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Florida International University

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PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Peel and stick: Students react to decal theft

DIEGO SALDANA-ROJAS
Staff Writer

There were 11 parking decal thefts reported on University grounds this year.

Decal theft is the forced removal of a University-issued parking decal from a parked vehicle, with the majority of the cases occurring during September.

The recorded thefts occurred in Gold Garage, Red Garage, Parking Garage Five, University Park Apartments, lots four, five, six and nine at the Modesto Maidique Campus, and lot two at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Gabriel Medina, a sophomore nursing major, thinks the reasons for the decal thefts that have occurred on campus are due to mischief, intent to resell or to avoid having to pay for a

duplicate decal.

"It could be that they need a new decal and don't want to pay or they think it's funny to get people in trouble or maybe even [the thieves] are selling them," Medina said.

Director of Parking and Transportation Lissette Hernandez said the Department of Parking and Transportation has a scanner that checks vehicle decals and should catch any vehicle that has a stolen decal placed on it. "We will verify car by car and if there is a stolen decal, we will immediately boot the car."

According to Chief of Police Alexander Casas, stolen decals bear signs of tampering.

"When you peel a decal and stick

SEE DECAL, PAGE 2

FUTURE PANTHERS



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

English pre-law major Laura Pacchioni (left) stops at the Art Pavillion in front of the Frost Art Museum during a College Summit Admissions tour for potential University students.

Building to expand College of Business and FIU Online

STEPHAN USECHE
Staff Writer

A new building will rise for the College of Business Administration and other University departments.

The construction of the Management and New Growth Opportunities building, also

referred to as MANGO, will begin early 2013 and be completed by April of the same year.

According to the Dean of University College Joyce Elam, the College of Business is running out of space and this new building will provide the space necessary to support the current needs as well as planned growth in existing

programs. The college is currently renting space in the Management and Advanced Research Center building and the red parking garage.

In addition to the College of Business, FIU Online will also take advantage of this new facility. FIU Online offices have been scattered around campus,

currently renting offices in MARC and the Ryder Building.

The MANGO building will be located west of the existing Ryder Business Building and it will host the R. Kirk Landon Undergraduate School of Business, undergraduate advising, Student Services, Ph.D. student offices, professional BBA program staff,

Center for International Business and Research and two classrooms.

"It's an opportunity to bring all the professionals together in one place. You'll have the associate dean, the advisors and all the programs together," Elam said. "It will also be so much easier

SEE MANGO, PAGE 2

Master Plan committee to host public workshops

MARIELLA ROQUE
Staff Writer

In order to meet the State of Florida planning requirements, the University will be holding public workshops in December to present the students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community with information about the 2010-2020 Campus Master Plan.

The workshops will provide attendees with the opportunity to give input on the University's plans of growth. Leading the workshop will be the Perkins+Will Planning Team and a steering committee made up of 13 University representatives.

"At this meeting, [the planning team] is

going to present draft inventory analysis [of the CMP]," said Javier Marques, chief of staff to the University president and chairman of the steering committee. "It's somewhat informal because we want to have feedback."

Among the main topics discussed will be the University's goal to expand on the Modesto Maidique Campus into the area that is occupied by the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition in the spring and to build another entrance for the Biscayne Bay Campus.

"[This is] an effort to continue to be transparent and make sure that the University community is informed about the Master Plan and what [the University is] going to look like in the next 10 years," Marques said. "[The

[The workshops are] an opportunity for everyone to understand what the possibilities are.

Javier Marques
Chief of Staff
Office of the President

workshops are] an opportunity for everyone to understand what the possibilities are."

The first workshop will take place on Dec. 3 at MMC in the CBC Special Events Room at

6:30 p.m. and the second on Dec. 4 at the BBC in WUC 221 starting at 5:30 p.m.

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ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINA GUILLOT/THE BEACON

THE BEACON | Editorial

Task force should have emphasized Florida's students

When it comes to careers, high wage prospects could mean lower tuition.

When Gov. Rick Scott created the Florida Blue Ribbon Task Force in May, he commissioned them with the task of providing recommendations to reform the state's higher education system. Six months later, here's what they came up with: charge less tuition for the degrees that pay the most.

In a report sent up to Scott in the first week of November, the task force recommended a "differentiated tuition model," a fancy term for tying tuition to degree programs.

Programs deemed important by the state would enjoy lower tuition, while the others would be forced to eat the necessary/compensatory hikes. The others are presumably not science, technology, engineering, or math programs.

The task force calls these degrees, "high-skill, high-wage, high-demand" degrees. No word on what "high-skill" is supposed to mean. Over two-thirds of this list is composed of science, technology, engineering, and math degrees, which, as the task force notes, are the highest paying careers in the market.

So why is this a brilliant idea? Well, it isn't.

First, the concept of differentiated tuition isn't new. But while other states lower their tuitions on careers such as education and nursing, public benefit careers which have low wage prospects, Florida has opted to lower tuition for students who won't have a hard time paying back their loans.

In a backwards world, Florida would subsidize the jobs society needs, careers which provide graduates with little chance of dying debt free.

Let's also touch on the fact that lower tuition for these degrees would come at a price. The task force recommends that the state pay to keep the selected degrees lower.

Second, this recommendation begs the question, are there STEM jobs in Florida? According to University Provost Douglas Wartok, Florida ranks 51 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in the ratio of STEM jobs available for STEM graduates.

Lower tuition comes with the promise of bringing STEM jobs to the state, but for Florida students, broken promises aren't a new thing.

The Beacon wishes we lived in a state where non-STEM careers weren't deemed "low-skill" by its top representatives. Where, if this trend catches on, pursuing anything aside from these 188 degrees will seem silly.

The task force didn't stop at differentiated tuition; other recommendations include tying funding to performance, which will mean adherence to state goals to operate, and the creation of "preeminent universities," basically more freedom for the University of Florida and Florida State University, which Scott vetoed last summer.

They also recommend the Board of Governors dip its hands in university budgets and in the selection of university presidents.

A "blue ribbon task force" is a group of people appointed to come up with ideas on an important topic. But what is the important topic here? The economic future of Florida, not that of its students, who may or may not decide to ride it out with this state.

Keep calm and take a deep breath

ASHLEY VALENTIN
Contributing Writer

They say time is money. I'm a little unsure about that because I can work for about a million hours a week and I still find myself too broke to afford gas and a sandwich at Panera Bread.

What I do know is that time, precious time, is a fleeting commodity that teases the likes of every college student struggling to find the balance among sleep, studying, and a social life. I'm no exception.

That being said, does anyone else stand amazed at students who seem to have time for everything? You know, the type of student who (according to instagram) is able to maintain good grades for 16 credit hours, have a boyfriend/girlfriend, keep an active social life, participate in Schmelta Delta Hufflepuff Pi activities, go to the beach with family, and be part of two clubs.

With school and work and trying to stay terrifyingly

attractive at the gym while still retaining some small amount of "me" time, I feel too busy for anything. And quite frankly, the thought overwhelms me.

Here's the issue with trying to balance a lot: you often stretch yourself too thin.

I know many people who will swear that they don't neglect anyone or anything in their busy schedules, but in all truth many either neglect others or, more importantly, themselves.

I've known students who have become so busy that they haven't spent any real time with their family in months; whose lives have become so chaotic with social event after social event that they rarely have any time for relaxing by themselves.

Overloading yourself with work isn't healthy. Many people find it very hard to say no to a new event or project, but the more they take on, the less time they have for essential things like

You don't have to join every club or take more credit hours than you can handle.

sleep and exercise.

Students then find themselves easily stressed or annoyed, unable to keep up with friendships, and kept constantly on edge with a mom and dad giving the sad, "How come I never see you?" speech.

Guys, you don't have to take on the whole world in one semester. It's better to take on less and be able to focus more of your energy on specific tasks and relationships than to try to cram as many activities as possible into a semester under the assumption that it's going to make you more productive

or that you'll impress your future employer or graduate school.

It's the quality with which you approach your tasks that show your capability as a student, not the quantity of jobs and obligations you have.

You don't have to join every club or take more credit hours than you can handle.

The best thing about college is that you can do everything at your own pace.

It's okay to have time to breathe.

-opinion@fiusm.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to jonathan.szydlo@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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PHI ALPHA DELTA

Phi Alpha Delta named top pre-law chapter in nation

DANIEL URIA
Staff Writer

Panthers considering pursuing law school need not look far for a stepping-stone.

Phi Alpha Delta, FIU's chapter of the nation's largest pre-law fraternity, was recently named the top chapter in the nation.

The co-ed fraternity assists students in deciding whether law school is the right choice for them while also assisting students in preparation by providing various resources such as LSAT prep tools.

FIU's Phi Alpha Delta chapter was awarded the Don Hutson Pre-Law Outstanding Chapter Award for its achievements over the past year. The annual award is given to the nation's top chapter at Phi Alpha Delta's national convention.

According to chapter's president, Daniel Villavisanis, the University sent 47 representatives to the recent national convention, the highest total from any of the 302 chapters in the nation.

Being top chapter means that we are offering the most resources for undergrad students considering going to law school. We offer a wide variety of programming to meet the needs of different majors.

Daniel Villavisanis
President
Phi Alpha Delta

"I had a lot of pride taking them and being a part of something as significant as that," Villavisanis said. "It was really rewarding as president, knowing that we had done a really good job."

Phi Alpha Delta's success has come in a short time.

FIU's pre-law chapter was founded in 1991, eight years after Phi Alpha Delta began to offer pre-law chapters. The chapter also faced some adversity when it was disbanded for a period of time; the

current incarnation is a result of significant reconstruction.

"The past four years it's really been a big rebuilding process for us," said Villavisanis. "We've had to come pretty much from the ground up from five members to over one hundred now."

But to Villavisanis, the adversity makes the success sweeter.

"It's really fulfilling to see that we can do so much in such a short period of time and rise in the rankings," Villavisanis said.

Villavisanis believes the chapter is the best place for students, regardless of major, looking to prepare for law school or who are unsure whether or not they should pursue law school.

"Being top chapter means that we are offering the most resources for undergraduate students considering going to law school," he said. "We offer a wide variety of programming to meet the needs of different majors."

He also said Phi Alpha Delta has an open membership policy that is tailored to serve students.

"There's no profit or gain for anyone but the students themselves," he said. "Use us as a tool. We don't have any requirements of you. So that's beneficial."

Villavisanis encouraged any students interested in Phi Alpha Delta to check out their weekly meetings, every Tuesday at 8 p.m. in RBD 1000.

Also, the University will host the Phi Alpha Delta state conference for the first time in 2013.

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REEL TO REEL

University's lack of a film program remains an issue

Yelling "cinema is dead" off the top of Graham Center might be overdoing it, but it's probably the only way the majority of students could begin to grasp how severely lacking our school is when it comes to film. Often enough film is seen in academia as "that elective course I can score an easy A in."

But considering how much people love going out to the movies, it's a shame there isn't more of a longing to explore its roots. There's much more to cinema than the explosions, human-vampire relations and male strippers that students are exposed to. Yet FIU continues to limit students' attempts to explore this wonderful world.

It's not as if FIU doesn't have any film program at all; students have the option of pursuing a certificate in film studies that can be completed by taking six courses.

Two of these are basic introduction and history classes, while the rest may be selected from any subject cluster, as long as they heavily feature film.

There is no shortage of classes to take. But if so many teachers are willing to explore film within their own subject, then why not expand to a full major for students interested in film

studies? Even more problematic than this is the complete lack of production classes. A few film studies classes may be enough to satiate students who have a budding interest, but there are more who long to try their hand at filmmaking and are denied that chance at FIU.

Other opportunities include contests students may enter to show off their skills, but most do not have the money or equipment to make movies themselves.

The Miami International Film Festival's CinemaSlam 2013, which aims to provide student filmmakers with a chance to show off their work, allows entries from FIU, Miami-Dade College, Miami International University, New World School of the Arts, St. Thomas University, and the University of Miami.

Of those six participating schools, the only two that do not have a dedicated film program are FIU and St. Thomas University, severely handicapping student participants.

Even without a film studies and/or production major, students are not completely out of options to explore film.

Of the short films submitted last year, two students made it to the finals of the competition, and one earned an award. One of the competitors, Francisco Pedro, advises that, "The lack of a film program shouldn't stop those with an interest in film to express themselves.

The students with an interest

in film are small in number, but that made us strong in spirit. Find each other and collaborate!"

While there are university clubs that show movies on a weekly basis, this doesn't even begin to fill the void. The "Film Initiative: Underground" may offer a bold selection of screenings, but SPC's usual collection of the popular movies of the year don't give students the chance to watch anything foreign or pre-dating the noughties.

"There is nothing like that wonderful sense of superiority when discussing Bergman amongst the crowd at GC," Pedro said.

It may not seem like it, but there are a growing number of students at FIU who dream of getting the chance to learn more about film and filmmaking.

Whether it's those writing screenplays in creative writing courses, actors in the theatre department who long for a starring role, photographers who want to shoot gorgeous films, or the people who just love to watch and write about movies like I do, FIU is in desperate need of a film program expansion.

Juan Barquin is a junior FIU English major. For the past year and a half, he has written more than 80 movie reviews for YAM-Magazine, and is pursuing a certificate in Film Studies at the University.

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COVER TO COVER

'Father Gaetano's Puppet Catechism' will keep you reading

It's the end of World War II that has left the Sicilian village of Tringale to put their faith on the tiny shoulders of Father Gaetano's puppets. Just as resources are becoming scarce, so is the faith of the villagers; primarily, the orphaned children left homeless by the tragedy of war and forced take refuge in the village's local Church of San Domenico.

As a newly appointed pastor, Father Gaetano is finding it difficult to restore that faith

and not until he stumbles upon a box filled with once abandoned toys does he discover the means to reach out to those in need. However, in an attempt to bring new life to the old stories of the Bible, he also unknowingly brings new life to these animated marionettes.

With an attention-grabbing story concept, a complete cast of well-rounded characters, and

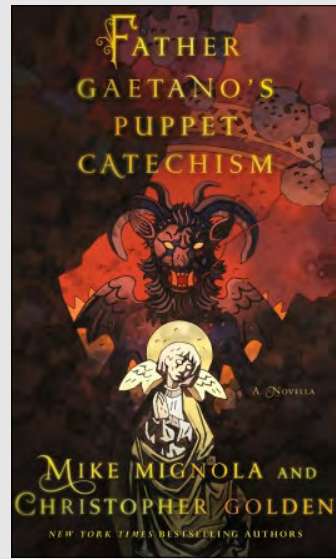


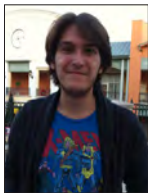
PHOTO FROM BARNES AND NOBLE

a colorful prose that fills every page Mike Mignola and Christopher Golden's "Father Gaetano's Puppet Catechism" is a refreshing read from the literary norm.

Though a short read that sidetracks little from the synopsis printed within its decorative cover and lack of horror despite its supernatural elements, this novel has the perfect quality and quantity to make even the busiest student read from cover to cover.

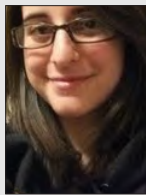
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COLUMNIST



JUAN BARQUIN

COLUMNIST



MARCY DIAZ

THEATRE

‘The Wild Party’ introduces audiences to abusive characters

ALFREDO APARICIO
Staff Writer

The decadence, extravagant, alluring, but potentially disastrous lives of vaudeville performers will be at the heart of Roxy Performing Arts Center’s production of Andrew Lippa’s “The Wild Party”.

It tells the story of Queenie and Burrs, a couple who began their relationship with a fire so bright it burned out in three years. Tired of Burrs’ abusive ways, Queenie eventually decides to throw a party with one thought in mind: embarrass Burrs, a decision that will bring about consequences no one expected.

Based on Joseph Moncure March’s narrative poem of the same name which was banned upon its publication in 1928 for its content, “The Wild Party”, premiered off-Broadway in 1928 and was welcomed with more success than its counterpart on Broadway by Michael John LaChiusa.

One of the main differences between Lippa’s and LaChiusa’s versions is the music. Lippa’s songs can be enjoyed without the

plot of the play while LaChiusa’s takes a more classical approach and draws a lot from its roaring ‘20s setting.

“These songs are so addicting,” said Eric Gonzalez, a junior theatre major who will play Sam Himmelsteen, a New York producer. “This one has a lot of hits.”

The production will be the first performed by the members of the RK18 club—Roxy kids 18 and over—which will dedicate itself to offering more mature roles for participating students.

“No matter how old you are, you’re still a Roxy kid,” said Ana Andreu, programs director and alumna. “When we first opened our cast were a lot younger, this is our first big cast of older students so we wanted to provide more opportunities. This was an opportunity to do something more controversial and cutting edge.”

Aside from the notable music, “The Wild Party” also counts with a wide range of characters each adding their own spark to the story.

“There’s a good array of characters: a lesbian, two brothers who may or may not be involved

THE WILD PARTY

December 7 & 8	December 9	December 14	December 15
• When: 8 p.m.	• When: 7 p.m.	• When: 8 p.m.	• When: 7 p.m. & Midnight
Where: Roxy Performing Arts Center			

Have IDs present as the show is for 18 years and up because of mature content unless accompanied by a parent. For more information call 305-226-0030.

in a relationship, a scarlet, a clown, a producer, etc.,” said Charles Sothers, alumnus and one of the directors of the production along with Ricky J. Martinez, the artistic director of New Theatre. “Through the party, the audience starts to meet these people and see how each of these characters deal with emotional, physical and even substance abuse.”

One of the youngest characters in the play, Nadine, played by Alexandra Alvarez Builla, a freshman, exploratory major, represents the groupie in the situation who manages to sneak into the party but takes a while to warm up to the situations she

encounters.

“No one knows my age in the actual play,” Builla said. “She’s just awe struck and is there to have fun and live the life of the older people. I love to laugh and easily entertained so it was about drawing from the playful that’s already there and exceeding what we can do.”

For Gonzalez, the preparation for his character included avoiding as much as possible seeing any incarnations of his character. “This is the first time I’ve played someone who is an evil maniac so full of himself. I’m very serious when I get into character during rehearsal so I hope I didn’t offend anyone even

though they know it’s rehearsal.”

Patrick Rodriguez, a junior performance major, who plays Eddie, a hothead fighter, sees his character as the foil to the main character, Burrs and has been working on developing his voice and movements. “It’s one of my favorite shows so it’s been a good experience. Everyone involved in musical theater has heard at least one song or two.”

“Eddie can represent what’s great about the show, there’s a great balance,” said Sothers. “It’s been a good collaboration because we have people who sing, act and dance really well.”

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CALENDAR

FALL 2012 EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28

MOVIE SOCIAL

WHEN: 12-2 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: BBC AHC2-655

WIND AND PERCUSSION ARTS SERIES

WHEN: 7:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5-\$15

WHERE: MMC WPAC

RESUME WRITING WORKSHOP

WHEN: 3-4 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: Engineering Campus EC 2852

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION SESSION

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: BBC WUC 363

INTERVIEWING SKILLS WORKSHOP

WHEN: 12-1 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: BBC WUC 255

SGA BBC SENATE MEETING

WHEN: 3:30-5 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: BBC WUC 221

THURSDAY, NOV. 29

NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAY

WHEN: 9 a.m.-12:20 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: MMC Nature Preserve

FESTIVAL OF THE TREES

WHEN: 6:30-9:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: Coral Gables Art Museum

WRITERS ON THE BAY READING SERIES WITH JOHN MCNALLY

WHEN: 8-9:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: BBC Bookstore

SCHOOL OF MUSIC DEPARTMENTAL RECITAL #2

WHEN: 3:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5-\$15

WHERE: MMC WPAC

FIU WOMEN’S BASKETBALL VS ARKANSAS STATE

WHEN: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

HOW MUCH: FREE

WHERE: MMC

THE FIU SYMPHONY

WHEN: 7:30-9 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5-\$15

WHERE: MMC WPAC

To have your event featured, email us at calendar@fiusm.com

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



ALFONSO YEC/THE BEACON

Students Sophia Louis Ridore, Rhode Labranche and Rodlyne Estinor [left to right] attend a Thanksgiving Luncheon held by FIU’s Black Student Union and Office of Multicultural Programs and Services.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

FIU splits weekend tournament with Iowa and LSU

RUBEN PALACIOS
Staff Writer

After struggling on the road against Western Kentucky, the Panthers were hoping for some home cooking over the Thanksgiving holiday. They got just that when junior guard Jerica Coley hit a buzzer beating lay up to stun the Iowa Hawkeyes on Nov. 23, for a 66-65 win.

However, they failed to carry the momentum two days later in the championship game against Louisiana State University, losing 76-69 in the 18th Annual Thanksgiving Classic.

The loss dropped the Panthers to a record of 2-3 (0-1 SBC) on the year. LSU improved to a 3-2 (0-0 SEC) record.

Despite the loss to the Tigers, the Panthers were impressive throughout the Classic. The highlight of the tournament was their stunning upset of the Hawkeyes in their opening game of the tourney.

Before the Panthers could upset the Hawkeyes, though, there were some growing pains that had to be surpassed. Less than two minutes into the game, Head Coach Cindy Russo, benched All-American Jerica

Coley.

"Jerica was just forcing things again. She wasn't focused. She was sloppy and careless," Russo said. "And I said next time she acts like that, I'm just going to sit her down and let her refocus and let her know that we can play without her, but not really, maybe just for two minutes or so."

In the end, Coley's heroics lifted the team to a win against a team that received five top 25 votes in the AP poll.

With 18 seconds to play in the second half and her team down by four, Coley hit a pull-up three point jump shot to cut the lead to one.

The Panthers were forced to foul Claire Till and send her to the free throw line for two shots. Till missed her first free throw and shortly miss the second as well.

Sophomore Kamika Idom rebounded the miss with eight seconds to go in the game, she then found Coley, who drove the length of the floor to put up a well-contested layup that swished in as the final buzzer rang for the win.

For the first time all season, the arena erupted with loud



JASEN DELGADO/BEACON FILE PHOTO

Jerica Coley (left) capped off the first game of the Thanksgiving Classic with a buzzer beating lay up against the University of Iowa 66-65 on Nov. 23 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Coley scored a season-high 31 points and also pulled down six rebounds in the win.

screams and cheers. The referees had to review the play from a monitor courtside to confirm that the shot was good. After they gave the thumbs up, the crowd, along with the players,

jumped up and screamed at the top of their lungs.

Coley finished with a season-high 31 points on 11 of 28 shooting. She was three of nine from behind the three point arc,

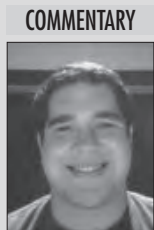
and corralled six rebounds and dished out four assists. With that stellar performance, Coley moved into eighth place on

SEE WOMEN'S BBALL, PAGE 7

FOOTBALL

Team has plenty on the horizon following down season

And just like that, the season is over. FIU football made its unofficial exit out of the Sun Belt conference with a snivel instead of a snicker after a 3-9 finish to a season where they were picked to repeat as conference champions.



LUIS G. GUTIERREZ

Speaking of which, it's funny how the last contest unraveled. With a seemingly comfortable seven-point lead, it was only FIU's game to win. Senior Night, the last game of the season, the last Sun Belt game ever, the miraculous touchdown that tied the game, it seemed as if Cinderella had arrived to the ball.

But, just like the other eight games they lost, the shoe would not fit. After two prompt first downs, the Panthers were pushed out of the red zone on back-to-back plays to the opposing 24 yard-line. Kicker Jack Griffin's ensuing 41-yard field goal attempt was blocked and three plays later, Browning connected with his receiver Brent Leonard for a 15-yard touchdown, handing the Warhawks the ballgame.

Once again, the Panthers succumbed to the expectations. Despite the strong effort, FIU could not capitalize on a golden opportunity, similar to how the rest of the season has played out. Picked to finish first atop the conference rankings in the preseason by Sun Belt coaches, they ultimately finished second-to-last with a 3-9 (2-6 SBC) record, only one game better than conference newcomer South



JASEN DELGAFO/THE BEACON

Despite the 3-9 season, the Panthers have much to look forward to including freshman quarterback E.J. Hilliard returning and competing with sophomore Jake Medlock for the starting job.

Alabama.

The pieces were in place to leave with a bang. Now, the only questions in the way of the shift to Conference USA, the most essential one, were just how ready was this young football program for a promotion?

However, with conference realignment already in full play, now is worst possible time to stop, hesitate, and look back to what went wrong. The only option is to move

forward, which means throwing a 3-9 disappointment of a season on the backburner. FIU football needs to do what it has done for the last decade, stemming back to all the wins and losses that have come their way after a 27-3 win over St. Peter's college on Aug. 29, 2002. It's time for the Panthers to put all the baggage behind them and churn ahead.

In fact, the Panthers may have the players in place to ease the transition to Conference

USA. Jake Medlock returns as a redshirt junior next season after throwing for a formidable 2,127 yards, to go along with 13 touchdowns and just two interceptions in his first year as FIU's starting quarterback. Hilliard, who stepped in for Medlock on spot occasions throughout, will bring backup experience into next year, an asset FIU did not have heading into this past season. Former prized recruit and Louisiana State University signee Jakhari Gore will make his debut in 2013, much needed with the departures of Darian Mallary, and Jeremiah Harden from the backfield. Willis Wright, who came onto the scene late for the Panthers with three straight 100-yard games, the first in program history, is expected to return for his senior campaign alongside freshman Deandre Jasper, who showed flashes of pure speed at times throughout and Nick England, who saw substantial playing time at the slot.

FIU will have to fill its fair share of voids to fill as all seven preseason Sun-Belt conference players graduate, including Jonathan Cyprien, Tourek Williams, Winston Fraser, Caylin Hauptmann, and Rupert Bryan. Head Coach Mario Cristobal may wind up receiving offers from other programs this offseason, but FIU needs to move forward with or without his commitment.

The Panthers ended their tenure in the Sun Belt under some of the worst of circumstances. They cannot afford to start their expedition into Conference USA the same way.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dolphins encouraged by resurgent ground game

STEVEN WINE
AP Writer

Reggie Bush's vantage point was from behind. Carrying the ball on a sweep, he happily followed 303-pound pulling center Mike Pouncey, who led the way like a runaway bulldozer.

"I knew it was going to be a big play," Bush said.

It ended in the end zone. The 21-yard touchdown run showed that when the Miami Dolphins get their ground game going, they can be hard to stop.

For the first time since Week 3, the Dolphins topped 100 yards rushing Sunday in their 24-21 victory over Seattle. While Ryan Tannehill led a fourth-quarter comeback and Dan Carpenter kicked the winning field goal on the final play, the resurgent running attack was an unsung hero — and cause for encouragement heading into December.

"All week we talked about getting back to Miami Dolphin football — running the ball well, getting 4 or 5 yards, and the big runs will come," Bush said. "We really talked about controlling the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball."

That they did. Marshawn Lynch, the Seahawks' 1,000-yard rusher, netted only 46 yards in 19 carries for a season-low 2.4 per attempt. Miami outrushed Seattle 189 yards to 96.

That's the sort of differential coach Joe Philbin envisions as a winning formula for the Dolphins. With a rookie quarterback and so-so secondary, he figures the ground game and rushing defense should be Miami's strengths.

"It's important for us to be a good running football team, and a good defend-the-run team," Philbin said.

Running the ball might be mandatory for Miami to keep up

with high-scoring New England on Sunday. The Dolphins (5-6) are unlikely to catch the Patriots (8-3) in the AFC East, but they're only a game out in the race for the conference's final wild-card spot.

"Every game is a playoff game from now on out," linebacker Kevin Burnett said. "Now is the time."

The Dolphins are ready to make a run at it, with a ground game that has become a two-back attack. Bush and Daniel Thomas have been alternating series in recent weeks, and against Seattle the tandem clicked.

Bush, who had just 82 yards in the previous three games, did his best work on the flanks. He made the most of Pouncey's uncommon agility on the touchdown run and finished with 87 yards in 14 carries. Thomas, working mostly between the tackles, added 60 in nine carries.

Combined they averaged 6.4

yards per carry.

"We definitely wanted to set a tone," Thomas said. "We haven't been running the ball too well lately."

The Dolphins' ground attack was potent at the start of the season but then stalled, a major reason they took a three-game losing streak into the Seahawks game.

Blocking was much improved Sunday, and the backs were tough to bring down, Philbin said after reviewing videotape of the game.

"Everybody offensively should take a look at this tape and see what we're capable of doing," he said. "We haven't been doing that consistently enough, clearly. The other tapes we've showed would tell you that. We just need to continue."

The same goes for a run defense that led the NFL a month into the season, then allowed the next five opponents to average

132 yards per game.

"Some people may have felt we were slipping a little bit," defensive end Jared Odrick said, "and we were."

Seattle netted only 96 yards rushing, including 38 by Russell Wilson on quarterback scrambles.

Even so, Philbin said, there's room for improvement across the board — the spin expected from a coach about to face Tom Brady and the Patriots. Against a team averaging an NFL-best 37 points per game, Miami will need stingy run defense, a clock-eating ground game and more.

"We've got an excellent team coming to town," Philbin said. "We're going to have to play our best game of the year to win. We're going to have to improve. We're not inventing a brand new offense, defense or special teams to win this game. We have to get better from within, and we've got to do it quickly."

CLUB SPORTS

Badminton club at FIU exploding with interest

STEVEN ROWELL
Contributing Writer

One of the fastest growing clubs in FIU is also one of the least-known.

With currently 49 members, FIU badminton is seeing more and more people joining each week, according to club president Quinghao He.

"So far we have a lot of people and it's growing real fast," she said. "Almost every week we have like two or three more people that join."

According to He, all students are welcome.

Once a member, players attend weekly meetings on Sundays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the FIU Recreation Center at the Biscayne Bay

Campus. For four hours, the basketball courts belong to the badminton club, where the members play in pickup games, usually playing two on two.

"We have so many members, so we usually play in doubles. We do that especially since we have three nets up for every time we meet and it gives everyone a chance to play," said He.

Don't question the competitiveness of the club members, either. According to He, there are players who play for the fun, but also skilled players who take the game seriously.

Besides the weekly meetings, the club holds an annual competition in January. It is a competition between all the members in the club. In last

year's competition, the players have a men's doubles tournament and a men's singles tournament. Then they also had a

have a lot more participants because of the club's doubling in size since last year.

He, who was appointed

Before becoming president, He was a regular of the club, showing up and playing every meeting. Now, as president,

schools and compete against their badminton clubs.

"It would be nice to compete with badminton clubs from schools like UF, and FSU too," He said. "I think it will be great. It will make it more competitive and more fun, and we can play against new people."

Becoming a member of the group requires minimal paperwork that you can get by contacting He.

The badminton club is clearly on the rise with an increase of membership each week, and with He trying to expand competition outside of FIU, it looks like a bright future ahead for the badminton club.

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Quinghao He
President
Badminton Club

mixed co-ed doubles, and a women's single tournament. He expects the competition to

president of the club recently, is working alongside the club advisor, Xiaotang Wang.

one thing she wants to do is expand the competition. She would like to include other

22 turnovers cost Panthers a win against LSU

WOMEN'S BBALL, PAGE 6

the FIU all-time scoring list with 1,366 points.

But was this performance her best ever while at FIU?

"Maybe, I guess," Coley said. "Maybe, because it was a game winner, but, I mean, as long as we won it was a good game."

Coley received a lot of help in taking down Iowa. Most of that help came from senior Finda Mansare, who scored 17 points on seven of 14 shooting.

She also snatched down eight rebounds, five of which were on the offensive glass.

"The team came together and we made a decision as a team that we can't let any more teams beat us like Florida Gulf Coast did. We learned from our mistakes," Mansare said. "It was a team effort, everybody contributed. Whoever

stepped on the court contributed, even those on the bench they cheered us on and that helped a lot."

"We are really emphasizing focus, discipline and concentration. If we are disciplined and concentrated then we are going to win games," Russo said. "I thought they were beatable and we prepared them well. We were much more disciplined and focused."

The championship game against LSU can be summed up in one word: sloppy.

The Panthers committed 22 turnovers in the game, something quickly becoming this team's Achilles heel. Coley accounted for seven turnovers; senior Carmen Miloglav also committed seven turnovers.

"We just have to focus more and be ready. We really wanted to win this tournament. If we can just keep on this course we will be good," Coley said. "We just have to hype ourselves up before every

game."

Following the game, Coley and Mansare were named to the FIU Thanksgiving Classic All-Tournament Team.

LSU's Theresa Plaisance took home MVP honors.

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WANT TO BE A WRITER FOR THE SPORTS SECTION?

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HIV: 1 in 5 unaware of their infection

KATHERINE LEPRI
Staff Writer

Every nine and a half minutes, a person in the United States is infected with HIV and one in five Americans living with HIV is unaware of their infection, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Experts argue that while major developments have been made in the fight against the spread of HIV, it is still crucially important to arm newer generations with the best method to prevent infection: knowledge.

“It always shocks me, semester after semester. I think it should be in the classroom, junior high school, high school. I think they have to ramp up public education,” said Allan Richards, associate dean for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication who has studied the HIV epidemic since the 1990s.

To bring HIV awareness and education to Biscayne Bay Campus and commemorate World AIDS Day, Campus life will host the “Does HIV look like me?” event on Friday, Nov. 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Panther Square. The event is sponsored by the Student

Government Council at BBC.

“This is a global initiative to make the students more aware of preventative measures and to hear the story of someone who is infected,” said Andres Bermeo, marketing coordinator for the Office of Campus Life.

Todd Murray, who was diagnosed HIV positive in 2001, is the speaker of the event.

He is the president and founder of Hope’s Voice, an organization that arranges events on college campuses about topics that are relevant and often misunderstood, such as LGBT discrimination and expectations of beauty put on by the media.

Miami-Dade county has the highest numbers of people living with HIV/AIDS in the state, according to 2009 statistics by the Florida Department of Health.

Since June 1981, when the first AIDS cases were reported in the U.S., 1.7 million people were estimated to have been infected with HIV, including over 619,000 who have already died and 1.2 million who were living with the HIV infection at the end of 2008.

Nearly 70 percent of all people with HIV/AIDS are Latino and African-Americans

DECK THE HALLS OF BBC



ANDRES BEDOYA/THE BEACON

Campus Life at Biscayne Bay Campus hosted a relaxing holiday fest inside of the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square for Release Week. KaZual, an a cappella group, sang a variety of songs to students as they enjoyed the free holiday lunch and giveaways. KaZual has opened for several artists such as Ginuwine and Nelly. Release Week will be from Nov. 26 to Nov. 30.

— which constitutes a large part of the Miami-Dade and, similarly, the FIU community.

Free HIV testing is available to students at the BBC Wellness Center every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

“A lot of the diseases are being transmitted in minorities who are not being exposed to the information,” said Richards, who produced a two-part documentary on the topic. “There are cultural biases, religious

issues. It carries a stigma so that people don’t necessarily want to talk about it in their religious settings and in the home; there is a lot of shame.”

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WOLFE UNIVERSITY CENTER

No authority, no order: WUC game room struggles

GENE YLLANES
Contributing Writer

The game room on the second floor of the Wolfe University Center has a ping-pong table, televisions and video games, but some people seem to see it as a fighting ring, a dumpster and a football field.

The game room was opened in the spring 2012 semester, transformed from office space into an area for students to unwind, but not all of them find the place peaceful.

“I get nothing done here,” said Shumi Mishali, a sophomore doing a double-major with philosophy and political science. “But it’s great to have it when I am out of class.”

Jean Edmond said the game room is okay.

“Most of the times [the room] is used appropriately, but sometimes it gets out of hand. People get rowdy... nothing physical, but just loud,” Edmond said.

Kervin Emmanuel, a sophomore majoring in psychology, used to take naps in the room, but lately he can’t do it anymore.

“There is trash all around, food left everywhere, and I see people sitting on the [ping-pong] table all the time. It’s out of hand,” Emmanuel said.

The room has been open up for one semester, but the damaged materials are growing: the wooden shades, a gamecube controller, numerous ping-pong paddles,



27 ping-pong balls, the ping-pong table and its net.

Juan Herrera, student assistant in the WUC printing lab where students check out games, said he knows the root of the problem.

“There is no penalization at all. If something breaks, no worry, nothing happens,” Herrera said.

He thinks the dual-enrolled high schoolers are responsible for most of the broken equipment.

Swim students from Alonzo & Tracy Mourning Senior High school have used the room for wrestling.

Morais Brown, freshman studying biology, doesn’t mind the high schoolers in the room.

“I have no problem with the high schoolers; most of them are okay,” Brown said.

Herrera said recklessness comes from University students too.

“They feel it’s okay to toss a football in there, right next to a big-screen TV,” he said. “There is no form of authority.”

That is about to change, according to Zach Trautenberg, IT and marketing coordinator for the Division of Student Affairs. He agrees that the room needs

authority.

“[The room] is heavily utilized, and in order to keep it fun, we need to have someone there,” Trautenberg said. “We will be implementing a staff at all hours the room is open.”

With these changes down the line, students can expect some order.

“We are looking into new controllers, new games. Once we have more stability, we will survey the students to find out what’s best for the students then, and get them what they need,” Trautenberg said.

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PHOTO BY BARBARA CORBELLINI DUARTE/THE BEACON

Damages to the the game room in the second floor of the Wolfe University Center at Biscayne Bay Campus include a broken ping-pong table, missing ping-pong balls and garbage on the floor.