

10-12-2009

## The Beacon, October 12, 2009

Florida International University

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## Golden Panthers obtain first victory of 2009 season behind strong offense

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### SPOTLIGHT

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Baby Boomers return to the classroom in order to learn more with continued education.

#### AT THE BAY PAGE 3

Soccer fans will get to score a goal on TV to honor Hispanic Heritage.

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Women's Center provides plethora of services for ladies (and gentlemen).

#### LIFE! PAGE 5



Fistfuls of Tech: iPhone apps have plenty of uses, many a waste of time.

#### SPORTS PAGE 8

Commentary: The Golden Panthers had a big win vs. Western Kentucky, but the defense needs lots of work.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tango Class, Oct. 12, 7 p.m.** Learn how to move on the dance floor with this exotic dancing style for free in the GC pit.

**Jazz Open Mic Night, Oct. 12, 10 p.m.** Let out your inner Diva and sing your heart out at Churchill's pub for free.

**FIU Readings Series, Oct. 13, 8:30 p.m.** See fellow FIU students read literature they've written at Luna Star Cafe, for free.

**Golden Idol Auditions, Oct. 14, 12 p.m.** Try out for FIU's golden idol and see if you've got what it takes to be a star in the GC pit.

#### WEATHER



**MONDAY**  
Partly Cloudy  
LOW: 80 HIGH: 90



**TUESDAY**  
Isolated T-Storms  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 89



**WEDNESDAY**  
Mostly Sunny  
LOW: 79 HIGH: 90

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## breaks away

### Club offers charitable spring break alternative

MELISSA CACERES  
Contributing Writer

For next spring break, Robert Tassy plans on spending time under the tropical skies of Costa Rica. Yet instead of soaking up some sun or relaxing in a five-star hotel, he will be saving the environment.

Tassy, a site leader for the FIU community service organization Alternative Breaks, is preparing to take a small group of students to the Central American country hoping to make the region more eco-friendly.

"We don't want people to go just to travel," said Tassy, a junior majoring in journalism. "We want to really get them into the issue."

Formerly known as Alternative Spring Breaks, aB is an organization that sends college students abroad to participate in community service projects that focus on specific issues ranging from animal rights to poverty.

The club, based in FIU, is a

chapter of a national organization called Break Away. In its 16th year, aB has grown into the University's largest service organization with around 500 applications coming in annually from students wishing to get involved in the many philanthropic projects that are offered.

Twenty-two projects have been finalized for this year, each having about eight to 10 participants and two site leaders.

Those who wish to participate in the program are allowed to choose an issue that they feel passionate about. They are then placed into a specific group that will inform them where they will travel.

By having students decide the path they would like to pursue first, the organization separates those who are truly interested in the community service aspect of the program from those who are attracted to it for the traveling aspect of it.

aB, page 2



COSTA RICA

Environmental issues site: Students research and address environmental concerns.



ARIZONA

Urban poverty site: Students helped to build homes.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Disadvantaged children site: Students worked as teachers for one day.



PENNSYLVANIA

Inner city education issues site: Students work with elementary school children.

COURTESY OF AB

### SMOKE-FREE INITIATIVE

## Forum addresses students' concerns

JORGE VALENS  
Asst. News Director

Students discussed the potential campus-wide ban of cigarettes, as part of a smoke-free campus plan proposed by the University Health Task Force, in an open forum in housing.

Residential Life sponsored the event and Ron Thompson, interim director, hosted the Oct. 7 town hall meeting.

Thompson said at the beginning of the event that forums like this help "unlock the student voice."

"We haven't made the time to hear what residents have to say," Thompson said. "This is your home, it's not just a place where you come to go to class."

Thompson opened the floor to discussion, "What do you think

about the University's move toward a smoke-free campus?"

Both smokers and non-smokers gathered at the event, with the latter having greater numbers.

Some non-smokers took the position that smoking is a right that students have, but maintained that smoking can be bothersome to those who choose not to do it.

"I also disagree with the fact that smoking will be banned completely from campus," said Chelsea Franco, a non-smoking resident student and director of public relations of the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus.

The University has rules in place that prohibit smoking within 20 feet of buildings.

Students at the forum pointed out that ashtrays are placed within the 20-foot radius and said that

the University should focus on enforcing the current rules instead of adding new ones.

"I challenge you to find an ashtray 20 feet from a building," said freshman environmental sciences major Charlie Lawrence, a smoker. "If [the University] really wants to enforce this, move the ashtrays."

Other concerns brought by students were how this smoke-free initiative would be enforced and how it would compare to a similar plan being implemented by the University of Florida, which will be smoke-free by July 2010.

Currently, UF's smoke-free plan revolves around social enforcement, the idea that people around the smoker would ask him or her to put it out.

SMOKE-FREE, page 2

### SGC-MMC SENATE

## Committee discusses dissolving SGC-BBC

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

Senator Adam Johnson, of the Modesto Maidique Campus' College of Arts and Sciences, announced on a Oct. 7 meeting that he will co-sponsor a resolution calling for the removal of the Biscayne Bay Campus presidency, and in favor of one central president with a vice president for each campus.

The announcement came at a meeting of the Finance Committee where members discussed MMC's budget in comparison to BBC, and the merit of having the branch campus.

Johnson complained that the two separate governments are going in different directions. SGC-BBC President Sholom Neistein, however, later disagreed.

"The two campuses have different demographics. Does that mean we are heading in different directions? No," told Student Media.

The resolution, which Johnson told Student Media could be presented as early as the Oct. 19 senate meeting, if passed, would be a non-binding statement by the senate. He hopes that it will start as a statement and lead toward an eventuality. Johnson said the resolution has backing of other senators.

The specifics of the resolution and the way a centralized student government would work are still being worked out by Johnson and others he did not want to name.

Neistein said that this is not the first time MMC talks about that proposal.

"It's smart on their part. If they take away the presidency on this campus, they take away its sense of power and authority as well as control of the budget," he said.

BBC was the center topic the Finance Committee addressed this past Wednesday.

The MMC Finance Committee analyzed BBC's budget and hypothetical avenues of dealing with the branch campus.

SGC-MMC Comptroller Cristina "Raven" Morales suggested: "We should just burn them down."

Neistein was "livid" by the comments.

"Burn down the education of 8,000 students? You want to burn down our home?" he said, referring to BBC.

SGA, page 2



# SGC-BBC Web site provides incorrect numbers

SGA, page 1

SGC-BBC advisor, Rafael Zapata, said the comment was “unfortunate,” and that he would be disappointed if one of the BBC members said such a thing.

Johnson suggested that if the funds were centralized into one campus, the University’s services would improve.

“We would have more police, we would have a 24-hour library, and more places to eat,” Johnson said.

He later qualified his statement as a hypothetical question on viability. One example he gave was the lack

of identity FIU will carry.

He said that in the future he might meet an FIU alumni on the streets and, “then I find they are an FIU alum from BBC, I have nothing in common with them. I have nothing to talk about. What do you talk about? What a nice lake you guys have?”

MMC currently has 32,255 students. BBC has 9,206 students enrolled, including Pines Center.

MMC Finance Committee members vented their frustrations when it was suggested that the BBC Finance Committee had more money in its coffers.

Comptroller Morales, who

advises the committee, however, said she would have to “double check” such numbers.

According to a spreadsheet of emoluments provided to Student Media by SGC-BBC, the amount of payment to SGA officers equals the amount stipulated by the constitution. In some cases, they get paid less than the constitutionally allowed amount.

Working off an outdated SGC-BBC Web site, the MMC committee concluded that the BBC committee had a \$40,000 budget while MMC only had \$25,000.

The MMC committee found that,

if based on representation, MMC should get \$52,000 and BBC \$13,000 of the combined \$65,000 allocated to the finance committees.

“Even if they have 8,000 students,” said Morales when explaining that some BBC students actually spend some of the time at MMC. “In ratio to how many are here rather than there, they should get point five, not even a whole – half.”

Student Media found that the amount the BBC Finance Committee has is \$26,524.

Neistein said that the SGC-BBC Web site is outdated because Student Affairs made them take down their

newly-developed Web site.

“We had everything up and running,” he said. “SGC-MMC complained that it ‘looked like ours’. We are supposed to complete one another not compete with each other.”

Under the Florida State Sunshine laws, the Finance Committee meeting is considered a public meeting, and anything said in that meeting is public record. Neistein and Zapata’s comments were gathered the Friday after the meeting.

SGC-MMC advisor Jose Toscano could not be reached for comment.

## Students offer helping hand to communities in need

aB, page 1

“Many go to find Jacuzzis and five-star hotels,” Tassy said. “When they do it for the wrong reasons, they don’t get the experience.”

Students stay in modest quarters, such as hostels, to make the experience as economical and humble as possible; thus being able to use their funds toward the communities they are providing aid for.

Junior Jennifer Almanzar, a nursing major, found out about aB through her Freshman Experience course. She participated in two different trips to the Dominican Republic and helped disadvantaged children throughout the area.

Almanzar, whose parents are also Dominican, said the experience

was “a chance to make a difference.”

She mentioned that the relationships between the participants are different from those of the average friendships she sees on campus.

“It’s more of a ‘we’re making a change together’ kind of bond,” Almanzar said. “It’s crying together about the things you see.”

One of this year’s co-directors, Louis Rodriguez, a junior majoring in public administration, has traveled across the nation to cities like Chicago, Ill. to help refugees adjust to life in the U.S. and Blacksburg, Va. to deal with poverty among white populations. He also has seen changes in the students after coming back from certain projects.

“We’ve had people who come back from animal

rights trips as vegetarians,” Rodriguez said.

Recently, aB has been seeking to create more domestic trips within the U.S. since it makes it financially easier to send more students. aB receives most of its funds from the Student Government Association along with donations and fundraising that comes from the participants through activities like operating concession stands at Landshark Stadium.

Through these funds, aB has been able to send provisions to affected areas during the Sept. 11 attacks as well as to Hurricane Katrina victims.

For more information on aB, visit [fualternative-breaks.com](http://fualternative-breaks.com).

## Attendees disagree with ban

SMOKE-FREE, page 1

“I feel that these social enforcers seem to think that they are morally higher than all these smokers and can just go around freely and boss us around rudely,” Lawrence said.

Freshman Jarett Loglia, music education major and smoker, said during the forum that a ban like this would hurt the University’s goal of becoming “less of a commuter campus.”

“If I found out that FIU was a smoke-free campus, I would have never lived on campus in the first place,” Loglia said.

SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda was also in attendance to hear students’ feedback.

Though Rionda took a neutral position regarding the issue, he said that if students are here to do anything other than earning a degree, they should “check their priorities.”

“If you don’t want to live on campus because there is a ban on smoking, that’s

a personal opinion, I personally disagree,” Rionda said. “But let’s look at the positive things, you’re here to get a degree, you are not here to smoke.”

Rionda told Student Media that he did not want to take a position on the matter and that he doesn’t want this to be a “divisive” issue.

“We did hear some really good feedback from the students,” Thompson said after the forum.

Thompson plans to put together a report with the feedback collected at this forum and submit it to the University Health Task Force.

This forum is part one of a three-part series to be held at the beginning of each month during the semester.

The next Residential Life forum will be held on Nov. 4 and will address students’ concerns about parking and traffic at the University.

Director of Parking and Transportation, Bill Foster, will be in attendance to answer students’ questions.



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## Baby boomers go to class

### Courses cover current events, art, language

**LAURA DE LA FE**  
Contributing Writer

Unlike most students at the University, Leonard Gonzalez goes to class, but not to pursue a degree. He doesn't earn any class credit.

The 63-year-old student goes to school for one purpose: to learn.

"Any person that's lived a full life has a book in them, that's why I'm taking the creative writing course, because everyone has an interesting story to tell," Gonzalez said.

Like Gonzalez, there are a few students over the age of 50 walking around the Biscayne Bay Campus, and most of them belong to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which provides non-credit learning opportunities for adults age 50 and over. The institute offers intellectually stimulating courses, according to its Web site.

The institute currently has about 1,000 members, with 250 of those currently enrolled in at least one course. However, this number tends to fluctuate, especially between Thanksgiving and the winter months, the peak seasons for OLLI, according to Clara Barman, the program coordinator.

This is the time where seasonal members, those who live out of town, come to Florida and take the courses.

"The goal of the institute is to serve the community, and bring FIU out to the community with opportunities for students to expand their studies and growth," Barman said.

The institute was originally founded at the University in 1977 as the Elders Institute. In 2006, it became the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute because of a donation from the Bernard Osher Foundation, a foundation founded in 1977 that provides scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the U.S. with special attention to re-entry students, according to its Web site.

The University runs one of the 122 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes across the country. The institute is based at BBC in Academic II Room 130,

and it is part of the University College, a division that offers classes for professionals and adult learners wanting to continue their education.

The University College offers classes online, in the evenings, and on weekends to fit an adult learner's schedule.

Although the institute's general students are people age 50 and over, they accept students of any age and background. The only requirement is a thirst for learning, according to Ellie Browner, OLLI community outreach liaison.

Course instructors are experts in their respective fields and include community leaders, educators and FIU faculty.

OLLI courses cover topics such as the arts, current events and language. Courses include: the Current Events Forum, which was designed to help students understand and discuss the current situation and the economy of the country; Floral Design, which takes place at a Miami Gardens florist shop; and Creative Writing, which is taught by award-winning author, professional editor and journalist Hindi Diamond.

The classes offered at the institute depend on different factors, Barman said. Students often make suggestions about the type of classes they would like to take.

Some of these suggestions come from student focus groups and surveys taken around the end of the semester, which give OLLI staff feedback about the institute. Other courses are known as the "tried and true," and are offered on a regular basis due to their popularity.

"As a student, I was very pleased with what I saw. There are a wide variety of courses, and the staff is really conscious of what students need," said Browner, who is also a former student at the institute. "People start making a network of friends – a community of people taking courses."

In order to start taking classes, students must register with the institute and pay an annual fee. There are two types of annual membership fees.

The first type is an individual student fee of \$50. A partner membership is also available for \$80 and allows two students to sign up together.

Apart from the membership fee, the students must also pay for their courses, which can range from \$75 to \$150 depending on the course.

Classes take place Monday through Friday during the daytime, and visitors are welcome to sit in on classes if there is enough space, Barman said.

The classes are offered at the Kovens Conference Center, Wolfe University Center, ACII, and some are also offered at locations off campus and in the community.

"OLLI is one of the most important community outreach initiatives the University has, aiming at providing lifelong education and noncredit personal enrichment opportunities to adults," said Jorge Zumaeta, University College director.

New classes start Nov. 3 and end Dec. 18.

*To register, visit the OLLI Web site at <http://olli.fiu.edu>, call the institute at 305-919-5910, or go to ACII 130.*

## WINDY AND RIPPLY



ALL PHOTOS BY SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

**WATER'S EDGE:** (Top) Joanna Villar, a senior biochemistry major (left), and Michelle Almonte, a senior english major (center), prepare to kayak on Biscayne Bay Oct. 9 with help from Jonathan Torrey, a recreation coordinator (right).

(Bottom) Miriam Fogel, a freshman psychology major (left), and Jose Silva, a visitor to the campus (right) enjoy cruising around on the teal waters of the bay Oct. 9.

SPC-BBC

## FIFA contest for soccer enthusiasts set for Hispanic Heritage Week

**SERGIO MONTEALEGRE**  
Staff Writer

Soccer players, or those fans who would like to emulate their favorite athletes, will be able to score a goal or two on the field and on TV.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programming Council will host a FIFA Tournament on Oct. 14 in the Wolfe University Center's Panther Square from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The game is part of Hispanic Heritage Week's "Dia de los Muertos" (Day of the Dead).

"We know that soccer is a very important part of Hispanic heritage," said Camilo Patino, chairman of Hispanic Heritage Week. "We wanted to do something with it since so many students like it."

Electronic Arts' FIFA 09, allows users to play as various teams from around the world, including the United States, Brazil and Argentina, among

hundreds of other teams and leagues.

The game will be played on a Sony PlayStation 3 provided by the Recreation Center, and students do not have to bring their own controllers.

The last day to formally register for the tournament is today before 5 p.m. at the SPC-BBC office in Campus Life and Orientation, located in the Wolfe University Center Room 141.

Late registrants can apply the day of the event, but there is no guarantee they will be able to compete, according to Patino.

The only rule for the tournament is to have one-on-one matches. The player with the highest score at the end of the match advances to the next round. The number of rounds depends on how many students show up to participate.

The winner of the tournament will receive a \$25 American Express gift card.

For students who may not be into

digital soccer, SPC-BBC and the Recreation Center are planning to have an actual game of soccer Oct. 22 at 4 p.m.

The game will be held in the field behind the basketball courts near Bay Vista Housing, and will be played according to traditional soccer rules with 25-minute halves.

Other games that will be available during the tournament include dominoes and Madden NFL 10 for people who may prefer football over soccer, but there will not be a tournament for the Madden NFL 10 game.

The Recreation Center also offers students rental services for different video game consoles, including Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, for a fee of \$5 for the first hour, and \$8 for every additional hour.

For more information, call 305-919-5280.



## BEACON | Editorial Unnecessary smoking ban will disenfranchise students, toss away adequate rules

When dealing with complex problems, the simplest solution is often the most problematic.

So it is with the University proposal to ban smoking on FIU campuses by May 2010. While it has been widely accepted for some time that the long-term effects of smoking are overwhelmingly negative, and that prolonged exposure to secondhand smoke carries serious health risks, the proposal to ban smoking altogether is unwarranted.

Current University policy mandates that smokers are prohibited from lighting up within 20 feet of a University building.

This rule was imposed initially based on the assumption, based on scientific data, that secondhand smoke can be inhaled in harmful quantities within such a radius. Non-smokers outside the 20 foot radius were believed to be safe from serious harm.

Yet currently, many smoke cigarettes much closer to University buildings, endangering not only themselves but others around them.

This problem, however, can be remedied in a few easy steps that fall far short of a University-wide ban. Actually placing garbage cans with ash trays 20 feet away from buildings rather than right next to them would go a long way toward ensuring that smokers abide by the current rules, for instance.

*The Beacon*, like most other organizations on campus, believes that smoking is a terrible habit that should be curbed. But realistically speaking, a campus-wide ban, especially one enforced solely through social pressures as is being proposed, would likely be ineffective.

The University hardly has the resources to actually catch everyone who smokes on campus. According to a 2004 study, 31 percent of college students smoke cigarettes at least occasionally.

If only half as many currently smoke at FIU, that translates to thousands of students. These students will be greatly inconvenienced by the ban, having to actually leave campus just to smoke a cigarette. Were this ban a realistic way to curb the danger of secondhand smoke apart from the rules on the books, it would perhaps be justified.

Yet considering the fact that current rules should be sufficient for the protection of student health were they actually enforced, and considering the fact that the ban would not be accompanied with an actual mechanism for enforcement, *The Beacon* opposes this proposed ban. It certainly makes for good publicity, but there is no real need for it.

Given that current rules already prohibit smoking at an unsafe distance from campus buildings, the proposed ban would be purely symbolic. Moreover, if the ban is merely to protect smokers themselves, its institution would set a dangerous precedent.

The consumption of fatty foods and sugary sodas are generally considered unhealthy. Are we to ban Coca-Cola and exile the Burger King next?

*The Beacon* supports enforcing current rules that would protect non-smokers from the terrible effects of noxious tobacco smoke. However, *The Beacon* opposes an arbitrary ban on smoking campus wide; it improves the health of few and inconveniences many.

The University should enforce its current rules, not impose new ones for publicity's sake.

## Pope's views still relevant in politics

ROMNEY MANASSA  
Staff Writer

For a man in his 80s, Pope Benedict XVI is certainly energetic. On Oct. 4, he held a high-profile meeting with bishops to discuss Africa and its humanitarian crisis.

It's not the first time he's sounded the call with regard to the continent. He's visited over a dozen countries, met with political and religious world leaders and held public masses for thousands.

It's no surprise that Benedict seems as influential as he is; as an irreligious person, I can concede that he has as much stock in global and social issues as any world leader.

So it was surprising to hear of the controversy brewing around the Pope's proactive take on environmentalism. Echoing the sentiments of his political and scientific counterparts, Pope Benedict has called for the world to be more environmentally responsible and to curb overconsumption.

This is hardly the first time he's taken up such causes. Like his predecessor, John Paul II, Pope Benedict has rallied around numerous social and humanitarian issues, even going so far as to critique American-style capitalism and its "false promises." In fact, the Catholic Church as a whole isn't limited to taking on only the usual religious fare, such as abortion, premarital sex and same-sex marriage. It's officially pro-U.N., anti-death penalty, an opponent of arms-trading and, yes – environmentalist.

So as odd and perhaps perturbing as it

## UP IN SMOKE



might be for a religious figurehead to take up traditionally "non-religious" issues, it's hardly breaking the mold.

Besides, whatever one's thoughts on religion or the church, we should maintain a critical eye: the Pope maintains enough influence to make a considerable difference, and in a world with so many daunting issues, every voice counts.

He invoked the importance of dialogue and human rights in a time when Cold War tensions were high. He bridged the divide between Catholicism and other denominations, and even improved historically strained relations with Judaism.

I do not agree with everything Pope Benedict has to say, nor am I defending every cause he has taken up. Like any of us, his opinions are varied and complex – but he has every right to take up these issues just as we have every reason to seriously consider them.

Calls for consumer prudence or environmental responsibility are as justified as they are reasonable. Sure, the Pope is no economist or scientist; his expertise is on religious matters.

But who among us, expert or not, can seriously argue that Benedict doesn't have a point?

Perhaps we object to having a religious figure taking a stance on worldly issues. Maybe our own secular and modern society finds it utterly unacceptable for it to involve itself in such sociopolitical topics.

The fact is Pope Benedict is still an important figure among Catholics the world over. Like some celebrities (think Bono or Angelina Jolie), businessmen (Jimmy Buffet and Bill Gates) and fellow spiritual leaders (the Dalai Lama), he's tapping into his status as a public figure to get the message across.

It's his right to do so, just as it would be ours.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Building lacks 'green' facet

Architect Le Corbusier said, "A house is a machine for living in." As students, we see the buildings across campus as four walls to have classes in, nothing more. What we don't take into consideration is how these buildings can be something else, incorporating 21st century "green" technology. The Nursing and Health Sciences building is a prime example of this.

HOK Architects, the designing firm for the building, says the NHS building will be "one of the most technologically advanced buildings." I disagree; it's just another typical building on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. No effort was made to make it truly sustainable.

The NHS building is oriented with its larger facades facing east and west and would have benefited greatly if solar panels had been placed there. Instead, this orientation will only cause the building to heat up, needing more electricity and impacting the environ-

ment even more.

Seeing that Miami is a natural furnace and the primary energy cost of most buildings is air conditioning, wind could have been used as a great resource for cooling the building. Radiant slab cooling can lower the costs of cooling by 40 percent.

Even when we look at the NHS building right now, we see no features of it being an environmental-friendly building in stark contrast to the University's aims of a "greener" campus. The only "green" element the building will display to students is the "green" roof, which will have grass.

The new NHS building, like most buildings on campus, will make us feel like we're in a prison cell for 50 minutes – just you, the teacher and a door. Too bad it's already constructed.

Juan Maxinez  
Senior  
Architecture

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Smoke-free campaign does not accommodate

After hearing much debate over the new smoke-free campaign FIU is planning to implement, I felt the need to say something.

I agree entirely that smoking is a hazard to everyone's health.

With that said, I do not agree with the campaign itself because I think FIU has inadequately informed us of its 20-foot no-smoking policy near buildings.

I have attended FIU for over two years and have never heard of any such rule until now. Now we are penalizing the smokers who were not

aware of this rule? FIU on the contrary has visually allowed smoking because of its placement of ash trays along building sides and lack of no-smoking signs.

It would be wiser for FIU to create designated smoking areas in order to accommodate both smoking and non-smoking students and faculty.

Fair is fair, FIU has an obligation to all its students regardless of whether they smoke.

Martha Rosa  
Senior  
English

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials, send them to [opinion@fiusm.com](mailto:opinion@fiusm.com)

### 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

# 79M

The amount, in dollars, NASA spent on a lunar mission that crashed a spacecraft into the moon.

### QUOTATIONATION

"Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future."

The Nobel Committee  
on President Obama's win of the Nobel Peace Prize



## LEADING LADIES

### Women's Center serves FIU community

**MARGO BARTLETT**  
Contributing Writer

For more than 15 years, the Women's Center at FIU has worked to provide services for both male and female students on campus.

The center began in 1994 after a proposal was made by members of the faculty and staff to provide a program that focused on women's growth and development, gender issues, body image, assertiveness and educational and career decisions. The center provides a wide array of services and events geared toward educating, uplifting and inspiring women, according to the center's director, Suzanne Onorato. All the services provided are available at both the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"The Women's Center aims to provide female students on campus with opportunities for professional and personal development and seeks to help them recognize their full potential and become self empowered," said Sendi Colquitt, a student and program assistant at the Women's Center.

The center's director feels that she has a strong sense of purpose relating to her work.

"I believe that I was put on this Earth to help women and men recognize the changes that can be put into place to achieve equality in society," Onorato said.

As director, she provides wisdom and guidance while letting students make decisions that directly affect the organization, she said. The students involved in the Women's Center are given the opportunity to share their ideas and incorporate them into the plans for events. In Onorato's view, the center is not just for the students, it is, in part, run by them.

Among the center's projects is the mentoring program, which offers 42 female

students the services of a mentor. The mentors are alumnae and staff members. The women are able to meet as often as they like and services are provided to help facilitate that.

Another program offered by the center is the Sisterhood Retreat, an event that involves a diverse group of 40 women and is designed to help them build relationships with others as well as engage in activities that promote self-reflection and self-improvement.

**"The Women's Center aims to provide female students on campus with opportunities for professional and personal development."**

Sendi Colquitt, Program Assistant  
Women's Center

"At the end of the retreat, I felt as if I'd made a whole group of new friends," said program assistant, Sarah Paulick.

Take Back the Night helps to promote awareness about sexual violence. During this event, students provide information and statistics about sexual violence. The event includes speakers and information stations with speakers and pamphlets relating to the prevention of sexual assault.

Strong Women, Strong Girls is a national program that is geared toward helping girls and young women become strong women in their

future, according to Onorato. The program includes about 20 FIU students who mentor 150 girls at 10 different sites in the Miami-Dade area. The students mentor children between the third and fifth grades at middle schools and community schools. The 10-week program is offered as an after school program and its curriculum focuses on building "strong women." The program also aims to build self esteem and self confidence within its participants, according to Onorato.

The center also holds annual conferences that are geared toward female students. The Women Who Lead Conference focuses on women who are leading in different aspects of their careers. Professional women come to FIU and share their experiences and how they were able to become successful in their field. The conference includes a main speaker as well as discussions and workshops geared toward creating more successful women in the work force.

Wild, Succulent Women is a forum held every month where women celebrate their "inner succulence," which the center's director defined as people's innermost feelings and strongly held personality traits – what makes every person unique.

Though the title of the event may make it seem as if it is meant exclusively for women, it is open to men as well. At the forum, a topic related to women's issues is presented and the staff engages in activities and dialogue relating to the topic, which is usually intended to be controversial.

*For more information on these events and the Center in general, visit its Web site at [women.fiu.edu](http://women.fiu.edu) or [www.fiu.edu/~women](http://www.fiu.edu/~women) or call 305-348-1506 (MMC) or 305-919-5359 (BBC).*

## Group promotes Christianity on campus

**ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ**  
Contributing Writer

For both religious and non-religious students seeking information on Christianity, there is at least one club on campus eager to provide it.

Campus Crusade for Christ, an international Christian ministry for college students, has groups on 12 different college campuses across South Florida including FIU. Here, the group goes by Cru@FIU.

The group is open to all students, Christian or not.

"One of our international students, he's Muslim, but he's just interested. We have Hindu kids coming to our meetings just to sit in. We are a Christian group, and we're not going to compromise that but anyone who's interested or wants to come, you're welcome," said Katrina Vazquez, a sophomore majoring in nursing and a part of Cru's leadership committee. "Cru's mission is for every student on campus to know someone who's truly following Jesus Christ. If they ever have any questions, they know someone. So, we're here to help students – Christians and non-Christians – people who have questions about God and about life, and basically to answer any questions in general. It's not

just limited to Christians."

The ministry is designed to help students with their personal relationship with God.

"We are about helping students across South Florida learn how they can know God personally, be built up in their relationship with God, and be able to continue to grow and share God with others for a lifetime," according to the Campus Crusade for Christ's official Web site.

The club tries to promote familial bonds among its members.

"Being in Cru is like having a family there for you through thick and thin, one that doesn't judge you for your mistakes but gives you all the support and love you'll need to make it through," said sophomore Catherine Flores, an undecided major.

Brian Abadia, a junior advertising major said the joining process was a very spiritual experience for him.

"I didn't choose to be in Cru, I guess they reached me, and I'm completely sure that that was God's plan. Also, I guess that as soon as I started coming to every meeting, I started identifying myself with all the topics that they were talking about. I realized that every theme was something real and practical in my life, that God was real and practical in my life."

Cru holds monthly meetings that talk about what they feel are important issues: drinking, sex, peer pressure and, of course, God. The group recently held a three-part series entitled "Sex, God and College."

The series included an in-depth discussion on pre-marital sex and the reasons why the group advocates abstinence.

"It was really interesting because it looked at sex through a guy's perspective but the Christian perspective as well," Vazquez said.

Along with their meetings, Cru holds social and spiritual events on campus. They organize weekly Bible study sessions at the FIJI house on campus as part of their new outreach program aimed at international students, students in the Greek system, and the residence halls.

Religion is the backbone of the group but not what it's completely made up of.

"The one thing that I think is most important to take away from the group is that it isn't about religion, it's about relationships," Vazquez said.

*You can find more information on how to join Campus Crusade for Christ on [www.cccmiamimetro.com](http://www.cccmiamimetro.com) or by joining their Facebook group, Cru@FIU.*

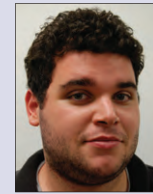
### FISTFULS OF TECH!

## Bevy of apps make iPhone fascinating

Since the creation of Apple's AppStore, the application directory has grown

to provide about 80,000 applications to iPhone and iPod Touch users. Of those 80,000 apps, only a fraction of them are actually useful – but that's not necessarily a bad thing.

#### COLUMNIST



JORGE VALENS

Currently, my iPhone 3GS has 48 non-native applications installed on

it, though this number changes frequently as a result of my never-ending quest for new and exciting apps to add to my collection. However, I can safely say that of those 48 applications, I find about 12 to be of some use in my daily life.

Aside from the usuals like Facebook, AOL Instant Messenger, Tweetie and Google Mobile, I have a few particular apps that get me through the day.

The recently released CNN app is no doubt the new king of the hill in terms of news apps on the AppStore. Aside from being a news reader, it has access to both pre-recorded video streams as well as a live stream of CNN's Internet feed.

It does cost \$1.99, which may turn some people off, especially when CNN still places advertisements selectively throughout the app. However, if you can't get enough of Dr. Sanjay Gupta being "interrupted" mid-report to perform emergency surgery, then this is \$1.99 well spent.

Another staple on my iPhone is Magic Tap's "Fake Calls" app, which has saved me countless times from awkward conversations and bad dates. Simply open the app, set the timer (I recommend 15 seconds), and expect a fake phone call from anyone you want.

This 99-cent app is only limited by your creativity when it comes to thinking up a situation that gets you out the door, I recommend saying you have a "dog emergency."

On the flip-side, I tend to buy some apps that either have no use whatsoever, or are only useful in one particular, obscure instance.

Recently, I purchased InfoMedia Inc.'s "iFart Mobile." This application is, as the name implies, a mobile soundboard of flatulence. Though the 99-cent app has a few impressive features, such as a countdown timer that lets you trap friends and the ability to ... well, record your own sounds, this application simply has no use – at all.

An app that shines as a result of its obscure use is Eric Faller's "CubeCheater." This 99-cent app allows you to use the iPhone's camera to photograph each of the four sides of a Rubik's cube. After analyzing the photos, the app will walk you through the steps you need to solve it.

I've been wanting to delete this app from my iPhone for some time, however my fear that one day an evil genius will hold a loved one hostage and will only release them if I can successfully complete a Rubik's cube prevents me from doing so.

This experience of amassing a bevy of apps is the story behind most iPhone users'



# Useless applications still often mildly entertaining

TECH, page 5

home screens. The AppStore process and the iPhone software development kit allow developers to make whatever they want and post it on the store for all to have.

The SDK empowers developers to innovate, using creative tools to push the iPhone OS to new levels. However, sometimes they use these tools to make fart machines and apps that allow you to wave your iPhone around like a lightsaber.

The best thing about it though is that, in most cases, I can't force myself to delete these apps.

I need to know that if I am bored one day and want to see how old I am in dog years I can log on to the app store and low and behold there is the "DogYears" app. Though I will laugh at people with useless apps on their iPhone, I think it speaks a lot about the platform and the consumers that use it everyday.

iPhone users are a creative bunch, people who don't take themselves seriously and who, in the end, have a great phone that can not only manage our daily lives but cheer it up every now and then.

"Fistful of Tech" is a weekly column on all things technological.

# College Republicans work for 'government restraint'

ADRIAN ESPINOSA  
Contributing Writer

Even in a time when the Democratic Party controls both houses of Congress and the White House, the FIU College Republicans are still championing the conservative cause.

Passing out bumper stickers, fliers and buttons, they work to promote their preferred candidates, especially during election season. The club is bound together by a shared commitment to government restraint, according to the club's president.

"We all philosophically subscribe to the idea that government should be limited and individuals should have the most choice in their own lives as possible," said Nick Autiello, an international relations major and president of the club.

The club is bound together by a shared commitment

to government restraint, according to Autiello.

This is the mantra that most Republicans adopt, according to Autiello, and it is this belief that he feels embodies the spirit of the club. Every so often, guest speakers come to events and students get a chance to interact with prominent Republican figures in local government, he said.

Sometimes elected officials come in to give a speech and other times candidates running for office in an upcoming election do the talking. The club is also active in helping members receive congressional internship opportunities, giving them the chance to construct a network of connections to important government officials, according to Autiello.

During the 2008 presidential elections, they set up tables in the Graham Center for registered students to vote. At the same time, they told students

about Senator McCain's platform and the republican platform for America. The current vice president of the club, broadcast journalism and political science major, Maria Concha is currently working for Republican candidate for Florida's Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater and plans on assisting Mario Diaz-Balart in his campaign for re-election to the U.S. House. She is proud of the group's efforts on behalf of different political causes.

"We help recruit volunteers for different Republican campaigns and create online groups to encourage students to join the campus campaign movement."

FIU-CR is also preparing itself for the upcoming 2010 midterm elections with Charlie Crist and Marco Rubio vying on the Republican side for the open U.S. Senate seat for Florida and the upcoming campaign for a new governor

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to fill Crist's place. The club is especially excited about it.

"2010 is going to be one of the most fascinating elections ... we plan to be right in the middle of it," Autiello said.

In addition to campaigning and inviting guest speakers on campus, the College Republicans also hold debates between themselves and the College Democrats. These larger debates sometimes draw a crowd because the issues being discussed are of partic-

ular significance to students.

"We really encourage people to come out and support us ... we put a lot of work into the debates and help the public in general when it comes to making a decision during elections," Autiello said.

They plan on holding two debates, one focusing on the new health care bill and the other on foreign policy.

"I was politically involved in high school and I look forward to seeing how argu-

ments change as age progresses. Being a first-year student I plan to eventually become politically involved on campus," said Robert Colom, a student majoring in anthropology.

According to Autiello, involvement in national politics is the main goal of the club and they strive to not only engage in discussion but also to form an inviting atmosphere where other non-member students can take part in the political process.

## THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

### MONDAY, OCT. 12

#### PREKSHA MEDITATION



Have a positive start to your week with this event!

WHEN: 4 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### BAHAMIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Get in touch with Bahamian culture with this meeting.

WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

#### TANGO CLASSES



Learn how to sway smoothly with these classes!

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Pit

#### COLLEGE DEMOCRATS

Get political with this club meeting!

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### JAZZ/OPEN MIKE



Jazz it up with this event!

WHEN: 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Churchills

#### NAKED STAGE'S 24 HOUR THEATRE PROJECT

Enjoy a production made in 24 hours!

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$25  
WHERE: Miracle Mile Theatre

### TUESDAY, OCT. 13

#### STUDENTS FOR A FREE TIBET



Join a good cause today!

WHEN: 9 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Table

#### FINE ARTS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Students support the arts with this meeting!

WHEN: 3:45 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

#### CHOSEN GENERATION

Join this weekly meeting of the spiritual minds!

WHEN: 7 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Annex

#### DANCE MARATHON

A meeting for FIU's dance contest.

WHEN: 6:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 305

#### FIU READING SERIES



Go to this event and enjoy writing by FIU students!

WHEN: 8:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Luna Star Cafe

#### ITALIAN FILM FEST



Watch epic films from this country.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Regal Cinemas

### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 14

#### FREE CUBA FOUNDATION



Learn how you can help free Cuba at this meeting!

WHEN: 10 a.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 314

#### DEPT. OF PSYCHOLOGY WORKSHOP

Understand how our minds work with this workshop!

WHEN: 12 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 343

#### PEP RALLY



Pep up and support our school with this event!

WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Pit

#### GOLDEN IDOL AUDITIONS

Witness a show by stars in the making!

WHEN: 12 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Pit

#### CIRCUS @ CHURCHILLS



Enjoy this weekly local musician show today!

WHEN: 10 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$5  
WHERE: Churchills

#### FUNKSHION MIAMI FASHION WEEK

Enjoy seeing all the up incoming Miami fashion!

WHEN: 8 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: Setai Hotel

### THURSDAY, OCT. 15

#### NICARAGUAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION



Join this association and get in touch with your roots!

WHEN: 1 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC Pit

#### ITALIAN CLUB MEETING

WHEN: 3 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 340

#### FRENCH CLUB - MOVIE



Watch a film from the very unique French filmmakers!

WHEN: 3:30 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 140

#### CATHOLIC STUDENT UNION

Get spiritual with this meeting!

WHEN: 6 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 1235

#### WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENTS ASSOC.



Hear this lecture and get empowered!

WHEN: 12 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: Free  
WHERE: GC 243

#### JAM AT MAM

Enjoy happy hour with music and art!

WHEN: 5 p.m.  
HOW MUCH: \$10  
WHERE: MAM

-Compiled by Mariana Ochoa.  
Have an event you want featured? Send an email to [mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com](mailto:mariana.ochoa@fiusm.com)



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FOOTBALL: FIU 37, WKU 20

# PANTHERS POUNCE BACK

## Players step up while Hilton injures knee

JONATHAN RAMOS  
Asst. Sports Director

On his first throw of the game, FIU quarterback Paul McCall found Greg Ellingson down the middle of the Hilltopper logo for a 32-yard gain.

On his second attempt, McCall tossed a dart to Colt Anderson for a first down in Western Kentucky's red zone.

In just his third try, he capped the opening drive with a 19-yard pass to Ellingson for a touchdown. It took less than three minutes for FIU to get on the board in its opening drive.

It was that type of day for McCall.

In a chilly evening in Western Kentucky, McCall was 14-of-22 and recorded 280 yards and two touchdowns to lead FIU (1-4, 1-1 Sun Belt) to a 37-20 win against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (0-5, 0-1) on Oct. 10 at L.T. Smith Stadium. The senior signal caller completed seven consecutive passes to start the game, tying Josh Padrick for the third most consecutive completions ever by an FIU quarterback.

The Golden Panthers scored a season-high in points despite losing star sophomore T.Y. Hilton to a knee injury in the first quarter. Hilton left the game and was fitted for a knee brace after catching a pass from McCall and landing awkwardly.

"It's one of those things where somewhere along the line every team needs that gut check," said Coach Mario Cristobal. "When their best playmaker goes down is their team going to fold, or are other guys going to step up. I think that's the sign of a team that has the capability of going on and becoming a champion."

McCall was not alone.

Ty Frierson and Greg Ellingson combined for eight catches for 198 yards and two touchdowns to provide enough aerial firepower for the offense, and Daunte Owens had career highs in carries, yards and touchdowns to lead an efficient rushing offense. He finished with 86 yards on 17 carries with two rushing touchdowns.

### 'BEAUTIFUL'

The Golden Panthers ran for a season best 206 yards as a team, led by Owens and Darriet Perry. FIU pounded WKU with a heavy dose of running as the team rushed 49 times with a healthy 4.2 yards per rush.

"It's beautiful; it's a tribute to what those guys up front have been doing all year," McCall said. "It's no surprise. We have been trying to establish the run all year."

The Golden Panthers entered the game last in the Sun Belt Conference in rushing offense. Owens, who Cristobal said earned more playing time of late, has waited a long time for his opportunity. Owens had just 55 carries in his first three seasons at FIU, but made the most of his 17 on Saturday. Owens rushed for two touchdowns, and had a critical carries of 5, 4, and 7 yards in a third quarter drive that set up a McCall touchdown pass to Frierson to extend the lead to 24-14 after the Hilltoppers closed to within three on a Kawuan Jakes 10-yard run.

"I owe it to my offensive line. They played



JOE IMEL/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**HOT HANDS:** Greg Ellingson catches a touchdown in the first half against Western Kentucky on Oct. 10. Ellingson led the team in catches and yards without T.Y. Hilton.

on their side of the field tonight," Owens said. "It's a blessing. I have been working hard, staying positive, and keeping the other running backs pepped up."

Perry ran for 85 yards on 21 carries, a season-high in both categories. McCall noted the change of pace that Owens is from the powerful Perry, and Owens has embraced it.

"We work together because he's more like a bruiser, and I'm more like a slasher, speed guy," Owens said. "We both take care of our business."

### MOMENTUM

The game against WKU is the first win for FIU in which Hilton did not score a touchdown since the talented receiver debuted in 2008.

"It feels really good, knowing that I can rely on my teammates," Hilton said. "The win means a lot with everything that's going on in the Sun Belt right now."

The Golden Panthers will face Troy (3-2, 2-0 Sun Belt) on Oct. 17. Hilton's status will become clear this week when he undergoes an MRI on his knee.

"Adversity is going to happen all the time," said linebacker Toronto Smith. "We're just tired of losing. We made up our minds that we were going to dominate and now we have to take that same mind-set next week when Troy comes to our house."

## Team wins, but defense must improve

Now that is more like it. It took five games, but the Golden Panthers finally got into the "W" column this season.

FIU rudely welcomed Western Kentucky University to the Sun Belt Conference with a 37-20 victory in the Hilltoppers' first conference game.

Even playing most of the contest without T.Y. Hilton, who only touched the ball twice before leaving the game with a right knee injury in the first quarter, the Golden Panthers enjoyed their best offensive day of the season, scoring in every quarter and racking up 486 yards of total offense.

Despite FIU's dominance on offense and impressive play against the pass, the defense's biggest hole has yet to be filled with the Hilltoppers rushing for 263 yards and a robust 6.1 yards per carry average. Let's take a look at what the Golden Panthers did right to earn their first win of 2009.

### BALANCED ATTACK

This was the type of day that was expected from this team when it came into the season talking about contending for a conference title and making a bowl game for the first time.

The defensive line finally got some pressure on the opposing team's quarterback, freshman Kawuan Jakes, sacking him twice and forcing an interception into the hands of Toronto Smith.

The running game also got going, with 206 yards as a team, including an 85-yard day from Darriet Perry. More importantly was the impressive running of senior Daunte Owens, who rushed for a team leading 86 yards on 17 carries with two touchdowns. Owens is a slightly larger back than Perry and freshman Darrian Mallary, and he has shown glimpses of his abilities when healthy.

That was the running game FIU was looking for all season, and Coach Mario Cristobal and offensive coordinator Bill Legg's patience finally paid off with the big game on the ground, which opened up the offense and allowed Paul McCall to look deep for 280 yards and two touchdowns, including a 65-yard toss to Greg Ellingson and a 40-yard touchdown catch for Ty Frierson.

### NOT ALL POSITIVE

The Golden Panthers were still gashed on the ground once again. Jakes, the mobile freshman quarterback, was held to just a 2.8 yard per carry average, but the Hilltoppers still managed to exploit the Golden Panthers' biggest weakness.

Credit must be given where it is due, and FIU deserves credit for this win. FIU, favored for the first time this year, was supposed to beat WKU, and it did in convincing fashion.

However, FIU had an opportunity to shore up the defense against an inferior foe and still gave up huge numbers on the ground. The team has a week to solve the issue before the defending conference champion Trojans visit FIU at home next week for the biggest matchup of the season.

### COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

### BOXSCORE

	FIU	WKU
<b>First Downs</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Rushes-Yards</b>	<b>49-206</b>	<b>43-263</b>
<b>Passing</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Comp-Att-Int</b>	<b>14-22-0</b>	<b>16-26-1</b>
<b>Return Yards</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Punts Avg.</b>	<b>3-41.3</b>	<b>7-43.7</b>
<b>Penalties-Yards</b>	<b>8-51</b>	<b>9-81</b>
<b>Fumbles-Lost</b>	<b>1-1</b>	<b>1-1</b>
<b>Time of Possession</b>	<b>28:24</b>	<b>31:36</b>

**RUSHING — FIU:** Perry 21-85, Owens 17-86, Mallary 6-23 **WKU:** Rainey 9-103, Booker 8-64, Jakes 16-81

**PASSING — FIU:** McCall 14-22-0-280 **WKU:** Jakes 16-26-0-118

**RECEIVING — FIU:** Ellingson 5-132, Hilton 1-31, Frierson 3-66, Martinez 1-17, Anderson 1-16 **WKU:** Cooper 5-26, Doyle 3-41, Gaebler 3-24, Sheppard 2-13