has had 23 catches for 415 yards over his last four games, good for first on the team in both categories. After his initial 46-yard catch to start the game, the junior missed some opportunities in the first contest. His overall play, however, inspired confidence with the plays he did make.

"He saved me on that first pass, and he was there throughout the game," McCall said. "I was talking to him all week about how he has to change his routes and do things and he was a step ahead of me all week."

Rutgers will look to impede Ellingson's emergence and stop FIU's spread attack with a defense that ranked second in the Big East a season ago. The Scarlet Knights allowed less than 20 points per game in 2008, and despite a big loss to Cincinnati, has proven to be a formidable unit.

"Defensively they are similar to us," Cristobal said. "They move a lot, pressure a lot, and feel like they can play [man defense] successfully.



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

SURE HANDS: Wide receiver Greg Ellingson caught five passes for 92 yards and a touchdown at Alabama.

There is some familiarity with some of the stuff that they do, which I think helps both sides."

Rutgers was also the top scoring offense in the Big East a year ago, but true freshman Tom Savage has replaced the graduated Mike Teel at quarterback. Savage has been impressive, however, as he

has completed 64 percent of his passes for 358 yards over his first two games.

INJURY REPORT

Safety Ash Parker is probable after leaving the game against Alabama with a knee injury. Safety Jeremiah Weatherspoon is in line to play against Rutgers as well, according to Cristobal.

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

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

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

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FOOTBALL: FIU VS. RUTGERS

LOOKING FOR AN UPSET

Cristobal
faces team
he helped
construct

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal will be returning to a familiar place when FIU (0-1) travels to Rutgers (1-1) to play the Scarlet Knights on Sept. 19. Cristobal coached for Rutgers from 2001-03 as an assistant under current coach Greg Schiano.

“It’s a place I am familiar with, I invested three years of my life there and I learned a lot from there,” he said. “We took a lot of that blueprint from Rutgers and brought it back down here. It is something that was created by [North Carolina coach] Butch Davis and Greg Schiano while we were up there.”

FIU will look to continue to follow that blueprint when it plays the Scarlet Knights, who defeated Howard 45-7 last weekend but lost their opener 47-15 to the hands of No. 17 Cincinnati. A win against Rutgers,



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO



ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCARLET NIGHT: Anthony Gaitor (left) helped contain Alabama’s aerial attack last week. Gaitor will be asked to help contain one of Rutgers’ main offensive weapons Tim Brown (right).

*Road
matchup
no easy
endeavor*

It looks easy enough.

FIU just has to travel some 1,200 miles, go out in front of

50,000 fans, take on a team from a Bowl Championship Series conference that has won three bowl games in a row, and come away

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

with a win.

In other words, all they have to do is something they’ve never done before.

How could you not be confident?

There are plenty of fans out there expecting a win for FIU over the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers, going by the chatter on message boards and blogs.

Granted, Rutgers looked pretty

FOOTBALL, page 7

TOWERS, page 7

Women’s soccer tuning up offense before Arkansas match

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers women's soccer team is hoping to continue building upon the momentum they have been creating in the past few games.

With a come-from-behind win over the University of North Florida on Sept. 13, the Golden Panthers improved to a 2-3-2 record on the season, already garnering half the total of wins from the 2008 season.

The next team on the schedule for FIU are the Razorbacks of Arkansas (5-1-1) on Sept. 20 at home.

“It would just create such great momentum,” said senior midfielder Marina Pappas. “Especially after winning last weekend, to get two wins in a row going into conference would be such a great feeling.”

Freshman goalkeeper Kaitlyn Savage believes that gaining valuable playing time is key to helping the team get more wins.

“It’s been a lot of hard work, going hard every practice and game,” said Savage. “It’s been good that I’ve been given the opportunity to play and push myself farther.”

CONFERENCE PLAY AHEAD

Senior midfielder Amy Jackson says that working on timing and communication will be paramount in determining their level of success as the team heads into Sun Belt Conference play.

After the Arkansas game, the last 11 regular season matches are against Sun Belt Conference opponents.

“Now that we have a couple days of practicing, our main focus is going and attacking the team, going forward, and hopefully putting more balls into the back of the net,” said Pappas. “Kaitlyn has been doing a great job. Some of the saves that she comes up with are mouth dropping.”

However, neither Savage nor sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Raimo have been able to stop

every shot.

After notching three shutouts in the first four games of the season, both goalies have been scored on at least once every game, the worst showing being against Central Florida, a 5-0 road loss.

Having been outscored three goals to 12 in the six games since the season opening victory at Stetson University, FIU is looking to change that statistic for the better.

“This weekend hopefully we can add to the scoring tally and finish off our opportunities,” Jackson said.

REACHING GOALS

The team got a boost in their hopes last weekend when sophomore defender Katrina Rose connected on both goals in the second half to lift FIU over the visiting Ospreys of UNF.

“She came up big for us,” said Pappas of Rose. “It was so exciting, especially to get two goals on a team, and then for her to



CHRIS GREEN/THE BEACON

PREPPING THE OFFENSE: Katrina Rose scored two goals vs. UNF in the team’s last game. She leads the team in scoring.

do it herself; she did great.”

After this weekend, FIU goes on a weekend road trip to begin conference play against Middle

Tennessee and Western Kentucky, before coming back home for four straight games in October.