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## The Beacon, November 4, 2009

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Disney takes students for a free ride on its program

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## SPOTLIGHT

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Health care is a privilege we can all afford.

### OPINION PAGE 4



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Debates should be welcomed between on-campus political groups.

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Pop & Circumstance: Outkast last massive crossover musical artists.

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Women's soccer heads into conference tournament as No. 1 seed

### SPORTS PAGE 8

Volleyball continues dominating the conference as season comes near the end.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Music Saves Lives, Nov. 4, 12:30 a.m. Learn more about how you can get involved with the FIU chapter of Music Saves Lives.

Italian Club General Meeting, Nov. 5, 4 p.m. Learn how to get involved with this club at this general meeting, being held in the Graham Center in GC 243.

Tibetan Sand Mandala Creation, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m. Come on into the Frost Art Museum and join in on painting with colored sand. Event is free.

### WEATHER



**WEDNESDAY**  
Few Showers  
LOW: 74 HIGH: 84



**THURSDAY**  
Scattered Showers  
LOW: 72 HIGH: 82



**FRIDAY**  
Scattered Showers  
LOW: 71 HIGH: 80

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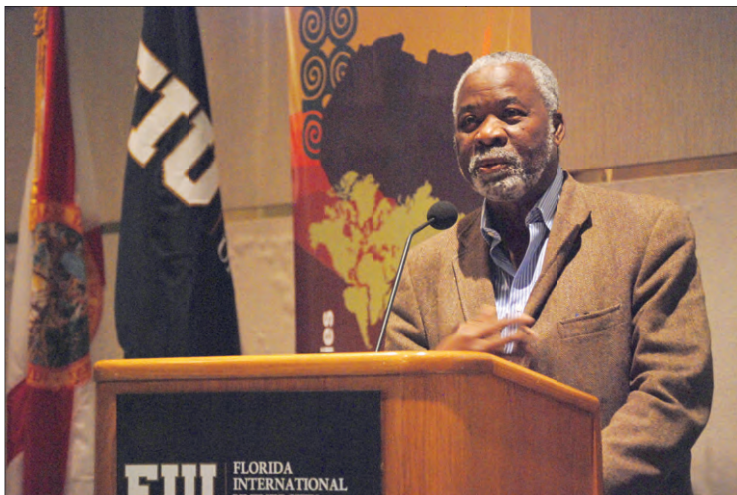
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## Scholars explore race, history

Event aims to promote an 'Afrocentric' point of view

DAVID BARRIOS  
JULIO MENACHE  
Beacon Staff



ALEX GARCIA/THE BEACON

Is the whole world globalized? Are we free from race? How will President Obama change the world?

These were some of the questions posed to attendees of a symposium that addressed the implications of Barack Obama as the nation's first African American president and globalization from an "Afrocentric perspective."

The African and African Diaspora Studies Department, which celebrated its move from the Biscayne Bay Campus to Modesto Maidique Campus, hosted the event held Oct. 30 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. The symposium was titled "Globalization, the 'Crisis' of Capitalism, and the Obama Presidency."

Jean Muteba Rahier, director of the AADSD, was the first to address the audience.

"We want to turn the page on the Eurocentric view of history," Rahier said.

**INTELLECTUALS:** Francis Abiola Irele, visiting professor of African and African American studies at Harvard University, was one of the speakers at the symposium. He presented a brief history of African and African American intellectuals and their role in establishing scholarship on the matter.

Each panel was comprised of an invited speaker and two other panelists from FIU who would critique the guest lecturer's presentation or academic work.

The first plenary, titled "Monopoly Capitalism and the Obama Presidency," was presented by Amiri Baraka, author, playwright and poet.

The poet laureate of New Jersey began his presentation wondering why the word crisis was in quotation marks in the symposium's program and title.

"To begin we should find out why they have quotes around crisis," said Baraka. "I was wondering, don't they believe it?"

Baraka said that race played

a large factor in criticism against Obama's call for health care reform, calling out those who held up signs of him as a witch doctor, "with a bone in his nose."

"It really should frighten you when you see something like that, and make you question the level of intelligence that generated that, as well as who creates that, who feeds these people, with that lack of intelligence," Baraka said.

Baraka blamed former President George W. Bush for allowing individuals and corporations to own more than one form of media, such as newspapers and radio.

"Since Bush II, it is possible for

**SYMPOSIUM, page 2**

SGC-MMC

## Senate falls shy of votes needed to overrule veto

FRANCISCO MARADIAGA  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Senate at Modesto Maidique Campus did not have enough votes to overturn a presidential veto on a resolution that called for a restructure of the University's student government in the name of unity.

Student Government Council at MMC President Anthony Rionda told the senate such a resolution would impede relations between the governments, but encouraged the senate to look into the matter themselves. The resolution asked for "student government leadership" to look into creating a more unified government.

"Don't ask the president and the administration to look into it, you guys look into it," Rionda said.

According to him, that suggestion would help ease possible tensions that might arise in the University-wide Council if they are asked to look into the matter. The UWC is made up of representatives of both campuses; they meet once a month.

**SGC-MMC, page 2**

## Film delves into concepts of virginity in Islam

ALEXANDER MILLER  
Contributing Writer

The Project Nur Club at FIU screened *The Virgin Diaries*, an independent film, as part of its annual Muslim Film Festival.

The festival, which was held Oct. 28, occurs twice a year across various colleges and universities; this is the first time the event was held at FIU.

"The purpose of the event was to create awareness and spread knowledge," said Samar Raad, vice president of Project Nur at FIU.

The film *The Virgin Diaries* focused on the idea of virginity, specifically in Islam.

It features two women who are in search of answers about virginity from Islamic religious teachers.

Many social opinions of

Muslim people in the film surface, such as the idea that a woman should be married by the age of 16, and all intimacies are forbidden before marriage (i.e. a kiss on the hand).

By the end of the film, it is discovered by a different religious teacher of Islam that a kiss on the hand is permissible before marriage as long as the two individuals are promised to be married.

The film was followed by a discussion led by Abdy Javadzadeh, a professor of sociology at the University.

"Many cultures have problems with virginity, not just Islam," Javadzadeh said.

Javadzadeh also discussed the commodification of virginity as a means of patriarchal control over women, resulting in the oppression of women in Islam.

He went on to say that the entire idea of virginity was constructed by men for women to prove their purity to them.

The commodification of a woman's virginity also creates controversy between women trying to keep their virginity, allowing men to remove themselves from the discourse about the problem. This perpetuates the idea of commodification of virginity and competition among women.

Javadzadeh also discussed the lengths women go to restore their virginity through surgery.

"Nothing social can be resolved individually," Javadzadeh said when a student inquired about resolving the issues of virginity in Islam.

The FIU chapter of Project Nur began this semester, and is supported by the National

Project Nur Organization based in Washington D.C.

The goal of the club is to dispel the negative beliefs concerning Islam.

Nur means *light* in Arabic and light is most commonly associated with knowledge, which fits the organization's motto, "new light on campus," according to the organization's Web site.

Project Nur is supported by a non-profit organization called the American Islamic Congress, which was created after the Sept. 11 attacks because of the ignorance surrounding Islam and Muslims.

The national organization is devoted completely to spreading awareness and advocating the advancement of human rights, civil rights, social justice, tolerance, understanding and coexistence.

The goal of the organization is to eliminate the negativity surrounding the religion as a whole, stemming from ignorance.

"I love working with Project Nur. I think it's a great cause," said Maryam Shkir, president of Project Nur at FIU. "It's trying sometimes because I am a full-time student and I take time out to do this, but I want to create a positive image for Islam."

There will be eight film screenings during the Project Nur Muslim Film Festival, and the next event will be a cultural Bazaar on Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Panther Suite in the Graham Center.

Students do not have to be Muslim to get involved in Project Nur and can find more information on [orgsync.com](http://orgsync.com) or its Facebook group, Project Nur.



## NEWS FLASH

## FIU

## College of Engineering to host “Meet Your Dean” event

The University’s College of Engineering and Computing will be hosting a town hall forum for students who want to meet the school’s administration.

The “Meet Your Dean” event will be held on Nov. 5 in the Panther Pit in the Engineering and Computing building at 1 p.m. In attendance will be Engineering and Computing Dean Amir Mirmiran along with other members of the college’s administrative staff.

The event is co-sponsored by the Student Government Association.

## LOCAL

## Flight lesson ends in emergency landing

A small wing aircraft made an emergency landing on Alligator Alley on Nov. 2.

According to *The Miami Herald*, flight instructor Christopher H. Jones and his student Anders J. Mathieson landed on the stretch of road after discovering smoke in the cockpit shortly after their departure from North Perry Airport.

Both Jones and Mathieson were not injured.

## NATIONAL

## Ford’s profits increase by 26 percent

Ford Motor Company posted record profits amid a dwindling recession.

The company announced on Nov. 2 that it posted a profit of \$993 million in the third quarter. The profit translates to a 26 percent increase per share.

According to CNN Money, the increase runs contrary to Ford’s 2008 loss of \$161 million. Ford was the only American motor company to reject a tax dollar bailout from the U.S. government.

- Compiled by Jorge Valens

## CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Oct. 28, in the article titled “Student duo forms local instrumental indie band,” the label name was misspelled. It is Grannie Annie Records.

*The Beacon* will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

## Moore discusses Cuban race groups

## SYMPOSIUM, page 1

one corporate monster to grab all forms of the media and thus dominate popular opinion with one mindless cry,” he said.

Baraka also criticized Israel for setting up what he calls an “apartheid state.” He claimed that the reason the U.S. has not found Osama Bin Laden is directly tied to U.S. oil interests.

Baraka, a Marxist-Leninist, argued that Obama is bringing social democracy, and called for the need for a “people’s democracy” in order to bring socialism.

“We the people elected Obama. We must demand more from him,” Baraka said.

The next plenary speaker, Yale professor of anthropology Kamari Clarke, focused her presentation on global capitalism and the rule of law.

Clarke spoke on President Obama’s recent trip to Africa, in which he called for Africans to solve their own problems and to end corruption. But she questioned many of the factors that led to some of the instability.

“Obama’s criticism of corruption has its limits. It is also the fault of multinational agents,” Clarke said.

She said that multinational corporations must be held accountable and must examine the openings of “plunder that have allowed the West to thrive.”

She also criticized the International Criminal Court for unfairly targeting Africa in its prosecutions, and questioned the logic of having individual

culpability in massive abuses of international law.

Following a lunch break during the middle of the day, the symposium continued as Carlos Moore addressed the crowd.

Moore, a black Cuban exile and independent writer, discussed racial relations in Cuba throughout the history of the island with an emphasis on the period since the mid-20th century.

Moore said that a white Cuban elite community had been formed in the nation during the early 20th century, and though many went into exile following the beginning of the reign of Fidel Castro, the same elite community remained.

“It’s difficult to find any Cuban leader, I’m not talking about mid-level, I’m talking about top-echelon, who is black. Less than 30 percent of Cuban leaders are black. And at the very top, you don’t find anyone that black. The last one, Juan Almeida, just died, and his post was symbolic,” Moore said.

Moore’s lecture went over its allotted time, so he was unable to present the second part of his presentation which was going to mention his solutions to these issues.

Quickly outlined, he called for the black population in Cuba to reach out to African American organizations and churches to create a stronger identity.

The final plenary of the day, entitled “An Identity of Passions,” was presented by Francis Abiola Irele, visiting professor of African and African American studies at Harvard

University.

He presented a brief history of African and African American intellectuals and writers such as W.E.B. Dubois, Langston Hughes and Marcus Garvey, and their role in establishing the identity of their race and the importance of African and African American studies.

“The works of people like Steve Biko, whose concept of black consciousness helped form the civil rights movement in the U.S., help to constitute the assertion that there is an African Renaissance,” Irele said.

At the end of the symposium, Moore stated what he felt the importance of the event was.

“It’s an important event because it allows us to examine all the different issues. They’re all occurring to populations all over the globe; whether it’s Sudan or Cuba or the collapse of the Republic of Congo, all of these issues will be affecting our lives not just because they affect American foreign policy, but the direction that the world is going in,” Moore said.

Al Pen, a history major, had mixed reactions to the symposium.

“I thought it was good from a historical perspective. Baraka was an important figure in the black power movement. I was really impressed. There was some stuff I might not agree with, but in retrospect you need to get people with different opinions in FIU. It reminded me of the plenary we had a few months ago. I believe they should do more stuff like this in FIU,” Pen said.

## Resolution rewording suggested

## SGC-MMC, page 1

“It puts us in a tough position,” Rionda said. “It can affect the way the rest of the year goes, and our plans.”

The SGC-MMC president also said that he wasn’t clear regarding exactly how the senate suggested the student government leadership to look into the issue.

He asked the senate if they meant to form a

committee, or hire a third party opinion à la the last administration and the Oxendine report. The report looked into the viability of having one president preside over both campuses, and found it was not.

Rionda said during the meeting that he would be open to contracting another such consultant to look into both governments under the new constitution.

Senator from the College of Arts and Sciences Adam Johnson, one of the sponsors of the resolution, refuted statements from SGC-BBC president, Sholom Neistein, that attempts to eliminate BBC’s government happened every year, and reiterated the goal of the resolution was to unite SGA by bringing both councils closer.

Senate Speaker Helena Ramirez suggested that

a line from the resolution that states “a system with one unified student body leader” be taken out to avoid unnecessary controversy.

Sponsoring Senator from the Honors College Vignesh Doraiswamy said he would be in favor of a rewording, but not of a removal.

“Once again, it is just one of the options being presented,” Doraiswamy said.

Engineering Senator William-Jose Velez told the senate he felt the resolution would create animosity in a time where both campuses could be working on other things.

Nursing Senator Alejandro Garcia grew impatient with the time spent on the debate.

“We are beating a dead horse, we have the votes to pass this,” he said, then motioned to end the debate to get to the vote.

The resolution originally passed on the senate Oct. 19 with a vote of 20 for and six against. Rionda vetoed the resolution within a week.

This time the vote was closer, with a count of 14 for and 11 against. It did not meet the two-thirds requirement to overturn the veto.

## THE CLASSIC SCARES



CHRISTOPHER ADAMS/THE BEACON

**CREEPY STORIES:** Senior Laura Creel, social chair of Sigma Tau Delta, English and vocal performance major (left), and Gabriella Rosell, president and senior in English and political science (right) read the short story Strawberry Spring by Stephen King to a listening audience. Also performed at the event was a reading of *The Cask of Amontillado* by Dr. Steven Blevins and Dr. Yvette Piggush.

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## Disney offers internships

### Students of all majors can earn credits, money

**MELODY REGALADO**  
Staff Writer

Brianna Bellantoni took a communications exploring series class one morning, then sold food and beverages at the Sunset Ranch Market in Walt Disney World in Orlando, and later rode Splash Mountain before calling it a day – a work day.

Bellantoni was able to experience for five months the “live, learn and earn” motto of the Disney College Program, an internship program that aims at providing both educational and work experience for students interested in different majors.

“The program allows students to explore different areas and is willing to guide us and help us move up in the company,” said Bellantoni, a senior in broadcast journalism who participated in the program in the Fall of 2007 and who is now a campus representative for the program.

Students in communica-

tions, hospitality and tourism, marketing, finance and accounting, theater and music, education, engineering, among others, can participate in the program.

Aside from working full-time at the parks for four to eight months, the program also offers students educational courses that they can take to earn school credits.

There are many different roles for participants to choose from, such as working at the rides and attractions, planning vacations, photographing guests, providing transportation, manning the food and beverage stands, and more.

These paid internship positions are available at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. and Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Ca.

Depending on the job they are placed in, students earn hourly wages that range from \$7.25 to \$8.39, and any overtime work of more than 40 hours a week is paid at time-and-a-half. Students are expected to work from 30 to

50 hours per week, depending on whether they are enrolled in educational courses.

“It’s a great experience that can improve students’ communications skills and network with professionals,” said Karina Cossio, a former student who also participated in the program during Fall 2007. “They are available and willing to help you out and direct you to the right people.”

Housing is also provided to students and is assigned based on gender and age. The cost for students is \$82 to \$108 per week, and it’s automatically deducted from paychecks. It includes all utilities and amenities, with transportation provided for students in the Disney housing to get to and from the parks and local grocery stores.

They can also benefit from the perks of admission to the Disney parks, free entrance passes for friends and family, merchandise and food discounts, access to special areas and opportunities to participate in special celebrations.

Other long-term benefits include eligibility to apply for different roles within the Disney College Program or for the Disney Professional Intern-

## TAKE A BREAK



SERGIO MONTEALEGRE/THE BEACON

**RELAXATION:** Shari Little, a massage therapist from the Wellness Center (left), gives Anne Braseby, a doctorate student in Global and Sociocultural Studies (center), a free massage in the Recreation Center’s aerobics room on Nov. 2. Massages are available to students for free on Mondays at the center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ship, which is more directly related to the student’s major, after finishing the internship program.

Eddie Stankiewicz, who graduated from the University in 2007 with a marketing degree, entered the Disney College Program that year, completed the Professional Internship Program and is now a retail manager at the All-Star Resort.

“This was my opportunity

to move up and keep going,” he said. “You have every line of business possible in any industry, and we get to interact with people from all over the world.”

Once students are accepted into the program, they must pay a one-time fee of \$100 for the activities and events that are scheduled in the housing complexes.

Positions are available starting in January through

April 2010.

An informative presentation will be held at the Biscayne Bay Campus on Nov. 4 in Wolfe University Center Room 255 at 11 a.m., and another at the Modesto Maidique Campus Nov. 5 in the Graham Center Room 241A at 4 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.wdwclegeprogram.com](http://www.wdwclegeprogram.com).

## FOODGASM

### Escape the recipe rut with this tart twist on a holiday classic

Can you believe it is November already? I can’t. This means I really have to start scrambling to make up my Thanksgiving menu. One recipe I’ve been struggling with this year is the traditional apple pie.

I come from a Spanish household, so apple pie isn’t really a staple, but we try to celebrate Thanksgiving with as much food as possible. Although we have flan, it just doesn’t really hit the spot after having our tryptophan overdose.

For the past years, I have been making a cranberry apple pie, and although I love the recipe, it’s time for something new. I am in an apple pie rut, so this past weekend, I experimented with the oven and apples until I found this year’s all-American-with-a-French-twist dessert.

I made an apple tart with a scoop of fresh, homemade vanilla ice cream. It might be tough to serve it warm on Thanksgiving with the oven being monopolized

by a 20-pound bird, but it’s a delicious, smooth dessert that balances tangy and sticky sweetness perfectly – not to mention the crispy, buttery crust that is always the best part.

I took store-bought puff pastry – you’d be crazy to try to make puff pastry on your own, and manic to do it on Thanksgiving – and thawed it out on my stove top while I went to work on my apples.

For this recipe, you will need two apples of your choice, but take their textures into consideration. I used one Granny Smith for tartness and consistency because it is a firmer fruit, and one Golden Delicious for sweetness and creaminess because this apple is soft and disintegrates during baking.

• Peel, core and thinly slice both apples, making sure to throw sliced pieces into a bowl with cold water and the juice of one lemon. The acidity of the lemon keeps the apples from oxidizing and turning



NATHAN VALENTINE/COURTESY PHOTO

**AUTUMN DELIGHT:** Bianca shows her apple tart with a scoop of her homemade vanilla ice cream.

brown. If you don’t have a fresh lemon, bottled lemon juice works just fine. After you have prepared your apples, it’s time to prepare the sticky, sweet syrup concoction that makes this tart a holiday dessert.

• In a small saucepan over medium heat, melt 5 tablespoons of salted butter with 4 tablespoons of honey, 4 tablespoons of light brown sugar, 1/2 a cup of applesauce and 1 vanilla bean, split. Gently stir for five minutes until it becomes thick, and the sugar, honey and butter

have all melted and incorporated into the syrup. I also added 1 tablespoon of lemon juice to create a tart-to-sweet balance.

Vanilla beans can be very expensive. At Publix, the price gives me a little heart attack. Two beans for \$8 – that is crazy. If you are in need for these flavorful pods, try Costco, which sells 10 beans for \$11, or my favorite: [eBay.com](http://eBay.com), where I bought a quarter pound of Grade A Tahitian beans for only \$5 plus shipping.

• Next, you have to

prepare your baking sheet and oven. Preheat your oven to 450 degrees while you butter your baking sheet. Once it is buttered, sprinkle it with sugar. Puff pastry likes to stick to the pan, so we do this two-step process as dessert insurance. Then take your puff pastry creating a simple, yet elegant design, leaving an inch and a half of pastry on all sides. Then, gently roll the sides of the puff pastry as if you were finishing the crust on an apple pie, folding it close to the fruit. Pour any remaining syrup on top of the apples, sprinkle once more with sugar and bake in the oven for 25 minutes.

• Finally, drain your apples and toss them with the butter syrup until they are coated in the thick goodness. Overlap the apple slices on one another in the center of the puff pastry creating a simple, yet elegant design, leaving an inch and a half of pastry on all sides. Then, gently roll the sides of the puff pastry as if you were finishing the crust on an apple pie, folding it close to the fruit. Pour any remaining syrup on top of the apples, sprinkle once more with sugar and bake in the oven for 25 minutes.

• Take a look at your pastry at the half way point. The syrup should be bubbling and the crust

puffing. If it is burning, just gently place a piece of foil over it for the remaining time. Do not press the foil down onto the tart. You don’t want the sticky hands of the syrup to take it captive and glue it to the top of your holiday treat.

The best part of this dessert is that you can be really adventurous and add anything to the syrup to change up the flavors. Some ideas I will be trying are cinnamon sticks, a classic apple pie ingredient, and basil. It sounds weird, but I think it will give the tart a fresh zing that is unexpected and elegant.

Serve the apple tart on the warm side, drizzled with some honey and a nice scoop of vanilla ice cream to escape the recipe rut. For my quick and easy vanilla ice cream recipe visit [FIUSM.com](http://FIUSM.com).

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](mailto:bianca.rojas@fiusm.com).



## GETTING SCHOOLED

# GRE a scary requisite for future grads

So I took the Graduate Record Exam on Halloween – and what a frightening experience that was. And by “frightening” I mean absolutely ridiculous.

COLUMNIST



IRIS A. FEBRES

In this corner, we have the Educational Testing Service – also known as ETS. Its Web site proclaims that its “sole mission is to advance learning.”

Hmm. Last time I checked, I thought their mission was to drive students to insanity or carbicide (death by carbohydrates).

ETS is responsible for a number of tests which plague our existence as students and prospective graduate school applicants. The company creates exams for Advanced Placement courses, the dreaded SAT and its accompanying subject tests, as well as the awful GRE.

For the record, I did not prepare extensively for the test; my commitments to my classes (on a full-time schedule), honor societies and this very newspaper kept me too busy to study.

But as far as I can tell, this shouldn't be a test you study for. Like the SAT, the general GRE aims to measure “verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical skills.”

In other words, it's the SAT's bigger, meaner older brother who's ready to take your lunch money.

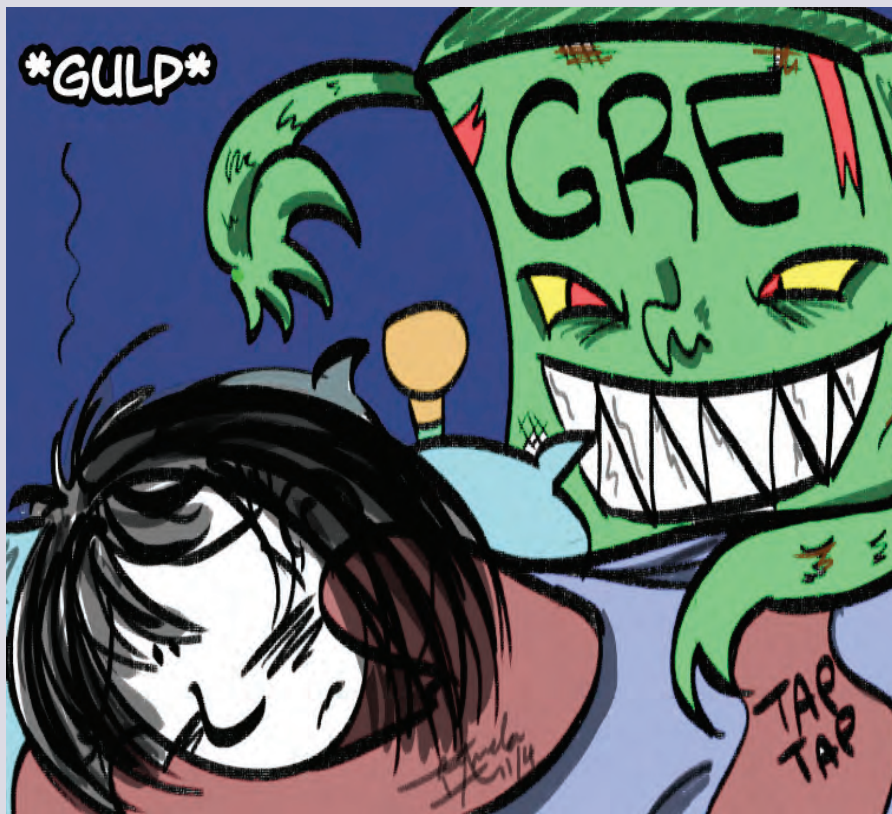
It's scary.

But what's even scarier is what we believe about the GRE: that the test is a huge determining factor within applications, and that a bad score would ruin anybody's chances in getting into graduate school.

This is simply not the case.

Others believe universities utilize “cutoff” scores in order to whittle down their applicant pools and make selection easier.

From all of the universities I've researched for graduate programs, most



of them acknowledge that while the GRE is a factor admissions committees consider when reviewing applications, it is merely a single factor of many.

In fact, from what I've read, the most important facets of a strong application are letters of recommendation, personal statements and grades.

While it may seem daunting to attain stellar letters and A's, it's very doable.

If graduate school is in your future, consider cultivating relationships with your professors early on in your academic career. This would guarantee recommendation letters that go beyond “He (or she) got an A in my Fall 2008 course.”

Take genuine interest in their research and make yourself known in class.

Chances are, the more involved you are with a class, the more time you'll put into it, so good grades are sure to follow.

Granted, some programs may place

more emphasis on general GRE scores – but even then, they would probably only focus on only a fraction of the overall score.

I would imagine that an admissions committee for a particular mathematics program would scrutinize GRE general and subject test scores in that particular section more closely than a committee reviewing applicants to other programs.

The GRE is a standardized test. What does it measure? How well you take a standardized test. It shouldn't gauge, in any way, how well you would succeed within a given graduate program.

I'm not saying don't take the test seriously. By all means, study for it, and if you have the financial liberty, take prep courses.

But remember that the GRE is only a test – a necessary evil we have to deal with.

*Getting Schooled appears every Wednesday.*

# Public option a much needed change for U.S.

FIDEL LEBLANC  
Staff Writer

Through the addition of the public option to the health care bill, the government is trying to push through a plan tailor-made to benefit us all.

Unfortunately, people are still against it. Most people are in a dire economic state in these difficult times. However, I don't think anyone is doing so bad they can't give a smaller percentage of their paycheck (about 2.2 percent, according to ABC News) toward a universal health care system that would benefit all Americans.

It may be a socialist adage, but to make sure everyone is equally treated, everyone must work for one another – at least for this policy to go through.

Universal health care, or whatever semblance of it the U.S. can muster, would be the most ground-breaking political progress this country has seen in quite some time.

If people decide to buy into universal health care, our taxes would be going toward not only our own medical needs but that of other people. That isn't our problem. With the new plan, everyone has health care that they themselves are financially attaining.

While Obama says this is not a tax increase, it is – there's no doubt about that. If one has to pay money to the government for a service, that is the definition of a tax. However, I believe this should be legislated regardless.

We as citizens all have a responsibility to get health insurance, and if it is affordable for everyone, there is absolutely no reason why one should be able to opt out.

It may seem a bit controlling by the government, but we have to remember that this initiative is keeping in mind the greater good – the good of the entire nation.

The job of a government is to look after its constituents, and this policy would be merely fulfilling that responsibility. Honestly, why would you not want the right to be seen in a hospital, to be attended to at a fraction of the cost? If it's only because it appears socialist, then that's a poor reason. We already have socialistic services in place: see your fire department, police force and even public school.

Our current system though, is obviously failing and a minimal change would benefit U.S. citizens – all of them, not just the elite who could have afforded health care anyway. France and Canada have nationalized health care systems, but I seldom hear complaints about those two countries and their apparent display of socialism. It's about time this aversion toward anything progressive dissipated.

Every country needs to progress forward, yet this country seems to be full of people trying to hold it back.

The president is working for the good of the nation, and people are resistant to his aims because they fear change, which is sad because change is the one thing needed.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Political campus groups must reach dialogue

One year ago as of the printing of this newspaper, on Nov. 4, 2008, Americans of all races, creeds and backgrounds came together to vote for their president.

The victor was Barack Obama, who ran a campaign platform of bringing together our country and unifying it.

The FIU College Democrats is proud to say that we believe we have stood up for that principle and have tried to get our friends

at the College Republicans to join us for debates.

We feel that dialogue is of tremendous importance, that debates are the cornerstone of our democracy – that the public is better served by hearing the viewpoints of all sides.

Unfortunately, the College Republicans seem to be dragging their feet and have stonewalled us repeatedly in attempts to set up debates.

We strongly urge them to join us in a spirited debate, so that our ideas and principles may be seen by all.

We have nothing to hide and will stand proudly by a platform of caring for those who cannot care for themselves, loving those whom others have rejected and fighting for those who have been cast aside by the rest of our society.

As President Obama said, “I

always believe that ultimately, if people are paying attention, then we get good government and good leadership.

“And when we get lazy, as a democracy and civically start taking shortcuts, then it results in bad government and politics.”

**Franco Caliz**  
Senior, Political Science  
Co-president of the FIU  
College Democrats

## 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



For the first time since 1982 an American has won the New York City Marathon. Meb Keflezighi beat more than 38,000 other athletes in the 26.2 mile race finishing with a time of 2:09:15. Keflezighi said it was his inability to pronounce his own last name that got him into the non-verbal sport.



A central Florida teacher may love his pizza a little too much. The teacher allegedly tried to force one of his students to eat pizza after the student refused to do so. The report states that the teacher said the student “was spoiled and his mother does not make him try any food.”

## QUOTATIONATION

*“We need to look at all the assets owned by the county and decide how to squeeze money out of everyone. We think we can do this responsibly and still generate critical revenue.”*

Deputy Aviation Director Miguel Southwell on using the deserted Everglades jetport

## OPINIONPIECE

# 3.67

The percentage market share operating system Windows 7 now holds since its Oct. 22 release.



## VEGGIN' OUT

### On-campus vegetarians look for dining options

JANET CAREAGA  
Staff Writer

Students often complain about the lack of eating options on campus, but some have fewer options than most.

Whereas many students can eat almost anything from any of the over 10 eating locations on campus, vegetarians are more limited.

"It is sometimes a lot harder to find stuff to eat on and off campus since there isn't such a good variety of food," said Vanessa Gomez, a sophomore majoring in biomedical engineering. "All the places in school offer one vegetarian meal so, unless you alternate between places, you're stuck eating the same food over and over again."

Campus eateries offer a few vegetarian options. Subway offers the Veggie Delight sandwich and Burger King has veggie burgers.

Pollo Tropical has its side sampler and pizza is a good option from Breezeway Cafe. Sushi Maki has veggie rolls



and Einstein Bagels has many meat-free options. Fresh Food Company has an entire vegetarian section.

FIU's newest addition, Jamba Juice, is a great option for vegetarians. They can order fruit smoothies and add soy protein to get the daily dose they miss out on from not eating meat.

Panther Stop also sells soy milk, cereal, trail mix and many other things that are vegetarian-friendly.

Even with these choices, some still feel the lack of diversity.

Off campus, several things can be turned into a vegetarian meal.

For example, Taco Bell will replace the meat in their meals with beans if asked to do so.

KFC also has vegetarian-friendly offerings such as macaroni and cheese and mashed potatoes.

Other restaurants aren't so accommodating.

"Wendy's is one of the most vegetarian unfriendly places ever. The only eating options there

VEGGIN' OUT, page 6

## MERENGUE MAN



BURKE HILL/THE BEACON

**BREAK DOWN:** Junior Karel Suarez, business administration major (left) and freshmen Vanessa Peña, forensic science major (right) booty dance in the last round of Salsa Magic hosted by SPC on Oct. 29. Participants of the event received lessons on salsa moves and then competed against each other.

## POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

### Despite recent hiatus, hip-hop duo defines a decade in music

Their last album was released more than three years ago, they haven't had a single in Billboard's top 75 since George W. Bush's first term, and aside from some guest spots and the occasional appearance on a mix tape, they've pretty much been a nonentity for a good part of this decade.

Despite all of this, when looking back at the last decade in music, as *The Beacon* will be doing as the year winds down, you have to think Outkast is the defining group of the 2000s.

Thus is the state of the music industry in 2009.

For four years at the beginning of this decade, Outkast was the most ubiquitous musical force around. Andre 3000 and Big Boi were consistently seen as pushing the bounds of what a hip-hop group could do and, at their peak, they were everywhere. People who didn't even

like hip-hop - my parents, for instance - were claiming Outkast among their favorite bands.

#### COLUMNIST



CHRIS TOWERS

This was mostly because of what I call "The 'Hey Ya' Moment." It was the last time in the decade that everyone in America seemed to be on the same page. The song reached the top of the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart and was safely in the top 50 of the hip-hop chart, the Latin Pop Airplay chart and the Modern Rock Track chart, making it one of the last universally shared musical experiences of the decade.

Obviously their musical output and success is one of the main reasons why they are my choice to define this decade. To some extent, they also represent the music industry as a whole. Big Boi represents the business side of the industry. He's always been the more grounded of the two, more interested in continuing to release records and

keep the whole machine moving. On the other hand, Andre has always come off as the more artistic of the two, taking advantage of the opportunity to have a disc of music all to himself when they released the *Speakerboxx/The Love Below* album by creating a sprawling, beautiful mess of an album that touched on everything from acoustic ballads to futuristic hip-hop.

Although I prefer Andre's contributions, this isn't an endorsement of one side or the other. However, as the divergence between the two continued, you saw the strain it put on their relationship.

As a result, they have essentially been working as two separate entities since 2003.

Since that time, has there been an ubiquitous musical act like Outkast?

I think it's part of the evolution of the music industry. With file sharing and the Internet offering, it has become increasingly more difficult to become as

big as Outkast was.

With the almost limitless and easily attainable music choices available now, I'm not sure anyone can reach the type of place in our culture that Outkast attained in this decade.

In being the defining artists of the decade, Outkast also represents the death of the massively popular and universally recognized musical act they personified for the early part of the 2000s. It's certainly not their fault but, with the evolution of the industry and the breadth of choices available, we probably won't see anyone like Outkast for a long time.

*Pop & Circumstance* is a biweekly column discussing all things pop music.



Andre 3000



## Alternative diets present challenges

VEGGIN' OUT, page 5

are fries, baked potatoes or a side salad," said Krizia Alba, a senior majoring in fine arts.

Aside from fast food, other dining options include Thai or Japanese restaurants, which often offer meals made with tofu (a soybean curd) or solely vegetables.

Places like The Last Carrot, an eatery near Coco Walk, have pita sandwiches, melts, vegan cookies and sauces that cater to vegetarian needs.

Vegetarians who do not consume any animal products at all such as milk, cheese or eggs in addition to red meat are called vegans.

Vegan Edgar Ramirez, a junior majoring in international business and marketing, says the closest off-campus vegan eatery is Jugos Naturales.

"This place is a true gem! They are hidden in a little Sweetwater plaza. They are less than seven blocks from FIU and the food is beyond incredible.

"It is heavily Caribbean/Latin influenced, so it satisfies even those looking for good Latin food."

"The prices are student budget friendly but the con is that there are not enough places like this in Miami," Ramirez said.

REVIEW

## Web site's research on artificial intelligence provides at-home jobs

MARGO BARTLETT  
Contributing Writer

Due to our declining economy and recent cuts in educational funding, the average student is in need of more money. Some students are also parents and professionals and are performing a juggling act in order to keep their lives balanced. There is little room in their schedules to work more hours or get a second job. Luckily, there is a Web site that provides a way for students to work from home and in their spare time.

*Mechanicalturk.com*, run by Amazon, provides accurate information based on human – rather than artificial – intelligence. It is run on the premise that there are certain tasks that humans are more qualified to handle. A human intelligence task, or HIT, is a job that a requester needs completed. Many of the HITs require that the potential worker take a qualification test to see if they meet the criteria to complete the task. If the qualifications are met, they can begin to work on various types of tasks that are covered under that particular test.

A few of the HITs available include transcribing portions of a conversation, translating a reading passage, or correctly identifying images and categorizing them appropriately. These tasks are deemed to be better completed by a human being than by a computer.

Upon completing the task, the worker is awarded a certain amount of money that the requester has set. The requester may also provide a bonus to a worker that completes

**The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete.**

a certain task and who is very efficient at completing the HITs that are assigned to them. The worker is then allowed to deposit the money received into a bank account or use it toward a purchase from *Amazon.com*.

The site includes a helpful log that helps the worker keep track of all the HITs submitted, including the number of HITs that are completed, returned, and abandoned. The number of approved and rejected HITs are also kept in this log. Some requesters require that they maintain a certain approval rate percentage in order to continue completing tasks for them.

The approval rate is drawn from the total amount of task completions that are approved by the requester from the worker. If a HIT is rejected, they have the option to contact the requester directly for an explanation. *Mechanicalturk* allows the worker to set their own schedule. However, each HIT has a certain amount of time allotted for the completion of each task. If they cannot complete the task during that time or if they find that it is too difficult, it is best that they return it so that someone else may have the chance to complete it.

The Web site is very easy to use and understand. It runs smoothly and tasks generally do not take long to complete. Once the available qualification tests are taken, the system could be customized to only show the tasks that they are qualified for rather than showing the complete repertoire of tasks.

The site also features a search bar so that they can further tailor their results. The site provides direct contact to the requesters and also provides a plethora of information to those who are just getting started or need general information.

Compared to other sites that provide the same kind of service, *Mechanicalturk.com* does not require a payment to get started. Since it is an offshoot of *Amazon.com*, it minimizes the likelihood of being scammed.

To sign up as a worker, visit [www.mturk.com](http://www.mturk.com). To submit HITs that you need completed visit [www.request.mturk.com](http://www.request.mturk.com).

*Beacon reviewers receive no free goods in exchange for positive reviews, and the views expressed represent those of the author alone.*

## NIGHT OF DISGUISE



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

**GUESS WHO:** Sophomore Krista Lopez, anthropology major, wears a Peruvian style mask during the College of Architecture + the Arts first Halloween Masquerade on Oct. 29 on the third floor of PCA. The event included hanging clear tape bodies and video installations and live music.

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## PERFORMERS OF THE WEEK



VICTORIA LYNCH/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**MAKING A STATEMENT:** Natalia Valentin was one of the reasons why the Golden Panthers extended their winning streak to 17 games. Valentin had 54 assists in the 3-2 win vs. New Orleans, the team that upset FIU last season.



AARON DAVIS

Filling in for injured middle linebacker Toronto Smith, Davis had nine tackles, seven of which were solo. Two of the sophomore's tackles were for losses including key stops in the fourth quarter and overtime.



AMY JACKSON

The women's soccer team captain scored the team's lone goal in a 1-0 win over Florida Atlantic at FIU Soccer Stadium. The Golden Panthers head to the Sun Belt Conference tournament as the No. 1 seed and with a 10-game winning streak.



KAITLYN SAVAGE

The women's soccer team's goalkeeper earned her fifth shutout of the season. She has a save percentage of .826 and has recorded 76 saves this season. The freshman has allowed an average of 1.03 goals when she's been on the field.

## MEN'S SOCCER

# Freshman midfielder a dreamer, fighter

ANA DIAZ  
Staff Writer

At the age of nine before a vital match, Sebastian Frings was ill, but he went against his father's wishes and played anyway. In the end he contributed to a 5-2 win by scoring four goals.

"The coach said, 'I must have him, I need him for his corner game and free kicks,'" said Sebastian's father Wolfgang. "And I told the coach, 'I do not want my son to play ill.'"

After high school in his home country of Germany, Sebastian Frings went against his father's wishes once again, packed his bags and decided that the FIU's men's soccer team could use his skills.

"It wasn't easy for me, it is a great distance between Germany and Miami, but for me it is important that he is happy. It's not good to keep your son away from what he wants. It's his life, not mine. I love him, ask his mother, the same feelings we love him therefore we are here to see what he is doing and see if he is happy and successful," said Wolfgang Frings.

Frings' parents have been a great impact on his life, especially when it came to his first love, soccer.

"My parents mean everything to me, my dad always supports my dreams," the Golden Panthers freshman said. "He always stood by me even if I had a bad day. He builds me up and my mom is a great mental support for me. I wish I could have them here in Miami."

Frings is the leading scorer for the Golden Panthers this season with eight goals.

"I am here at FIU because

I can play soccer and get a degree as well. In Germany you cannot do both. Also, my mother told me to have a safety and advised me to get an education in case I ever got a bad injury. It can happen to anyone."

During a match in high school, Frings suffered an injury, tearing three ligaments in his right ankle.

Consequently, he couldn't play for half a year which led him to take a risk, leave Germany and pursue a degree, while still playing at an elite level in college.

Wolfgang Frings at one time in his life had to take his own risks to reach his dreams as well.

Frings' father used to work

saw his mistakes. I told him that I believed in him and that he could do better. He is a fighter, not everyday, but when it is important."

From a young age, Sebastian enjoyed playing against boys two to three years older than him by his house.

"I would play there all day and everyday. My parents had to say, please come in. They had to force me to get off the field. I would have played the whole night. Those were my best memories, it was amazing and fun. No pressure, just playing," Sebastian said.

For Frings, the far distance of home has not been an issue, as long as he is on the soccer field doing what he loves most, he is happy.

"My home is the soccer

**My home is the soccer field. I'm not from Germany. I'm not from anywhere. When I am on the field, I feel at home.**

Sebastian Frings  
Freshman midfielder

for an insurance company but quit his job from one day to the next.

"He didn't have a job and he wasn't rich or anything. It was just me, him and my mom. Then he went into broadcasting, it was what he always wanted to do. He'd rather go after his dreams than have a safe job. That is how I am, I'd rather go after my dreams than do something safe," said Sebastian Frings.

Sebastian's father played a major role in giving him mental strength and heart for soccer.

"I saw him play all these years and grow up," his father said. "He kept playing better and better, and I also

field. I'm not from Germany. I'm not from anywhere," Sebastian said. "When I am on the field, I feel at home, like a marriage. It is like my wife because it means everything to me."

Regardless of the climate and environment change, Coach Munga Eketebi anticipates a lot from the freshman midfielder.

"We have still have yet to see the best of Sebastian," Eketebi said.

Frings has no plans for the future, just success on the field.

"I don't want to regret anything, when I am 60 years old I want to say I did the most with my soccer," he said.

## Goalkeeper play pivotal in Sun Belt tournament run

### SUN BELT, page 7

Thaisa Moreno leads the team with seven goals and Katrina Rose was second on the team with five. Another aspect the Golden Panthers have excelled at

in 2009 is overtime play, having gone 2-0-3 in overtime games, including two overtime victories in conference play.

In addition, FIU's goaltending improved

compared to its 2008 statistics, with save percentage rising from 0.754 percent to 0.798 percent.

The increase can easily be attributed to the addition of freshman goalkeeper

Kaitlyn Savage.

The 5-foot-10 freshman from Fox Island, Wash. allowed only 1.03 goals per game and 76 saves, giving her a save percentage of 0.826 percent.

The Golden Panthers are ranked third in the Sun Belt Conference for shots, points, assists and are fourth in goals allowed.

The Golden Panthers play their first match of the

Sun Belt Conference tournament on Nov. 4 against UALR at 10 a.m.

The tournament is being held in Boca Raton, Fla. on the Florida Atlantic University's main campus.

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## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# CONFERENCE BOUND

## No. 1 seed Golden Panthers to face UALR in quarterfinals

**CHRIS GREEN**  
Staff Writer

Records were made to be broken.

The Golden Panthers women's soccer team adopted this motto during the 2009 season.

They broke several single season records: most Sun Belt Conference victories (9), consecutive victories (7), longest undefeated streak (10), and had the most individual goal scorers (11) since the 2004 season.

In addition, the women's soccer team won the season opener for the first time since 2001 and became the first team in Sun Belt history to jump from sixth place to first in the regular season standings from one year to the next.

"We all joked that we would come in first this year," said sophomore midfielder Victoria Miliucci. "I knew we would finish higher than sixth, but I never expected to finish first. It's surreal."

Heading into the Sun Belt Conference tournament, FIU is riding a 10-

game undefeated streak, including seven straight victories. For senior midfielder Marina Pappas, the results are a welcomed surprise.

"I exceeded my own expectations," said Pappas. "I've never really had a breakout year, but this season has been my best season of my career, so it's a good way to end my FIU career."

Going into the first round, No. 1 seeded FIU will face No. 8 seeded University of Arkansas-Little Rock, a team that fell 1-0 to the Golden Panthers on Oct. 23.

"We played them already, so we can look back and see what we need to improve on," said Pappas. "We're just practicing with a bit more intensity."

Having outscored their Sun Belt Conference opponents 24-10, and having gone 4-1 in games that resulted in shutouts, the Golden Panthers are looking to capitalize on the opportunities.

"We are training normally," said Miliucci. "We just want to be able to generate attacks and play our own game."

**SUN BELT, page 7**



CHRIS GREEN/BEACON FILE PHOTO

**PICKING UP STEAM:** The Golden Panthers women's team has not lost in 10 games as it became the No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament after defeating FAU.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Team prevails without 08's top scorer

**THOMAS COLLAZO**  
Contributing Writer

Entering the 2009 season, senior midfielder Marina Pappas hoped the Golden Panthers women's soccer team would qualify for the Sun Belt Conference tournament, but she didn't think her team would be the top seed.

"We all expected to go to conference," Pappas said. "Never did I expect to win nine games and get the No. 1 seed. I exceeded my own expectations."

The Golden Panthers would have to compete in 2009 without sophomore Claudia Cardenas, who led the team in goals (6) and points (12). They finished 4-4 last year in the Sun Belt Conference and ranked 229th at the

end of the 2008 season. The rising star left the team because of homesickness, Coach Thomas Chestnutt said. She went back to Fresno, Calif. to be with her family.

Without their leading scorer, the Golden Panthers' chances of winning the Sun Belt Conference looked grim. But they were unwilling to give up on the 2009 season.

"It wasn't an option for us to just roll over and die. Some new girls this year helped us push it," said midfielder April Perry.

One of the big wins Perry mentioned is the 1-0 overtime thriller against Western Kentucky on Sept. 27.

That win started a chain reaction as they started knocking off other big name schools like Denver, Troy and Louisiana. The team ended up

with a 11-5-3 record.

The team that was ranked toward the bottom of their conference last season is now the No. 1 seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Perry said a new formation helped make the group more team oriented.

"Since we started using this new formation of three up top, we started winning games and started gaining more confidence," Perry said.

At the end of the season last season, the team combined for a total of 10 assists. The Golden Panthers finished the regular season with 21 assists and 1.53 goals per game compared to the team's .83 goals per game in 2008.

"Once we started winning games at the beginning of the season we got that feeling that you don't want to lose," Perry said.

## SCHEDULE

### CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS

#### Quarterfinals

NOV. 1

Match 1: No. 1 FIU vs. No. 8 UALR, 10 a.m.

Match 2: No. 4 N. Texas vs. No. 5 Midd. Tenn., 1 p.m.

Match 3: No. 2 Denver vs. No. 7 Troy, 4 p.m.

Match 4: No. 3 WKU vs. No. 6 Arkansas St., 7 p.m.

#### Semifinals

NOV. 5

Match 5: Winner of Match 1 vs. Winner of Match 2, 4 p.m.

Match 6: Winner of Match 3 vs. Winner of Match 4, 7 p.m.

#### Championship

NOV. 7

Winner of Match 5 vs. Winner of Match 6, 1 p.m.

# Volleyball team still perfect after three-game road trip

**JOEL DELGADO**  
Staff Writer

When the Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks saw that the Golden Panthers were coming to town for a Halloween match, they might have thought they were in for a horror-filled night. They weren't far off.

The Golden Panthers (23-2, 13-0) dismantled the Warhawks (3-25, 0-13) in three sets on Oct. 31, as they came within three matches of finishing with a perfect Sun Belt Conference record.

Louisiana-Monroe gave the Panthers a fight in the early stages of the first set, but FIU would run away with the set on the shoulders of Olga Vergun's five first set kills.

Coach Danijela Tomic inserted a different kind of lineup in an attempt to lighten the load on her players in the middle of a three-game road trip.

"We had a totally different lineup against ULM," Tomic said. "We wanted to give our starters some rest and give a chance to those who don't normally play."

The Golden Panthers were able to shut down Louisiana-Monroe in the second set, jumping out to a 10-0 lead on their way to building a 2-0 match lead.

The Warhawks refused to go away silently and fought hard in the third set, keeping the set close into the later stages. But the Golden Panthers closed out the match on a 6-0 run to secure their 16th consecu-

tive victory.

Freshman Jovana Bjelica notched a double-double for the Golden Panthers with team-highs in kills (11) and digs (11). The FIU defense suffocated the Louisiana-Monroe offense, allowing a low .065 attack percentage.

**FIU 3, ULL 0 (25-12, 25-17, 25-21)**

The Golden Panthers (24-2, 14-0) swept the Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns (8-21, 2-12) to complete a successful three-game road swing in Lafayette, La. on Nov. 1.

With the victory, the Golden Panthers came one step closer to achieving one of their main goals for the season: going undefeated in conference play.

"ULL can be a dangerous team," Coach Tomic said. "They beat New Orleans not long ago and they probably thought they had a chance to beat us."

FIU came out strong, never giving the Ragin' Cajuns an opportunity to get their offense going in the first set. Louisiana would make the second match more interesting, but the Golden Panthers pulled through halfway through the stanza with the help of an offensive outburst from Yarimar Rosa to extend their lead 2-0.

The Ragin' Cajuns refused to go away, fighting into the later stages of the third set before FIU would pull away to close out the match.

Rosa led the Panther offense with 14 kills with Isadora Rangel

chipping in with 11 kills of her own. Jovana Bjelica continued to perform well on defense, posting a team-high 12 digs to go along with her 10 kills on offense.

After the match was completed, the Golden Panthers were happy to return home after a grueling weekend of travel.

"We were glad it was over," Tomic said. "This was the toughest traveling weekend we've had all season. It's tough, but we were glad we got three wins in three days."

The Golden Panthers close out their regular season Sun Belt Conference schedule on the road against Western Kentucky and Middle Tennessee this weekend.

"Our team is looking forward to the challenge," Tomic said.