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The Beacon, October 21, 2009

Florida International University

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Learn grandma's Spanish lentils for upcoming winter

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Rocky Horror Picture Show comes to FIU this week

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SPOTLIGHT

AT THE BAY PAGE 5

Students get to talk about relationships, sex, cheating at the Women's Center forum, and everyone is welcome!

OPINION PAGE 6



Getting Schooled: Students should visit universities in order to learn more about prospective programs.

OPINION PAGE 6

In light of his progress in the economy, foreign policy and health care, does Obama make the grade?

LIFE! PAGE 8



Moment of Clarity: Gucci Mane far from a great rapper.

LIFE! PAGE 7

Pop and Circumstance: Weezer's "jokes" not really funny anymore.

SPORTS PAGE 12



Looking back on Garcia's first three years at FIU.

SPORTS PAGE 12

Volleyball: Golden Panthers win 12th in a row on Rosa's strong play.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nicaraguan Students Association, Oct. 21, 4 p.m. Join this meeting and get in touch with your roots! Event is free and will be held in GC 241.

Asian Studies, Oct. 20, 12:30 p.m. Join this lecture and learn about the Asian culture! The event is free and is being held in GC 150.

Students For A Free Tibet, Oct. 22, 1 p.m. Join this meeting and effect change! Event is free and will be held in GC 343.

Europe Student Association, Oct. 22, 5 p.m. Bring out the European in you with this meeting for free in GC 243.

WEATHER



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
LOW: 77 HIGH: 85



THURSDAY
Scattered Showers
LOW: 77 HIGH: 84



FRIDAY
Scattered Showers
LOW: 77 HIGH: 87

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PRETTY IN PINK

Volleyball team really 'digs' helping cancer foundation

JULIA CARDENUTO
News Director

The women's volleyball team will "dig pink" this Friday by helping raise money for breast cancer awareness during the match against Arkansas.

"Dig Pink" is a national effort held throughout October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, by professional, high school and college sports teams in an effort to raise funds for the cause.

The initiative began with volleyball teams but today even soccer and tennis teams are joining.

The team's coach, Danijela Tomic, said she is excited with this opportunity and can't wait to see fans support both the team and the cause.

"It's a great cause and inspiring to the volleyball world," Tomic said.

This initiative was made possible by the Office of External Relations, the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, the College of Engineering and the Student Government Association.

Terry Witherell, associate vice president of University and Community Relations, was the arbitrator of the partnership. Both the dean of the College of Medicine and the dean of the College of Engineering donated money to the cause. These funds will be used to buy pink T-shirts and arm bands to be sold at the game.

"This wouldn't have been possible without them," Tomic said.

All of the proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation, which the volleyball players have already volunteered and worked for.

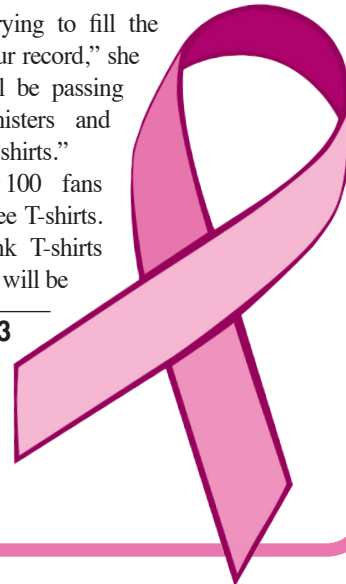
Representatives of the foundation will also have a table at the U.S. Century Bank Arena and will be giving out information about breast cancer awareness and prevention.

This is not the first time the University's team holds the "Dig Pink" event, but this year, Witherell said, they wanted to "take it to another level."

"We are trying to fill the arena, break our record," she said. "We will be passing collection canisters and giving away T-shirts."

The first 100 fans will receive free T-shirts. Additional pink T-shirts and arm bands will be

PINK, page 3



Interim dean ready to work

McDemmond to bring unique leadership policy

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
Contributing Writer

Dr. Marie McDemmond is committed to bringing her brand of "servant leadership" to the position of interim dean of the College of Education.

The University announced that McDemmond accepted the position of interim dean of the College of Education while a nationwide search for a permanent dean is performed.

Interim provost and executive vice president, Douglas Wartzok, thanked the previous interim dean, Kingsley Banya "for stepping into this role, making hard deci-

sions, communicating effectively and serving admirably over the past year."

McDemmond addressed the budget cuts that the University has been enduring for the last couple of years. The College of Education's budget had almost \$3.2 million in cuts.

"Even though the budget cuts already happened, they were three years in phases," she said. "The last year, which is next year, is roughly \$668,000 more."

One of McDemmond's main goals is to bring good management to the College of Education.



McDEMMOND

"I think that's one of the things that all schools and the University as a whole need, to be well managed, particularly with budget cuts as they are," she said. "We have to make sure that the budget and the services are delivered to students in the most expeditious way."

She also wishes to provide faculty, staff and students the kind of leadership she believes in; which she describes as "servant leadership."

"It's leadership where we are here for the [benefit] of the students, and we all work together as a team. Providing that transparency to management [is something] I think is important," McDemmond said.

McDemmond argues that financial management is a critical component of higher

MCDEMMOND, page 3

SGC-MMC

Resolution calling for restructure of SGA passes

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA
Staff Writer

The senate at the Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus voiced opinions on Monday concerning the restructuring of student government, the smoke-free campus initiative, a pilot program to bring Kindles to the University and human trafficking.

Campus bylaws were also tweaked.

The resolution calling for a consideration to restructure student government for the sake of unity passed the senate with a vote of 20 for, six against and zero abstentions.

Once again, the focus of the document was presented by its sponsoring senators as a call to look into alternatives, and not as an endorsement of any set avenue.

"A system with one unified student body leader can help fix such issues, while representing all FIU students," states the resolution.

When Senator for Arts and Sciences Altanese Phenelus questioned whether a central president could fairly represent Biscayne Bay Campus if he or she were exclusively located at MMC, sponsoring Senator from the Honors College Vignesh Doraiswamy said the mention of the central president was only one of "different options that could help."

Responding to reports that SGC-MMC President Anthony Rionda would not sign anything he deemed divisive, Doraiswamy stated he did not find the resolution to be divisive.

Rionda had previously told Student Media that now is not the time, nor is the resolution the way, to address the concerns brought up.

The senate also took a stance on the smoke-free campus initiative and decided that the current smoking policies are more favorable to the new one.

According to the resolution "students have voiced their concerns through a town hall and Internet forum in opposition of the smoke-free campus initiative, and would rather see implementation and enforcement of current policy."

Under a smoke-free campus policy, there would be no designated smoking area on campus.

Currently there is no smoking within 20-feet of any building's entrance. It passed unanimously.

The senate also passed a resolution urging the University and Aramark to take action against human trafficking.

Aramark is a food supplier at the University, and has been linked to business with a company that allegedly uses sweatshops.

The resolution, which was suggested to the senate by another state university student government, calls for "University officials to pressure Aramark to advocate that W&D Apparel end their

SGC-MMC, page 3

NEWS FLASH

LOCAL

Florida unemployment rate at highest since 1975

The Florida unemployment rate has rose to 11 percent for the month of September, the highest it has been since 1975.

According to *The Miami Herald*, the September job report showed that the amount of unemployed people in the state has reached one million.

The rate is up from August's 10.8 percent and is 1.2 percent higher than the national average.

NATIONAL

Researchers find 32 new planets outside our solar system

A consortium of international researchers, led by the Geneva Conservatory, has announced the discovery of 32 new planets outside our solar system.

Using the High Accuracy Radial Velocity Planet Searcher, or HARPS, the consortium increased the number of planets confirmed to 75.

According to CNN, scientists believe that there are up to 400 that have yet to be confirmed.

Apple's computer sales at record high

Apple, Inc. posted higher than expected quarterly numbers.

According to CNN Money, the computer company posted a 47 percent increase in quarterly profit as a result of high sales numbers of its popular notebook computers and iPhones.

According to market research firm Gartner, Mac computers made up 8.8 percent of all computer sales this quarter.

Apple's stock rose 7 percent, hitting a record high, after the announcement.

– Compiled by Jorge Valens

Alumnus praised by Hispanics

BLANCA MORALES
Staff Writer

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Republican Party recognized FIU alumnus Ariel Fernandez for speaking out on Hispanic issues in South Florida.

Along with a group of 77 Hispanic Republicans, some of which work for the White House, Miami-based Fernandez received this recognition for his work in the Hispanic Leadership Council for the Republican Party of South Florida.

He graduated from FIU with a Bachelor of Arts in political science with a minor in international relations in 2008.

"From the political arena, I can effect a positive change for those who need it the most," Fernandez said.

Right after graduating from Belen Jesuit Preparatory School in 1999, he went to work as a congressional aide for Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, where he has worked for the past 10 years.

There, he handles issues regarding health care, education and disaster relief efforts.

He also worked as a link to state and local governments. Recently, he handled the visa case of Anais Cruz, mother of Juan Carlos Rivera, the recent stabbing victim at Coral Gables Senior High.

"Ariel has been a tireless and dedicated aide in my Miami office, responding to the needs of the community and briefing me on the important local issues he deals with. He has always demonstrated his capacity to be a great team player," Ros-Lehtinen said.

Fernandez also worked as a surrogate in the McCain-Palin campaign by bringing their issues to Hispanic Republicans and conducting post-debate analyses for local Spanish media.

Daniel Fernandez, who hosts a Spanish radio program on 830 AM, discusses politics and the economy on Thursday nights with Fernandez.

"Ariel is an excellent friend and citizen. I met him years ago when he hosted a weekly radio show for youth



COURTESY OF ARIEL FERNANDEZ

SPEAKING OUT: Ariel Fernandez, FIU alumnus, was recognized by the Republican Party for his work in South Florida's community. On the left, Fernandez receives a Congressional Award. On the right, at FIU, he works with the McCain-Palin campaign by conducting post-debate analyses for local Spanish media.

called 'Sobre la Mesa.' On my show, 'Compartiendo Contigo,' his commentary is well-received by the community," he said.

Fernandez has also brought the issues of Hispanic South Florida to the leadership of the Republican Party.

Last year, Fernandez started the Rising Republicans Youth of South Florida. The club hopes to increase the number of Hispanic young people who vote during elections in South Florida.

"One of the ways we've failed, as a Hispanic community, for many years is that we've been a silent voice here in South Florida," Fernandez said. "In a democratic system, which many of us don't have in the countries in which we or our parents originate from, we have the opportunity to speak out on the issues that are important to us and participate in the democratic process."

Fernandez's parents, who migrated from Cuba, were always involved in community service, he said, teaching him the importance of community involvement. His father, who was a teacher at Belen Jesuit and an active voter, always engaged Fernandez in political discourse.

Born and raised in Miami, Fernandez has been involved in community service from an early age including food drives and beach clean-ups.

"Since I was a child, my parents

always taught me that one of our goals should always be to serve others," he said.

Along with his parents and sister, Fernandez volunteered and participated in a local youth group called *Encuentros Juveniles*. The youth group, a part of the Archdiocese of Miami, teaches youth to reach out to the community and serve others. The Fernandez family volunteered and gave its service in *Encuentros'* five yearly retreats and annual Thanksgiving food drive. Fernandez later served as the youth group's coordinator for two years where he oversaw its operation.

"He was so into politics, we would call him 'Mr. President,'" said Alexandra Morales, an *Encuentros* alumna.

Fernandez is currently running for state representative in District 116, just west of FIU.

If elected, he would be one of 120 legislators in Tallahassee who represent their districts' citizens when making laws. There, he would be able to make laws that affect people statewide, while representing the constituents of the 116th district in the state legislature.

Fernandez is running in the platform of health care and education. He believes both should be affordable to everyone.

FERNANDEZ, page 3

THE BEACON

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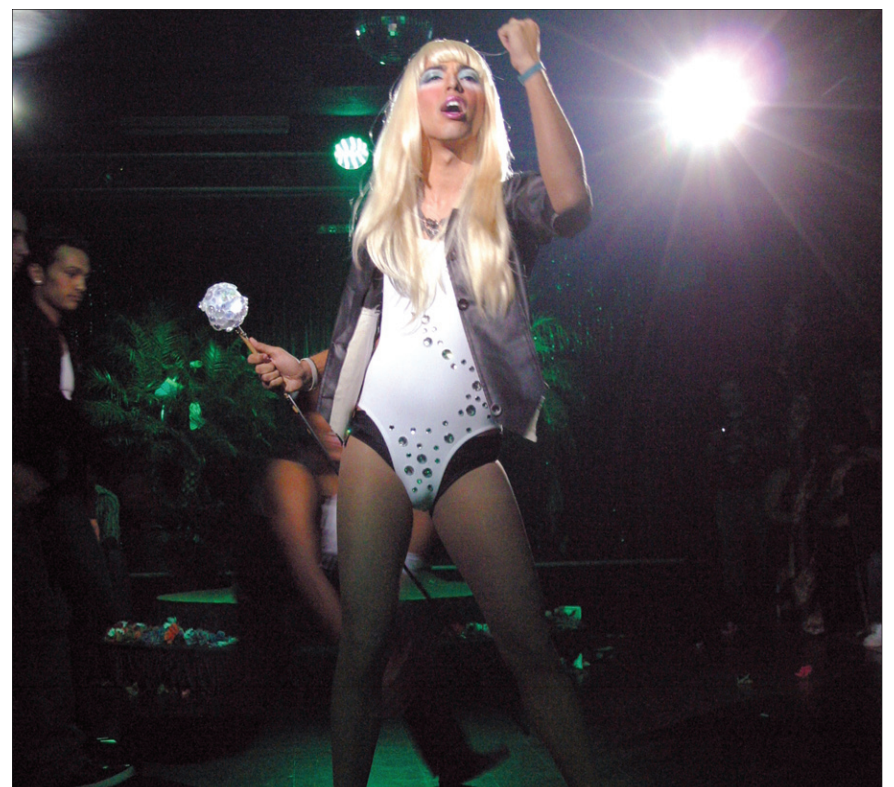
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JUST DANCE



ISAAC SORIA/THE BEACON

FIERCE: Sophomore Rashad Subhan, international relations major, performs "Love Game" by Lady GaGa at the Delta Lambda Phi Divas, a contest between University girls, who had to dress up in diva costumes to this year's theme of "Call of the Wild" and prove why they are diva enough to be DLP's diva. Proceeds from the event went to Care Resources. The event was held at Club *Azucar* on Oct. 14.

Volleyball game attendants can help fight breast cancer

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sold. The price has yet to be determined.

The University's women's volleyball team now ranks 16th in the nation in the NCAA Ranking Percentage Index poll.

RPI is a method of ranking teams based on the opponents that a team plays. It is a type of computer ranking systems that factors teams' strength of schedule.

Witherell said that the coach has been "amazing and has done a tremendous job."

Tomic said that moving up from 18th to 16th place on the NCAA's RPI is a great recognition of the team's hard work.

The College of Engineering recently invented the first hand-held optical device capable of 3-D tumor detection. This device shows early promise in improving the diagnosis of breast cancer, according to researchers associated with the project.

One in every eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer, according to the American Accreditation Health Care

Commission. Mammography is the most effective way of detecting breast cancer early.

All FIU Athletic events are free for students. Faculty and staff pay \$3 for the volleyball game and non-FIU students pay \$5.

The game will be held Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m.

"If students come once, they will come back," Tomic said. "It's a great cause, come help raise awareness and see the team. We will do some great things."

McDemmond's biggest challenge: 'not enough time'

MCDONNELL, page 1

education.

"I think we've thought about higher education not run as a business; not always looking at the bottom line," McDemmond said. "What we've been criticized for nationally is that we have been increasing the cost of higher education. We have to really examine all of our costs to see why colleges and universities are becoming more and more expensive."

McDemmond began her education career in 1968 as a public school teacher in New Orleans.

"I started teaching seventh and eighth grade social studies in the Ninth ward," she said.

The same ward that received a lot of attention as one of the most affected areas in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.

McDemmond credits her parents for influencing her to become a teacher. Both passed away before she was 7 years old.

"My mom and dad were both school teachers. I come from a long line of educators – aunts and uncles who were school teachers – and I decided that if it was good enough for them, it was good enough for me. There weren't many opportunities in the '60s for a black woman in the south either," McDemmond said.

She received her bachelor's degree at Xavier University and earned a master's degree from the University of New Orleans, as well as a doctorate in higher education administration and finance from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

In 1997 she became the first female president of Norfolk State University, as

well as the first African-American woman to serve as president of a university in Virginia.

She was also appointed by former President George W. Bush to the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"President's Board was a big honor too," McDemmond said. "We looked at how the federal government could support more HBCUs. The board was appointed by the president to work to see how the federal government could assist these unique colleges to survive and offer the best quality education to the students who choose to attend them."

She retired as president of Norfolk State in January of 2006 due to illness.

"I came down with leukemia," McDemmond said, while adding that her health is currently "in good condition."

After retiring from Norfolk State, she decided to move back to South Florida; which was already familiar to her, having previously served as Florida Atlantic University's vice president for Finance, CFO and chief operating officer from 1988 to 1997.

McDemmond is committed to bringing financial responsibility and transparent management to the College of Education, which along with other programs at FIU, has undergone several budget cuts recently.

The College of Education's programs were some of the hardest hit.

When asked what her biggest challenge would be as interim dean of the College of Education, she said, "Not enough time."

Hopeful state representative sides with students' pockets

FERNANDEZ, page 2

"That was a big mistake by our legislature," he said of the 15 percent tuition hike.

Fernandez, who had to pay for his FIU tuition, understands what it means to work one's way through college. He attended evening classes while working full-time for Ros-Lehtinen.

"I am against these increases that might keep people like me away from achieving their dreams of a college education," he said.

Fernandez's fondest memory of FIU was his graduation ceremony.

"It was a long-awaited moment I worked hard to reach," he said.

"As a Hispanic in

the community, lead by example," Fernandez said to fellow Golden Panthers. "We all have the opportunity to work for our community, even in the smallest ways: helping a neighbor, helping our own schools. There are so many activities you can do through FIU or a church. Speak out about the issues that are important to you."

Senate passes resolution against smoke-free initiative

SGC-MMC, page 1

immoral business practices."

W&D Apparel has been accused of using sweatshops, and Aramark of purchasing uniforms from them.

The resolution states: "W&D Apparel continues to practice a policy of human trafficking and labor exploitation between Vietnam and Jordan while distributing its products from this facility to major U.S. corporations, including Aramark."

It passed with a vote of 24 for, four against and zero abstentions.

Similar resolutions have been passed by other student governments, like the University of Florida.

The senate also passed a resolution in support of a proposed pilot program that would bring Kindles to the University.

The initial sample size would be that of 500 students. The plan was presented to the senate a week ago by a representative from a group referring to themselves as FIU Kindle. One of the proposed benefits would be that of lower textbook costs.

The resolution says that "many students cannot afford the high cost of textbooks."

It passed with a vote of 24 yes, zero nays and three abstentions.

The three that abstained were due to a conflict with serving on a committee that will tackle the use of the technology fee.

"It's a great way to go green and bring technology to the classroom," said sponsoring Senator from Engineering and Computing William-Jose Velez.

Students have voiced their concerns ... and would rather see implementation and enforcement of current policy.

Resolution concerning smoke-free initiative
SGC-MMC senate

According to Velez, the FIU Kindle group has said that of the 500 students 200 of them would get free Kindles.

Negotiations, however, are still in the primary stages and it has not been decided if the pilot program is initiated what courses would be included.

In addition to voicing their opinions, members of the senate did some internal housekeeping.

A council bill was passed to eliminate references to secret ballot voting in the campus bylaws.

Another council bill also passed requiring committees to elect a vice-chairperson.

FORTUNE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2009

IDEAL

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Forum spices up dating, cheating, sex debates

LATOYA BURGESS
Contributing Writer

Vivian Medina, a junior Hospitality and Tourism Management major, wants to know why men who cheat are considered “pimps,” but women who cheat are called “sluts.”

Senior HTM major Pedro Phillips tried to give her a possible answer during “Wild Succulent Women,” a series of forums hosted by The Women’s Center at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“I think a lot of men grow up with the mentality that [cheating] is a good thing, and if you can get a lot of women, then get them,” he said. “I couldn’t live like this, but every man decides for himself based on his beliefs.”

“Wild Succulent Women” is a forum where students meet once a month in the community room at Bay Vista Housing to discuss different topics, which range from unprotected sex to failed marriages.

“We developed it to be an opportunity to discuss controversial topics like sexuality, body image and

love vs. lust,” said Bronwen Bares, assistant director of The Women’s Center and Center for Leadership and Service at BBC. “We wanted to create an environment so people can speak freely, so we can learn.”

Bares came up with the name for the forum after reading the book, *Succulent Wild Women*, published in the U.S. in 1997 by Susan Ariel Rainbow Kennedy (SARK). Now in its third year, “Wild Succulent Women” is also hosted by The Women’s Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus and is open to both men and women.

“SARK’s theory is that women are these fabulous, succulent creatures, and it’s up to us to see that in ourselves,” Bares said.

Rebecca Joseph, a senior psychology major and Bares’ student assistant, came up with the catch phrase for “Wild Succulent Women” while looking at iPod ads on the Internet, and now the theme for every forum has an “I” before its name. For example, if the topic of the month is about abstinence, the theme would be “i-abstinence,” according to Joseph.

The theme of this month’s forum, which took place Oct. 13, was “i-cheat.” It was led by Arista Sidrey, a junior English major; Donna Walcott, assistant director for The Wellness Center; Joseph and Bares.

Walcott opened up the discussion with a comfort speech to help the participants feel safe. About 20 students were present.

“Don’t tell outsiders about the personal issues heard here because what goes on here stays here,” she said.

Joseph reminded students that they could talk about whatever they wanted, even if they didn’t feel comfortable admitting that they were talking about their own experiences.

“If you don’t have the ba-- to say your name, then say ‘I have a friend who...,’” said Joseph while blushing. “Am I allowed to say that?”

“Of course,” Walcott said. “This is a special interests group.”

Confidentiality is one word that is taken seriously in the forum, according to Joseph, which is why students have to write down their secrets on a folded sheet

MAKING A SPLASH



FLOW: Swimmer Chelsie Kidd performs the butterfly stroke style of swimming in the third league of the women’s 400-yard medley relay. The meet against Florida Atlantic University took place Oct. 16, where FIU lost 143 - 96.

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

of paper and drop them into a bell-shaped, bronze bowl known as the Honesty Bin.

Students’ secrets are then read out loud by Joseph, but students have the choice to either remain anonymous or identify themselves.

Cheating was a heated debate in the room, in which men and women expressed their frustrations about the opposite sex.

Medina’s concerns were not only about the different treatment women get when they cheat as opposed to men. She also hates when the line is blurred between being friends and being “girlfriend and boyfriend.”

“It’s like when you’re at a party with a guy and he will introduce you to everyone as his friend. But when he introduces you to a hot Spaniard, then you are his girlfriend,” Medina said.

Phillips told Medina he could explain that situation for her as well.

“Men do this when they really like a woman, but still want to keep the door open, so he will introduce you as his girlfriend, which tells the hot Spaniard to back off.”

Students also received pamphlets about rape and women’s advocacy, and could pick up free chocolate-flavored condoms and

Astroglide.

Ana Perez, a sophomore journalism major, said the forum was a little risqué.

“But that’s what makes it fun and different. You’ve got to spice it up sometimes,” she said. “It’s a good way of getting both genders to talk about taboo subjects and hear the story from both sides.”

The forums takes place once a month at 8 p.m. in the community room at Bay Vista. The next forum has yet to be announced.

For more information, contact Bares at 305-919-5360.

FOODGASM

Spanish classic: lentil soup warms up the heart and soul

This past weekend the temperature dropping gave us native Miamians permission to order hot chocolate. But the climate change also gave us another dish to eat: soup.

I went to eat at a Spanish restaurant in Coral Gables called *Por Fin*. I tried many of

their *tapas*, but what stood out to me was their lentil soup. In Spain, a bowl of *Lentejas con Chorizo* – a type of smoked and cured sausage that gets its pungent smell from red peppers and Spanish paprika – is one of the most comforting, homemade grandma dishes. The bowl I had almost brought tears to my eyes. I lost my grandmother in 2007, and I found it absolutely overwhelming that one bowl of soup could transport me to a time I made this soup every weekend in the kitchen with her by my side.

That’s why the first thing I did when I came home was make a pot of this Spanish

classic. This soup, or as it is known in Spain, *potage* – a stew of meats and vegetables served extra thick – is traditionally served as a first course all over Spain, especially during the winter because it sticks to your ribs. You can feed your family with literally five ingredients if you had to, but my version carries a whopping eight that are still easy on college students’ wallets.

•First, you will need to take a 12-ounce package of green lentils, and carefully sift through it taking out any small rocks you may find. Then soak them in cold water for an hour. This allows the lentils to hydrate and become moist and soft during the cooking process. This is also what allows the lentil soup to thicken in the traditional manner.

•While your lentils soak, chop one medium-sized onion, a carrot and two celery stalks into small cubes, and place them in

COLUMNIST



BIANCA ROJAS



NATHAN VALENTINE/COURTESY PHOTO

GRANDMA’S BEST: Bianca shows her *lentejas*, made with lentils, potatoes and *chorizo*.

a bowl with two to three cloves of sliced garlic. By slicing the garlic instead of mincing it, you are adding texture to this dish.

•Next, dice three medium-sized red skinned potatoes into bite-sized cubes. Make sure that once you cut your potatoes, you place them in a bowl with cold water. If you leave them out in the air, they will begin to oxidize and eventually turn black. If this happens to you, the potato is still edible, but it is

just not pretty.

•Finally, slice your *chorizo* into thin rounds, leaving the natural casing on. Feel free to leave the meat out if you’re a vegetarian or looking for a healthy, meatless option.

Lentils are low in fat and high in protein and fiber, making this meal a healthy option regardless of the *chorizo*. By this time, your lentils should be done soaking, so make sure to strain out any extra water

and give them a quick rinse. It is now time to start your soup:

•Place a medium-sized soup pot on the stove on medium heat. With a little bit of Spanish olive oil, like Goya, sauté all the vegetables, except for the potatoes, until they start to become soft and transparent. If your onions and garlic begin to caramelize, which is when they turn brown and stick to the bottom of the pot, deglaze the pan with what you have on hand – a splash of wine, white or red, or even water.

•Once the base of your soup is ready, add the lentils, giving them a quick stir to equally distribute the veggies, and then add one quart of stock. Once again, this is a use-whatever-you-have-on-hand situation. I used chicken stock because I had some in my pantry. You can use water, vegetable stock or even bouillon cubes with water.

•Once the soup comes to a boil, add the potatoes and *chorizo*. Bring the tempera-

ture down to a simmer, and set your timer for one hour. That’s it. The soup is done.

All you have to do now is walk by every once in a while to give it a quick stir, maybe add a little water if it gets too thick, but that’s it.

Now you can spend the rest of your time in the kitchen preparing soup accompaniments like the Spanish *Pan con Tomate* (Spain’s version of the Italian *bruschetta*). You can find this recipe on *FIUSM.com*.

Eat this dish in the traditional Spaniard way – poured over a bed of white rice with a drizzle of cold olive oil and a glass of fruity red wine, such as Columbia Crest Merlot priced at \$8 – for a classy, cold weather foodgasm.

Need help with a recipe or finding a place to eat? Bianca is here to help! Send any questions, comments or “Foodgasm” ideas to bianca.rojas@fiusm.com.

GETTING SCHOOLED

Visiting universities a valuable experience

While on the hunt for graduate schools, I didn't think I'd have either the time or money to visit a university and speak with representatives about a particular program.

COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

I certainly didn't do it as a high school student; I didn't visit any of my potential schools during the application process, and I only found FIU on S.W. Eighth Street the day of orientation. I had never really paid attention to where the campus was before then.

As a 20-something, the stakes are much higher when it comes to where you matriculate. The mantra I've heard throughout my time here is, "It doesn't matter where you go for undergrad - it's grad school that counts."

I don't believe there's a better way to get to know a program than to visit a campus and speak directly with directors - and better yet, current students.

This past weekend, I took a small trip to Oregon and visited one of its major universities, Portland State. Situated in the middle of downtown Portland, the school - which nearly 27,000 students attend - reminded me a lot of FIU back at home.

While the enrollment of PSU is a lot smaller than ours, just walking through the hallways made me feel welcomed; the environment felt familiar to me. One of the buildings had a study area known as the Atrium, which definitely reminded me of the central hub in our Graham Center.

I remember a gaming room for students, and billiards, but the difference between that and ours was that it was contained underground.

Because I was interested in PSU's graduate publishing program, I visited Ooligan Press, the university's student-run publishing house. Ooligan is manned by graduate students who oversee productions of various books, many of which are penned by native Portlanders and others based in the Pacific Northwest.

I appreciated the fact that the program was hands-on; I didn't really get that same feel from other programs I've investigated, which mostly have revolved around literary criticism.

Visiting a school allows you to go beyond its Web site and pamphlets and really see what's in store. Meeting with students and the program director face-to-face was priceless, and it's something I can only recommend to other potential graduate students.

Of course, we college students are always cash-strapped. All I can suggest is to make visiting universities a group effort. We love the words "road trip" - so why not make the trek to UF or another nearby school in order to find out more information about their programs?

Granted, taking a trip to a place on the West Coast is probably going to require a plane ride. But the same group philosophy should be applied.

You know what they say: the more the merrier.

Getting Schooled appears every Wednesday.

Grading the president's progress Obama still has much to do

JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ
Staff Writer

Ten months since his inauguration, President Barack Obama has stirred debate across the nation concerning health care, the economy and his foreign policy tactics. Despite his immense efforts to achieve his campaign promises, he has been accused of achieving very little.

Let's take an in-depth look at his achievements and incomplete tasks.

ECONOMY: C-

The economy has started to gain momentum in housing and the stock market. The "Cash for Clunkers" program did help the market within the automobile industry improve and draw customers to dealerships.

According to *Time* magazine, about 714,000 units were sold and companies like Hyundai, Kia, Toyota, Honda, Nissan, as well as Ford and GM benefited the most.

However, unemployment is still at a 9.8 percent national average, a staggering rate that is expected to climb up to more than 10 percent, according to *USA Today*.

To put things into perspective, when Obama came into office in January 2009 the rate was 8.5 percent.

The president should increase tariffs on products that are being manufactured overseas. This would make American companies start to invest in the home-

land. This strategy could also be used to force nations to comply with our demands, like Iran dropping its nuclear proliferation programs or Russia and China aiming to condemn that country. If they refuse, then the U.S. increases its tariffs on the goods they produce.

FOREIGN POLICY: B+

Despite shortcomings with the economy, Obama has been successful at getting Israel and Palestine to meet and discuss peace.

For the first time in over 30 years the United States and Iran met. Obama has also been successful at garnering Russia's support in the effort to condemn Iran for its pursuit of nuclear proliferation and impose economic sanctions. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said uranium enrichment is not for nuclear bombs but for energy.

Thanks to the economic pressure, he finally caved in and said he would allow International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to investigate their initiatives, although no date has been set.

The most upsetting stance this administration has taken was the opposition of Roberto Micheletti, the Honduran president who was constitutionally placed after Manuel Zelaya broke the nation's law and was ousted. Zelaya is notorious in Latin America for his ties with the despotic Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez.

Zelaya wanted to extend his time in power and presumably ignore

Honduras' constitution on term limits. Although the U.N. and the European Union condemned Micheletti, the leader of the free world should have backed up democracy, not illegitimate regimes.

HEALTH CARE: INCOMPLETE

Health care seems to be this administration's defining policy, an initiative President Obama strongly believes in and is not willing to give up. Its result could potentially define his political future.

The president favors a public option that would cover all Americans, yet he is open to other alternatives.

On the other hand, Republicans and even some Democrats are reluctant to this idea. This issue is an ongoing debate in Washington D.C. However, anything achieved most likely will be better than what we have now.

OVERALL GRADE: C

With a 50 percent approval rating, the president still has some political leverage to use in Congress and around the globe. It is just a matter of how he will implement it and what reaction it may cause.

The economy seems to be recovering, but the unemployment rates are killing enthusiasm. Obama's foreign policy has yielded limited success, despite his approval around the globe. Health care reform has been in need for quite some time, and if drafted properly will benefit nearly all Americans.

If successful, the coveted legislation for the middle class will help him win reelection in 2012.

There are no VIPs when it comes to news

PARADISE AFSHAR
Staff Writer

There are few services that everyone should have equal access to, and news is one of them.

According to a recent Associated Press announcement, the AP is considering selling "news stories to some online customers exclusively for a certain period."

AP wants to start selling its articles to news aggregators like Google or Yahoo. Currently, AP licenses its products, such as photographs, articles and video to news organizations equally. They all get news at the same time.

With the proposed system, certain Internet news sites like MSN, Google and Yahoo will have the option to pay to get AP's product a half hour

before anyone else.

So, if Google pays for this, Yahoo will get content from AP after it has been posted on Google.

There is something questionable about such an action, because it's the same as withholding information from people, the opposite of what journalism is meant to accomplish.

In news, there should be no VIPs who get exclusive access to information before everyone else. It's like being in line at a club and seeing people jumping over the velvet rope to get in first when there is a line. This practice should not be brought into the news world; it should be an equal-playing field.

And yes, from a money-making standpoint it makes perfect sense. Charging

for news may generate more money for Google and Yahoo because of ad revenue related to traffic on a site; the AP wants to make their stories more valuable by controlling who gets the material first.

However, there is no point in giving anyone exclusive rights when the same story will be made available to each news outlet within a period of time.

Don't forget: Most major news outlets use AP and its content is meant to be shared and printed in various newspapers because it doesn't have a physical publication of its own.

The downside is the consumer will be greatly affected when they enforce the proposal. In the case of feature stories, these are usually not as time sensitive

to release, but not when it comes to breaking news.

The news world is fast paced and if there is a breaking story, such as a major political event or a natural disaster a half hour can make a major difference in its timeliness. Imagine being a half hour behind on a developing story because the Web site you visit is still waiting for clearance in order to publish an AP story.

I don't think there should be a special class when it comes to the media. No one, no matter what, should have more access to news. The same information should be made to everyone at once.

Have something to say?
Join the conversation
today at 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.

WINNER/LOSER



Florida students may find their pockets a little fuller as a new initiative gathers steam. An online program called Orange Grove Texts Plus offers a number of online texts for a fraction of the cost of a traditional textbook. Perhaps we can be free of ramen dinners once and for all.



Richard and Mayumi Heene - the parents of Falcon Heene, affectionately known as "Balloon Boy" - will face charges for the staged publicity stunt that kept the world glued to their TVs. Looks like the Heenes' dreams of fame have gone up to the clouds.

OPINIONPIECE

1,800

The number of people who have left Homestead, Fla. this past year due to the state's real estate crash.

QUOTATIONATION

"It will not be a priority to use federal resources to prosecute patients with serious illnesses who are complying with state laws on medical marijuana."

Eric Holder
U.S. Attorney General

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.



ROCKY IN HEELS

'Rocky Horror Picture Show' aims for light-hearted fun

JANET CAREAGA
Staff Writer

The Theatre Department will put on several productions this year, but only one will feature a cross-dressing mad scientist, men in heels and a monster wearing short-shorts.

"Rocky Horror Picture Show," based on the film of the same name, will be running from Oct. 22-24.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a 1970s British musical that parodies science fiction and horror films. The movie itself was a flop, but over 30 years later it is still being performed.

It centers around an eccentric character by the name of Dr. Frank N. Furter. He is a transvestite from Transsexual, Transylvania, who wears next to nothing and creates a Frankenstein-like monster/playmate "Rocky."

There will be four performances of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and two actors, Doug Reilly and Gerald Young, will be playing Dr. Frank N. Furter. Young will perform the first and last shows and Reilly will perform the other two.

"I've been wearing heels at rehearsal for the past three weeks. I wear them as often as I can. It's actually kind of embarrassing.

For me, this is a whole new thing about wearing heels and getting into this character.

I even grew my hair out to get that crazy fro that he has," said Reilly, a senior theater major who is playing Dr. Frank N. Furter for the first time.

The movie does not have a conventional plot and it is not performed in the usual way. Traditionally, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is performed by shadow-casting. The movie is played on a huge screen behind the stage and the actors on stage shadow what is happening on the screen.

The cast not only acts along with the movie but makes fun of it as well. There is a general script but it is constantly rewritten and updated with what is new in pop culture. Among the many references this show will feature are FIU and "Jon and Kate Plus 8."

"The show is not to be taken seriously. If you do then you are going to get the wrong impression. Have fun, enjoy yourself. It's Halloween. You get to see and hear a lot of things you may not always hear in a classroom setting. It's an opportunity for people of all ages to just sit back, relax and be entertained," said Young, a senior theater major who has previously played Dr. Frank N. Furter.

Those in the audience are not just spectators. The audience is encouraged to participate

ROCKY, page 9



JANET CAREAGA/THE BEACON

THE HORROR: Dixon Gutierrez (left) and Doug Reilly (right) rehearse for "Rocky Horror Picture Show," the upcoming student run production by FIU theatre.

POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

Weezer's 'jokes' not funny anymore, mostly forgettable

I've been here before. This is a very familiar position for me to be in. I've relived this moment so many times I can't keep track anymore.

It's 2:30 in the morning and I'm trying to convince myself Weezer's next album will live up to the expectations my inner seventh grader is putting on it.

I know. It's stupid.

I did this in the spring of '08. I heard a couple of the leaked tracks from *The Red Album* and there were actually some surprises. "The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived" got repeated about five times in a row and "Dreamin,'" being a Blue Album-era song, earned high marks from me.

I wasn't high on the lead single, "Pork & Beans," the bastard love child of "Beverly Hills," one of Weezer's worst songs ever, and "El Scorcho," one of the band's best. But it wasn't terrible.

I should have known better.

I should always know better.

When "Beverly Hills" was released, I convinced myself for a few days that it was just lead singer Rivers Cuomo's idea of a joke. I enjoyed it as one would a Weird Al

parody song. Sure, it felt dirty, but at least I could pretend it was supposed to be some sort of perverse witticism. It's the same way I feel every time I look at the cover of Weezer's seventh studio album, *Raditude*, set for a Nov. 3 release date.

It's one of the most god-awful album titles I've ever heard, but hey, Rainn Wilson of "The Office" suggested it, and he's a funny guy, so maybe it's supposed to be a joke.

I know it's supposed to be. Rivers' cowboy hat and mustache were supposed to be a joke on the last album.

Rivers has always been a funny guy.

Back in the 90's, when he was locking himself in closets for weeks at a time and dropping out of Harvard every few months, he seemed to have a great sense of humor about himself - and it showed in his music.

Sure, he might have been personally miserable, but out of that grew songs like "Why Bother" and "In The Garage." These were songs that had jokes without being jokes.

Superficially, Weezer hasn't changed over the years. Rivers still sings about his insecurities over big,

power-pop choruses with distorted guitars. This isn't a question of a band moving away from a style and alienating a fan base.

If I were to try to define the 1994 version of Weezer, that definition wouldn't be much different, if at all, from how one would define Weezer in 2009.

But whereas Cuomo's wry self-deprecation was charming when he was 24 and singing about being alone in his basement with Kitty Pryde and Ace Frehley, something has changed.

On *The Red Album*, Cuomo sang about blowing up mailboxes and playing with ninja swords and not being allowed to play football. It's not all that different from 15 years ago, but it just isn't the same.

When he first hit the big time, Rivers was uncool. He wore terrible sweaters and sang about dungeons and dragons and masturbation.

But when you are 24, you can get away with that stuff. A nerdy 24-year-old virgin with terrible fashion sense isn't really that weird. That's the guy sitting next to you in class or living next door to you in the dorms. Believe it or not, that guy has friends.

But that same guy is creepy

when he's 39 and hanging out at Hot Topic in the mall. Maybe it's a case of Rivers trying too hard to recapture some of the magic of that bygone era.

I'm sure I'll listen to *Raditude*. Hell, I may even buy a copy. It does have a pretty sweet dog on the cover.

And I'll probably spend hours listening to it, ignoring the occasional inevitably embarrassing couplet, focusing only on the positives.

And then I'll forget it. I'll forget everything I've learned.

And when summer of 2011 rolls around and Weezer is getting set to release *The Mauve Album* or *SupercalifragilisticexpialidociousROCK*, you know where I'll be.

Right where I am now.

I guess Rivers isn't the only one who can't let go of the past.

Pop & Circumstance is a bi-weekly column discussing all things pop music.



CHRIS TOWERS



Weezer

Golden Idol competition to raise funds for hospital

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Today 12 students will compete to become FIU's "idol."

This year's Golden Idol event aims to give the University a taste of its best singers. It is being organized by Dance Marathon, an on-campus philanthropy which organizes several events a year culminating in the Dance Marathon fundraiser – an annual 24-hour dance competition.

The proceeds will go to Miami Children's Hospital. The Oct. 21 show will consist of performances from 12 students, with the winner being dubbed the "Golden Idol." Faculty members will take the place of Ellen, Kara, Randy and Simon as judges in the American Idol-inspired competition. The mystery judges come from different schools at the University but share a musical background. The finalists were chosen after participating in auditions that took place on Oct. 6, 8 and 14.

The first round of the night will consist of each contestant singing a song of a length of four minutes or less. Judges will then make their first round of cuts, narrowing the competition down to just five people. From there, contestants will perform a one-minute excerpt of a song of their choice showcasing their range and style.

"This is when they'll be battling it out for the prize," said Shannonlee Rodriguez, a senior political science major and events coordinator for Dance Marathon.

With the help of the audience, judges will choose the winner and bestow one lucky guy or girl with the title of Golden Idol.

The winner will have the chance to perform at next year's Dance Marathon on Jan. 30 and 31 and at several other FIU events. The winner will also take home a \$500 book scholarship. Finalists from the top three will receive gift certificates from Dance

Marathon's affiliates.

This year's list of finalists includes at least one familiar face.

"Brian Ospina is a finalist for the second year in a row and an all around fan-favorite," Rodriguez said.

Ospina, a senior psychology major, says he auditioned this year and last because "I love music and heard about the competition and decided to just give it a try. It's a great opportunity to show people a little bit of what I can do."

Not discouraged from last year's loss, Ospina says he plans on making a comeback

listening. I try to make my performances as special as possible so people can really connect."

Golden Idol is one of four pre-events for Dance Marathon. DM is an organization on campus that works to raise money for the Miami Children's Hospital division of the Children's Miracle Network. CMN is an international non-profit organization that raises money for children's hospitals, medical research and community awareness of children's health issues. Since its inception in 1997, Dance Marathon has raised more than \$500,000 for CMN.

"I love music and heard about the competition and decided to just give it a try. It's a great opportunity to show people a little bit of what I can do."

Brian Ospina
Psychology major, senior

this year by incorporating some of his piano skills into his performance and "adding a dab of confidence."

Another competitor is Patrick Rodriguez, a freshman vocal performance major. Rodriguez's first audition didn't go so well because he was sick but because of the audience's overwhelming positive reaction to his talent he was given a second chance, according to Rodriguez. The second time around, he secured himself a spot in the top 12.

The freshman, who has been singing since the third grade, says he is the "only one who has taken a more classical approach to his performances. I think people really enjoy



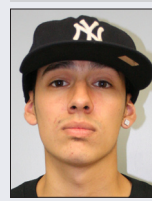
MOMENT OF CLARITY

Gucci Mane a sub-par rapper, does not deserve accolades

Every year, MTV releases a list of what they believe to be the "Hottest MC's." The list comes and goes each time around with a controversy over the listing but, for the most part, MTV gets it right

considering their criteria. They consider microphone skills but also incorporate an artist's buzz, impact and business savvy.

COLUMNIST



JONATHAN RAMOS

That is why it can be understood why Drake has soared to No. 3 on the list. Overall, I'd say the list is pretty sound.

There are some questions, however, that come to mind when you see a list like this. At what point does skill not matter?

Understood, artists who have attained a level of commercial success with guest appearances and stunts deserve to get their due attention.

Understood, apparently making more records than anybody else, regardless of quality, is enough to warrant the "hot" label.

That is why most of the list makes sense to me, because it's about who is "hot" right now. But shouldn't skill still be the most important factor?

The one glaring flaw this list has is the placing of Gucci Mane sixth, ahead

of Fabolous and Raekwon, among others. Eminem is notably absent, despite going platinum with his latest release *Relapse*.

Although that album is only average in my opinion, it certainly has had commercial success and comes from one of the best ever.

"What makes me the hottest MC right now is that I got that flavor," Gucci boasted to MTV News. "It ain't all about your swag. I got them spices. I'm seasoning it real well for these folk. I won't say I'm the best rapper in the game – I'm not even my favorite rapper in the game. But I say I am probably one of the hardest-working people in the music business. That's what I pride myself on [and am] having success on: just being consistent."

That's fine, Gucc. And it's nice to see a guy who works hard get his due and make his money. Gucci Mane is doing a lot for himself right now – except deserving a nod on this list.

If you have ever heard Gucci rap, it is far from exceptional despite its spurts of entertainment. Let me just say that it is atrocious lyrically and his flow offers next to nothing.

"Now baby girl done dumped me, she no longer wants me/ I'm no longer hired, she says that I've been fired/ Onto the next one, more fish in the sea."

Lines like that one from pop hit "Break Up" are much too common for Gucci

Gucci Mane is doing a lot for himself right now – except deserving a nod on this list. If you have ever heard him rap, you know he's far from exceptional.

Mane, and discussing him possibly being included in the back end of the list is acceptable, but he is far from being that high because his lack of actual ability holds him back that much.

Music is in large part entertainment and flash, and the move in that direction is inevitable.

But skills should still be the main determinant when judging people on any list.

On this particular list, skills were supposedly considered, but MTV forgot that proficiency with words is largely absent from Gucci Mane's repertoire.

"Moment of Clarity" is a bi-weekly column on hip-hop music and culture by Assistant Sports Director Jonathan Ramos. Check out the Life! section next week for a special edition of "Clarity."



Album a musical 'diary' for Cox

RYAN MOREJON
Contributing Writer

Bradford Cox has evolved. His evolution from bedroom-rock pessimist to extroverted noise-popper was one that never saw the light of privacy. His blog – dedicated to the Atlas Sound moniker as well as his proper band Deerhunter – and Deerhunter guitarist Lockett Pundt's solo project, Lotus Plaza, is loaded with posts about *Rainwater Cassettes* (the latest Deerhunter EP), YouTube videos and micromixes (one of which contained a pretty awesome "Badlands" score intro). Dude really put himself out there.

To make matters even more public, Cox made a record that acts as his ethereal music diary: *Let The Blind Lead Those Who Can See But Cannot Feel*. It was a prototype Kranky record: spacious, ambient and dark. But Cox painted the album with pictures of a quarantined child dreaming of wide, open spaces. It stamped Cox's presence in the indie community as a noise-rock troubadour.

Logos, Cox's sophomore LP, couldn't be any more different. The record is a global and varied collection of songs and if it plays as a diary, it would belong to most of Cox's friends and influences.

Cox stated in a recent Pitchfork interview that most

of the songs on the album are non-autobiographical and that, in contrast with *Let the Blind*, *Logos* is less introverted because it simply just got too boring. To judge the first two tracks on the album, I would've thought he backed down on his statement.

The album begins with "The Light That Failed", a folk song at heart laced with glitches and ticks that result in a pretty soft electro-acoustic track, followed by "An Orchid", which sounds like a post-Microcastle Deerhunter song. So far, the songs seem like typical Coxian noisy doo-wop.

But the standout third track, "Walkabout", contains the much-talked-about collaboration with Animal Collective wonder-voice Panda Bear, who's credited on the album as Noah Lennox. The song was officially released for online streaming mid-summer and acted as the best solution to summertime boredom.

It's a lighthearted, sunny song that builds upward from a Dovers sample and can stand on its own as being one of the best songs of the year. But I guess when you're working with someone like Lennox who produced *Person Pitch* – a lush, smiley, loop-heavy album – you can't expect anything less than high spirits.

"Sheila" reaffirms Cox's transition from the obscure



to the poppy with a chorus that'll stick to your head: "Sheila/You'll be my wife/You'll share my life."

"Quick Canal," the album's mid-hump clocking in at eight minutes, has Laetitia Sadier of Stereolab fame contributing main vocals and doing her best Thom Yorke croon, while Cox stands in the back.

It's really the album's core track with a long minimal sound-wave looping over Sadier's indecipherable voice. The rest of the album goes through different rhythms with a slow acoustic recovery from the Sadier track ("My

Halo") to ambient-microhouse ("Washington School"), and to songs where Cox alters his voice to sound eerily similar to Kevin Drew of Broken Social Scene ("Kid Klimax" and "Logos").

Logos is some kind of brilliant mixtape without actually being a mixtape. It's an album that has really traveled around the community, an album that is above Cox's personal and physical quarantines and under his new-found comfort.

The Beacon and its reviewers do not receive free music or services in exchange for positive reviews.

Theatre show to feature 'Transies'

ROCKY, page 7

by dressing up, yelling along with the cast and dancing to the infamous "Time Warp."

Bags filled with props will be sold at the entrance so that anyone can act along with the cast. There will be cues telling the audience what to pull out of the bag and what to do with it.

For Carina Skrande, a sophomore majoring in theater who is playing one of the Transylvanians – also referred to in the show as Transies – it is her first performance at FIU and she could not be more excited that it is *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

"It's so awesome to work on a completely student-run

production.

It teaches you so much more than a regular production. Sometimes we would argue about stuff but, in the end, we made this by ourselves.

It's such a fun show and it's basically just getting everyone involved. I think that's a big thing that's missing in other shows," Skrande said.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show will run Oct. 22-24 at midnight with an additional performance on the 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door and an additional \$2 for a prop bag.

All the money raised from this production will go toward the graduating seniors' end-of-year showcases.

FIU Theatre Presents

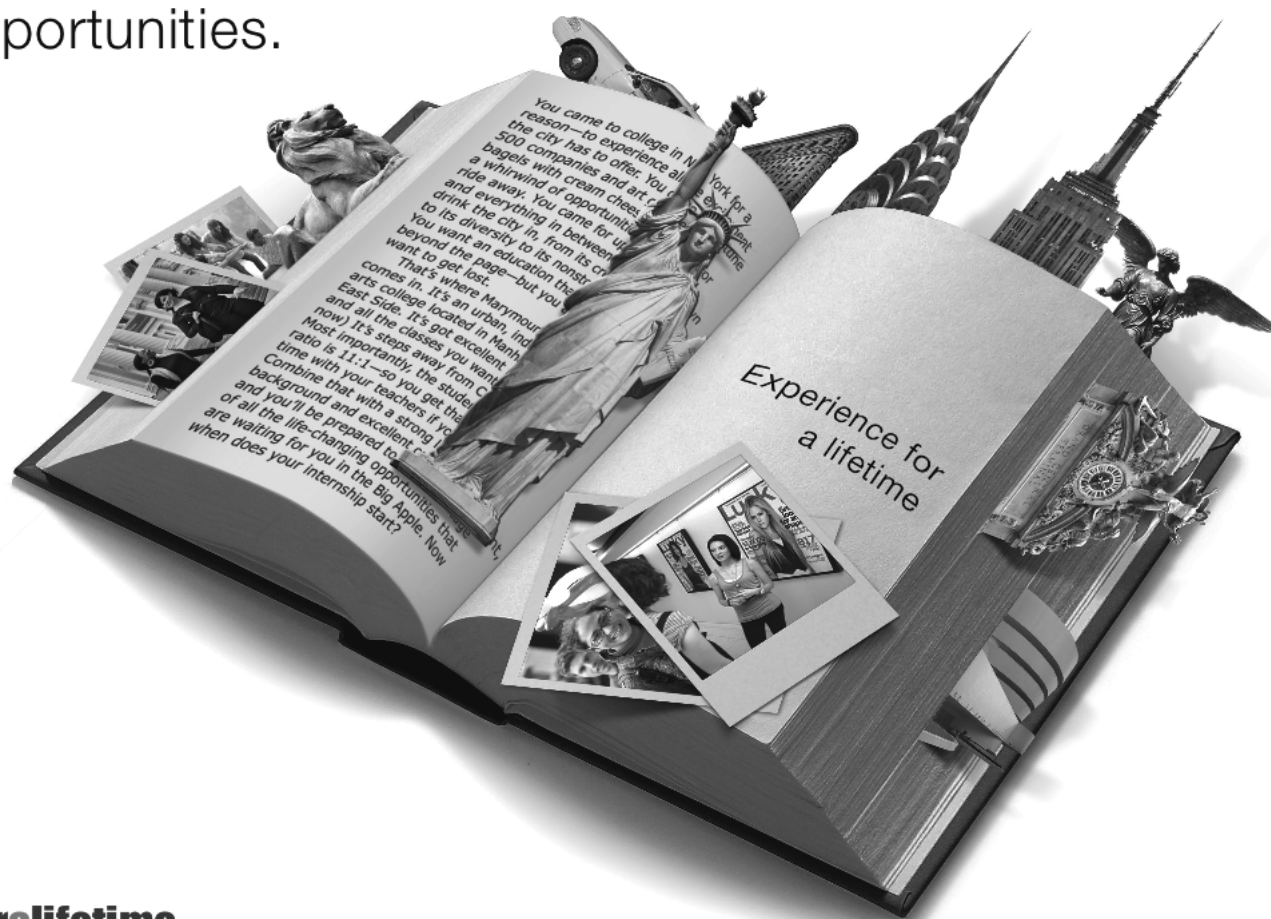
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Garcia brought winning attitude with him to FIU

TOWERS, page 12

tion brings with it a confidence and a desire to build the same type of elite program in the community that UM has been, and that vision is important.

One got the feeling from the Don Strock era that the former Miami Dolphins quarterback never really had big goals for his program.

While he may have been more realistic, Cristobal and Garcia have their sights set much higher.

Garcia also was responsible for the hiring of Turtle Thomas, another Miami connection who, in just his second season as head baseball coach brought in the 15th ranked recruiting class in the country.

Along with Thomas and Cristobal, Garcia hired Sun Belt Women's Softball Coach of the Year Beth McClendon, women's soccer coach Thomas Chestnutt who has the team tied for a school record in conference wins this season, and men's soccer coach Munga Eketebi.

Garcia has mostly assembled coaching staffs of his own choosing and many of those teams are starting to show signs of improvement.

"We can't ignore the negatives, but when putting his time in perspective, the positives do outweigh the negatives. The next few years will be key..."

FIXING THE GRADES

One of the biggest things FIU has had to deal with in Garcia's time is the improvement of APR scores, which were allowed to slip under Mello's time as the head of Athletics.

Garcia's coaches have dealt with less scholarships because of NCAA sanctions.

In the last few seasons, APR scores have improved under Garcia, who has put a renewed emphasis on player eligibility and success in the classroom, hiring an APR specialist to focus on improving the scores.

In the most recent APR scores, 15 of FIU's programs showed improvement and only Thomas' baseball team incurred penalties for the upcoming season.

The focus on eligibility and improving scores has helped FIU dig out of major holes from the last administration.

LOOKING AT BOTH SIDES

This isn't to say his administration hasn't been without flaws.

There have been a number of missteps over the three year period that Garcia has been at the helm.

Garcia said that he has no regrets about his time so far, but there have been obvious problems that have led to major criticisms of the school in the media, as well as some that have fallen through the cracks that are perhaps more indicative of his time.

Most recently, FIU created a firestorm in the sports world when Garcia was reportedly angry and insulted by the way the organizers of the Coaches for Cancer basketball tournament handled their scheduling of FIU.

Garcia threatened to pull the team out of the tournament before backing off.

Ultimately, nothing



CHRIS CUTRO/BEACON FILE PHOTO

PETE THE BUILDER: In his three years at FIU, Pete Garcia has overseen many changes in Athletics, including the construction of a new on-campus stadium.

changed for the program, but along with the hiring of Thomas, which created some criticism and backlash already, it painted FIU as afraid to go up against the big schools to protect their prized acquisition.

In April 2009, Garcia was forced to attend a human resources seminar on employee conduct after several Athletics employees alleged that he used inappropriate language and misused

his power to make his secretary do personal favors for him.

This didn't quite get the press coverage the Coaches for Cancer incident did, but it shows a brazen abuse of power that tarnishes his reputation.

There have been some issues with player conduct in his time as well, but frankly when compared to what goes on at some other schools, FIU's student athletes are relatively well behaved.

We can't ignore the negatives, but when putting his time in perspective, the positives do outweigh the negatives.

The next few years will be key, as the APR four-year averages will begin to reflect Garcia's work and the players on the field will begin to be recruited by his coaches, so it's time for that next step to see if he's the guy for the long run.

A Friend Dies. Who Cares?

Toxic drinking is an epidemic on campuses all across America.

It means consuming so much alcohol the drinker passes out. But while "sleeping it off," the victim may be quietly dying.

When you come right down to it, students themselves are the best ones to tackle this problem. So, in growing numbers, Stony Brook students have joined together in the Red Watch Band movement.

Working with experts, they fine-tuned a course in techniques to handle these alcohol emergencies. Red Watch Band members can act fast, when every second counts. They know the quick steps they can take to rescue a passed-out student from a drinking death, and can immediately summon professional help. Everyone completing the course is given the distinctive red watch for identification.

Since its inception at Stony Brook University in March 2009, approximately 40 schools across the country have signed on to implement this lifesaving program.

To prevent toxic drinking deaths, go to redwatchband.org



**STONY
BROOK**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

THE REPLACEMENT: Filling in for T.Y. Hilton in the return game, Ty Frierson was solid as he returned three punts for 73 yards. He also caught four passes for 28 yards and a touchdown in the Golden Panthers' 42-33 loss to Troy at home.



YARIMAR ROSA

The All-American continues to dominate as she secured a double-double, recording a team-high 19 kills and a season-high 16 digs during the Golden Panthers' win over South Alabama. She also led the team in kills (12) in their 3-0 over Troy on Oct. 16.



OLGA VERGUN

The senior leads the team in kills and helped the Golden Panthers record their 12th straight win. She recorded 11 kills during the Golden Panthers' 3-0 win over Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama.



AMY JACKSON

The women's soccer captain carried her team to victory on Oct. 18 as she scored the winning goal in overtime to help the Golden Panthers beat Troy 2-1. It was her first goal in her past 23 shot attempts.



MARIA SPENCELEY

At the Florida State Quad Tournament in Tallahassee, led the Golden Panthers tennis team winning all three doubles matches and two-of-three singles contests.

WOMEN'S SOCCER: FIU 2, TROY 1 (OT)

Jackson's late goal extends winning streak to four

CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

It had been a year since Golden Panthers women's soccer senior Amy Jackson scored a goal.

However vs. the Troy Trojans, Jackson connected when it counted.

In overtime, she scored the game-winning goal to extend the team's winning streak to four.

"It was great to finally get a goal," said Jackson. "It was a great team effort."

After a solid victory over South Alabama, the women's soccer team took to the field in Troy, Ala. and defeated Troy 2-1 in overtime on Oct. 18.

The Golden Panthers made 12 shots on goal for the game, the team's single biggest offensive output of the year, and it didn't take long for the score to change in FIU's favor.

At the 12:27 mark, Troy made a mistake in front of the net, resulting in an own goal to give the Golden Panthers a 1-0 lead.

Throughout the remainder of the game, neither side was able to gain an edge.

FIU's April Perry, Casey Thames, Cassandra Sorzano, Katrina Rose, Thaisa Moreno and Cortney Bergin all had looks at the net, but none were able to give the team an edge.

Rose's shot with nine minutes remaining in the game hit the post, and the rebounded

Athletic director talks about fondest memories

GARCIA, page 12

are now graduating.

We went from being totally broken as far as APR (Academic Progress Rate) and compliance to the NCAA bragging about us and using us as an example of how to fix the APR.

Q: What are some of your

that had happened in the past.

In just six months, what Isiah Thomas has done as far as recruiting because everything you do is based on the quality of your student-athletes.

It doesn't matter how good the coach is, if he doesn't have the best student-athletes, he's not

There really is no model and this is why I really thoroughly love this job. I love to build. This is really something that we're building.

There are hundreds of athletic programs around the country, but most of them have been in existence for over 100 years. So they are different because they are managing an Athletic

I said that from day one when I got hired that I was going to focus on hiring coaches who are excellent recruiters.

Pete Garcia
Athletic Director

fondest memories?

A: The first win in Mario's [Cristobal] career in football at the Orange Bowl, which happened to be the last Division I football win of a local school in the Orange Bowl.

We were able to accomplish something for the Orange Bowl and its legacy.

Q: Which of the coaches do you feel is your best hire?

A: That's something that as an organization gives us satisfaction in knowing that we were able to hire a guy like Turtle Thomas and that he was able to turn the baseball program around. And not only that but what he's been able to do with student-athletes' as far as GPA.

He's combined both: the classroom and winning.

What Mario Cristobal is doing with the football program in terms of building it and building it the right way.

All these coaches were handcuffed because of the NCAA issues, because they were all short on scholarships, because they were taken away due to things

going to be successful.

I said that from day one when I got hired that I was going to focus on hiring coaches who are excellent recruiters.

Q: How difficult was it to transition from Modesto A. Maidique to current President Mark Rosenberg?

A: Being able to hire somebody like Dr. Rosenberg has made the transition a lot smoother for everyone because this is his school.

It's not an outsider that was brought in.

Dr. Rosenberg is going to do things differently than former President Maidique, but his vision for this University as far as continuing to really focus on the quality and focus on the student is something that is going to help the Athletics Department.

Q: What's something you've learned as athletic director?

A: You always learn from your experiences. You would be foolish not to.

The biggest challenge here is not only building this program, but building it from where we started.

Department.

This is actually building and managing an Athletic Department. Here we are not only building the program; we are building the facilities.

One of the biggest challenges is educating everyone associated with the program into what it takes to have a top-notch Division I program.

Q: Do you have any regrets during you time as athletic director?

A: The only thing I really regret is how much I underestimated what it takes to build a championship program.

And that is what we are striving for—not just conference championships, but national championships.

Two years ago, the baseball team defeated the University of Miami which was No. 1 at the time.

This year, football is playing the two teams that played in the national championship – Alabama and Florida.

And now the basketball team is going to play the defending champions, so we are playing some big-time competition.

and Jackson was able to capitalize, giving the Golden Panthers the 2-1 overtime victory.

"The team is entering the ending portion of their season game plan, and we're changing a few things up," said Golden Panthers coach Thomas Chestnutt. "I think the girls were really well prepared for the game this weekend and it showed."

The Golden Panthers are now tied for the most conference wins in program history with six. FIU now sits third in the Sun Belt Conference with an overall record of 8-5-3, 6-1-1 in SBC play.

The Golden Panthers will take the field vs. University of Arkansas-Little Rock on Oct. 23 to open parent's weekend at FIU.

PETE GARCIA TIMELINE



OCT. 10, 2006

Pete Garcia is introduced as the University's new athletic director.



OCT. 16, 2006

One of his first actions as AD was kicking two football players off the team for participating in the UM-FIU brawl.



DEC. 19, 2006

Hires Mario Cristobal to replace Don Strock as head football coach.



MAY 25, 2007

Participates in the ground breaking to renovate FIU Stadium.



APRIL 15, 2009

Hires NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas to turn around the men's basketball program.



OCT. 14, 2009

Appears live on CNN with President Mark Rosenberg, Thomas and Rick Sanchez.



Garcia discusses goals, successes at year three

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Director

reflected on his past three years as Athletics' leader.

On his first day as athletic director, Pete Garcia had an eventful day. He had to suspend 18 football players for their involvement in a brawl on Oct. 14, 2006 between FIU and the University of Miami football teams.

Three years later, Athletics has an on-campus football stadium, new coaches and is recovering from NCAA scholarship losses and sanctions.

In an interview with Student Media, Garcia

Q: What was your first day on the job like?

A: My first day on the job was the fight between Miami and FIU. And my first day on the job we had to suspend 18 players.

It wasn't the way I envisioned beginning the job, but it's something that happened. We learned from it; we grew from it. Those instances as an organization make you better. Where we started and where we are today – it's like two different organizations.

Q: What were your immediate goals when you were first hired?

A: The immediate top goals are to make sure we have sufficient resources for our student-athletes to graduate and be in compliance with the NCAA rules and regulations.

Obviously, that's one of the first things I found: that neither of those were happening.

When I do look back at the last few years, I'm proud of our student-athletes that

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Garcia has done an admirable job over the past 3 years

On Saturday morning in the U.S. Century Bank Arena, a group of new faces milled about, coaches, players and a load of media, waiting for the latest era in FIU Athletics to begin with new men's basketball head coach Isiah Thomas.

The NBA Hall of Famer is charged with the daunting task of rebuilding a basketball team that hit rock bottom last season.

COMMENTARY



CHRIS TOWERS

Three years ago the man that lured Thomas to FIU, Pete Garcia, took on the even more daunting task of rebuilding an athletic program that had hit rock bottom.

Garcia was officially hired as athletic director on Oct. 10, 2006.

On Oct. 14, 2006, FIU's football team was involved in an embarrassing brawl between cross-town rival University of Miami.

That was Garcia's first day on the job. His first act as athletic director was to suspend 18 players, including the dismissal of two scholarship athletes from the team.

In the next few months he would have to deal with NCAA sanctions due to poor Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores from the Rick Mello era of Athletics, which limited practice time and scholarships available to his teams.

Despite the deck being stacked against him,

Garcia has done an admirable job of building FIU somewhat into respectability.

CHANGES

Chief among Garcia's achievements are the hiring of high quality coaches, such as football coach Mario Cristobal, who like Garcia, brings a background as a successful member of Miami's football program. This UM connec-

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VOLLEYBALL: FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 0

Rosa, Valentin lead Golden Panthers past Jaguars for 12th straight victory

JOEL DELGADO
Staff Writer

It appeared that the Golden Panthers volleyball team was poised to easily win their 12th consecutive victory as it jumped out to an early lead.

But it was not a walk in the park for the Golden Panthers (19-2, 9-0) as the visiting South Alabama Jaguars (11-12, 2-8) gave the Panthers a strong fight in the first set.

Still, the Jaguars could not snap the Golden Panthers' winning streak

as they won 3-0 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

The Golden Panthers won the match in three sets but Coach Danijela Tomic felt it was the players who made the game difficult at times.

"It was ourselves," Tomic said when asked to identify what allowed South Alabama to hang around. "We made five service errors in the first set. Our hitters didn't use the chances they were given, they weren't being as smart as we should be. We made it harder than it should have been."

The Golden Panthers came out firing in the first set, but the Jaguars came roaring back, putting a scare in the crowd assembled at the arena.

But the Golden Panthers managed to hang on with a 28-26 first set victory, thwarting potential disaster.

"Lack of focus," said junior setter Natalia Valentin after the match. "We just laid back and we can't do that with any team. We have to play our game and we didn't do that in the first set."

The Jaguars came out strong in the second set and

stayed right on the Golden Panthers, but FIU outlasted South Alabama to take the set.

"It was a good thing our bench came out and played well," Olga Vergun said. "That's what helped us to win the match."

The Golden Panthers would finish the resilient Jaguars in the third set to earn the sweep.

Yarimar Rosa led the Golden Panther offense with 19 kills and also contributed on defense with a team-high 13 digs. Valentin recorded 34 assists for the match.

NEW FACES



VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

BACK ON THE COURT: New Golden Panthers men's basketball coach Isiah Thomas and assistant William Eddie talk while the team stretches during the first practice of the season on Oct. 17.