Hurricane Frances splashes out season opener

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

The exhaustion was felt by Jamarcus Green who commented on the depressing aspect of the cancellation.

“That took a lot out of me,” said offensive lineman Green. “It was depressing that we couldn’t play.”

For many players, this was their first time through a hurricane and did not Frances as a serious threat to Miami.

“When I first heard of Frances I didn’t take it seriously. It didn’t hit me till football players started leaving to take care of their families,” said Green who stayed in the Towers.

Many players decided to stay on the university campus but took the time to visit family and go home.

“The team has a lot of Miami players, so pretty much everyone went home,” said Silva. “The people who live up north in Tallahassee and all those places, went home for a little while.”

For many fans, the canceled game left the desire for live-action football.

“I was hoping the game would not be canceled because my friends and I were all planning to go and support the football team,” said sophomore Christine Cruzan. “We had all gotten the days off from work in order to go.”

A big crowd was expected because the game was the first the FIU Golden Panthers would have played under the transition to Division I-A football, where a 15,000 home average requirement is needed.

“I am a big football fan and I was going to attend the game to support the team. I had not gone to games in the past but with Division I hopes, I was looking forward to it,” said sophomore Mikel Ubistondo.

The game has yet to be rescheduled according to football SID Rich Kelch who is doubtful the Golden Panthers will face the Dolphins this season. The next game is scheduled for Saturday against Youngstown at Ohio and the next home will take place on Sept. 25 against Western Kentucky.

Method Man and Redman will perform after the game as FIU honors fans with Fan Appreciation Day.

Fans wishing to attend must arrive to the game prior to the fourth quarter. Fans arriving later will not be allowed to come in.
Smith returns strong from tendon injury

By NATALIE SABIA
Staff Writer

He rushes down the field protecting the football that he holds tightly to his body while passing defenders as they latch out towards him. He looks up ahead in hopes to see the end zone near; this year, look for him to be there, look out for running back Rashod Smith.

This season, it will be his No. 4 jersey sprinting down the field, celebrating his rushing yards, along with touchdowns. Standing at 5-feet 8-inches and carrying 188 pounds of muscle, Smith is ready for his comeback; the question is, are opponents ready for him?

Recovering from an injury last year, after slicing a tendon in his foot from a run in with a piece of glass, Smith was ready for him? For the field after an injury that was more serious than initially thought.

"I stepped on glass in the cafeteria, but I didn’t know it was there," said Smith. "I’m good now," said Smith, "I just want to help my team." Smith was limited to only six games last season and finished with 278 rushing yards, third best on the team.

"I’ve watched Smith throughout the season, Smith continued to get healthy in hopes for another try. "I tried to get back and play, but I couldn’t run," said Smith who had gained over 1,000 yards on 194 carries, before his injury while averaging 5.5 yards per run.

During his freshman year at Bryant College in Rhode Island, Smith was already a talented player, who rapidly became a glimmer in people’s eyes. He averaged more than 60 yards in his first two games of the year, but after breaking a toe he was unable to return. Despite a frustrating season, Smith headed home to Miami for a fresh start.

"I wanted to get back home to keep playing, especially for a new program like FIU had to offer," said Smith.

The Sports Management major, who has no stranger to the Dean’s List, came to FIU as a sophomore and was non-other than Golden Panther football.

Rashod Smith rushes two defenders during a controlled scrimmage at The Cage. Smith is ready for his comeback; carrying 188 pounds of muscle, he is anxious awaiting his return from a run in with a piece of glass. The Cage is Radio Golden Panther, as Smith is trying to push the most, "I am looking forward to those games because we will be in a real press box," said Cordero.

Securing a storyline that will go along with each game is their most difficult job. Whether it may be a particular threat that the opposing team will pose or maybe an interesting story that involves a player, both the announcer and analyst must create their storytelling voices fast enough so they don’t get behind the action, but yet still entertain their crowd.

"Trying to work in a storyline is the most difficult," said Bendayan. Among the sports announcers, who are all very much sports nuts, they all go through a lot of preparation before announcing a game.

"It’s not an easy job to just become an announcer," said Bendayan.

"It is a tremendous help to alternate games," said Bendayan.

Considering that WRGP is strictly a “volunteer” radio station, securing employees who will commit, while developing an on-air chemistry with the staff is the station’s main focus. For most of the announcer’s, including senior journalism major Messod, it is really the experience that plays into hand.

"At the end, it is all worth it," said Bendayan. Along with the other broadcast majors, also for senior Andres, announcing games is an opportunity of a lifetime.

"I have been a sports fan my whole life and I wanted to get some broad- casting under my belt," said Cordero.

Despite which crew announces the games, you can be sure that the people behind it all work through long hours of dedication to keep the sports spirit alive in each of their listening fans.

The next broadcast will be on Sept. 25, for football’s home game against Western Kentucky.

Student radio broadcasts football

By NATALIE SABIA
Staff Writer

Tucked away in FIU’s press box during the Golden Panther Football games are not only the voices that shout out every detail that fans are already saying in their heads, but they are also the voices that blissfully bring us up to speed of the most crucial things that are happening down on the field.

Among the announcers and analysts whom we listen to are Sports Director Andres Cordero, Messod Bendayan, Will Schanze and Harry Coleman. These men are the faces behind the microphones during the most thrilling sports events at FIU, who bring their fans the most desired sports information by the second.

"I really enjoy calling the games," said Bendayan, "I am a huge sports nut."

Despite the small space they have to work with in the press box, both the play-by-play announcers and game analysts sit anxiously in their seats to broadcast games.

By dividing the staff in two different crews, they are able to broadcast each football game, including those games away.

"Football is the only sport that we travel for, because it’s the sport FIU is trying to push the most," said Cordero. Along with the twelve football games coming up this fall, WRGP is Radio Golden Panther, the sports staff is already gears in gear for an exciting upcoming football season.

On top of their game list are the games that will be played in the Orange Bowl, against FAU, and in Pro Player Stadium, versus FAU.

"I am looking forward to those games because we will be in a real press box," said Cordero.

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The next broadcast will be on Sept. 25, for football’s home game against Western Kentucky.
Hurricane Frances, the second major storm to affect South Florida in less than a month, brought the FIU community to a halt on Sept. 2 as predictions of menacing floods and heavy gusts of wind permeated the air.

While the supposed Category 4 storm slowly approached, offices and buildings at the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses closed early in preparation for the event. "We put bags on the computers and took everything off the floor. We always expect flooding in [Primera Casa]," Shawnda Mair, program assistant at the Registration office, said.

As preparations continued, students at UP found themselves in long lines as they attempted to make those last minute payments and registration changes. "The window has been very busy," Mair said. "Students came to do everything before the hurricane."

Lines also stretched around the Academic One building at the BBC campus as students waited in anticipation for the hurricane and attempted to beat the Sept. 4 payment deadline, which has now been extended until Sept. 11.

While crowded lines and early closing of offices sent many scurrying all over BBC, Bay Vista housing residents on the same campus faced the problem of evacuation. Some of the students drove to UP and others were bussed to Panther Hall from the northern campus at the onset of the hurricane on Sept. 2.

All 38 students and staff members took up residence in student lounges in Panther Hall and later throughout lounges in Everglades Hall.

"When they said we’d be leaving BBC, I had no idea we’d be evacuating so early," said senior and Bay Vista housing resident Jennifer Ngo. "If anything, I’ll have a story to tell when I get back to my college," added the exchange student from Mesa State College in Colorado.

According to the executive director of Student Affairs, Auxiliaries and Operations James Wassenaar, students were evacuated from BBC due to a mandatory evacuation order issued by the county.

The saga for BBC housing students continued as they arrived at UP and found themselves in a frenzy of students scattering around trying to find food and a more comfortable place to stay off-campus before having to take up possible shelter in PC.

"I am [at the cafeteria] to get one last good meal before I have to go to the shelter. They said they would make us go soon," said sophomore and Towers resident Kristin Quigley. "We want to get a spot before the community comes over," she added referring to the 550 spots available if Monroe County residents evacuated and sought shelter at FIU, their appointed shelter during major storms or hurricanes.

Whereas UP housing students worried about food and a possible evacuation, BBC housing students were in the thick of their own storm.

Throughout the three days they spent living in Panther Hall and Everglades Hall, BBC students slept on mattresses in student lounges, used the showers at the Golden Panther Arena, and ate what free food the cafeteria was able to prepare under the intense circumstances.

"I enjoyed the free cafeteria meals," said Ngo, who later added that the circumstances were not ideal.

As BBC students worried about evacuating, UP housing students were urged to buy food and gather supplies in preparation for the hurricane.

"I went grocery shopping and bought water, bread and cheese," said sophomore and UP Towers resident Reena Ramnarine. "I’m from Trinidad so we barely ever see a hurricane, this is all new to me."

A few creative students had other priorities in mind as Frances approached land.

[For preparations] I waxed my surfboard and I bought a bunch of beer. I figured everybody else would get water so I can barter for water. My beer is worth more than water," said junior and Panther Hall resident Bill Buckanan.

Some just simply went without preparing. "I didn’t buy specific food or anything… I just kept whatever I thought I’d be good with," said freshman Bryan Fox. "What we’ve been eating [at the cafeteria] wasn’t the best but… they are doing the best they can do with what they got," added Fox referring to the free pizza and hamburgers given at the cafeteria.

In stark contrast to the many students at the University Park Apartments and in the FIJI house who weathered the storm unaware of the food being provided to other housing students at the same campus. Further adding to the scuttle for food and comfort, housing students were also

See FRANCES, page 7
Hurricane Ivan hits eastern Caribbean

Hurricane Ivan, following the course taken by what has now become tropical depression Frances, moved over Barbados and the eastern Caribbean on Sept. 7. With winds of 195 kilometers per hour, the storm is expected to strengthen by the end of the week, becoming what forecasters have predicted to be “a very dangerous hurricane.”

Long-term forecasts of the hurricane’s track, though containing a wide margin of error, have placed the storm as striking Jamaica on Sept. 10, then Cuba on Sept. 11. Several governments have already issued warnings and marked evacuation plans for their countries, including Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles. Though the further track of the hurricane has still to be plotted, it is assumed that Ivan will come to close proximities with Florida over the weekend of Sept. 12. Whether it will make landfall or not is still disputed.

INTERNATIONAL

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Students find ways to escape hurricane doldrums

By C. JOEL MARINO  News Editor

Expecting rough winds and massive rains, stu-
dents around FIU sought shelter last week either on or off campus, hoping to avoid what seemed like the imminent arrival of their category 4 hurricane Frances.

On campus, resident students remained in their dorms, the thick windows and walls keeping the noises of the eventual storm out; off campus, left many the smell of their “hurri-
cane party” grills behind, finding themselves inside shuttered houses, a few family and friends their only companions. Whatever shelter route taken, many students would agree that in an attempt to escape from the arms of the storm, there was one calamity that couldn’t be escaped — boredom.

Mike Calero, a sopho-
more who decided to stay in Panther Hall during the few days of Frances, believed that, despite efforts from the students to keep them-

selves entertained, the feeling described as “cabin fever” could not be quickly ignored.

“We played ping-pong, pool, volleyball, a whole bunch of board games, soccer in the hallways for a really short time because it’s not allowed by the residence halls,” said Calero.

Ramon Alatorre, a freshman also living in Panther Hall, took a differ-
ent stance on the policy.

“Honestly, I didn’t care much about the lockdown. I wasn’t getting out any-
ways, only going to the cafeteria and back. I really wasn’t planning on hang-
ing out in the weather, so when they put us under house-arrest, it seemed normal to me.”

If anything, students agree that it was the soli-
darity they found among neighbors while grounded in their dorms that afforded them the most entertain-
ment.

“From what I saw, the few people left in the dorms were getting along,” said Alatorre. “We talked about how bored we were and did things to keep occupied, but I think the mood was pretty much high spirited.”

On the other side of the building, the 10 out of 30 residents of FIJI house who decided to remain throughout the hurricane found their own means of entertainment.

“During the weekend, the weather wasn’t that bad. We walked around sometimes looking for some place that was opened so we could eat, and the only thing we found was the Latin American Cafe-
teria on 107th street,” said Aaron Anderson, junior, who has been living in the FIJI fraternity house for three years.

Besides searching for adventure and food, the fraternity members vol-
teered their services to the FIJI house as a non-
member resident.

“But when I was there, there wasn’t much to do— sleep, eat, watch the Dol-
phins’ game, see movies, but mostly sleep. Yeah, there was just a lot of sleep.

Actually, there was just way too much sleep.”

Sleep, games, and just the presence of another soul — for some, with the hurricane like a lullaby pushing against shutters or storm-proofed windows, it was these things that eventually became the most sought after and appreci-
ated survival kit during the wait through that slow-

-looking hurricane.  

Looking for an Opportunity to Make a Difference?
CIA’s Directorate of Intelligence will be interviewing candidates for Analyst Positions.

Representatives from CIA’s analytical arm, the Directorate of Intelligence, will be interviewing for analyst positions in Miami during the week of October 25th. Analysts work on the forefront of protecting national security and evaluating how rapidly changing international developments will impact US interests at home and abroad. They use information from classified and unclassified sources from around the world to develop and provide the reliable intelligence that is essential for US policymakers to make informed decisions. The CIA is hiring for the following positions:

• Analytic Methodologist
• Counterintelligence
• Economic, Political Leadership
• Psychological/Paranormal Analyst
• Collection Analyst
• Science, Technology and
• Weapons Analyst
• Counterterrorism Analyst
• Crime and Counterterrorism Analyst

Candidates must have at least a bachelor’s degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 Language skills, previous foreign area research or travel, and relevant work experience are plus.

Candidates must successfully complete a medical examination, polygraph interview, and an extensive background investigation. All positions require US citizenship and relocation to the Washington, DC area.

The CIA is America’s premier intelligence agency and we are committed to building and maintaining a work force as diverse as the nation we serve. For additional information, and to apply online, please visit www.cia.gov. Successful applicants who have submitted their resume by September 24th will be contacted to attend an information session and arrange a local area interview.

An equal opportunity employer and a drug-free work force.

The work of a nation.
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Examine the Possibilities.

Stand at the center of scientific and technological progress at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, securing exclusive rights for inventors over their discoveries worldwide. The United States Patent and Trademark Office continues to experience significant growth in the filing of patent applications, which translates into new opportunities for engineers and scientists to become Patent Examiners. Visit us at our Career Fair Information Session to learn more about how your engineering skills can help keep American ingenuity on the cutting edge.

Patent Examiners

As a Patent Examiner, you will analyze patent applications using your specialized engineering knowledge and technical research skills to evaluate concepts and designs. Your responsibilities will involve determining the acceptability of patent protection, while meeting weekly performance goals. You must possess a BS or advanced degree in engineering or science, technical competence in the area for which you are hired, and strong oral and written communications skills to be successful.

CAREER FAIR INFORMATION SESSION

Location: Engineering Center, Room 2300
Date: September 27
Time: 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

Examine your career possibilities. Our excellent benefits include enhanced federal salary rates, flextime schedules, paid overtime, health coverage, vacation and sick leave, and more. Visit www.USPTOcareers.com to learn more about our exciting opportunities. US citizenship is required. Equal Opportunity Employer.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE:

As housing administrators and resident assistants warned of the incoming threat of hurricane Frances, students living on campus scrambled to stock up on such basic supplies as drinking water. C. Joel Marino/The Beacon
FRANCES, from page 3

urged by resident assistants to close all windows and blinds, cover valuable items with plastic and store items off the floor to avoid water damage.

“I packed up all my electronics and my shoes. I used plastic bags and tapes and put everything in high places. I put the mattress and put everything in plastic bags and tapes electronics and my shoes. I was better to leave than to stay. I informed students that it was better to leave than to stay. I evacuated on Sept. 2. Given until late night to evacuate. Some students were told to evacuate immediately. Many students were never told to evacuate. Resident in housing. Despite the efforts of the housing staff, some of the given information sent mixed signals and left many students bewildered.

“I spoke to students to see who was staying. We encouraged them to go home so it’s not chaos if we have to evacuate. Many students went with friends to their parents’ homes or left to be with their families,” said Towers’ resident assistant Shannon Hanson.

However, despite all the preparations, police officers patrolling Panther Hall and the supposed lockdown, none of the evacuation plans were ever set into motion. Wassenaar, who was not available for comment until Sept. 6, responded to the rumors of temporary lockdown by stating that students were never told they had to stay in Panther Hall. He also commented that the precautions and warnings were simply safety measures.

Some students agreeded with Wassenaar and said they appreciated the security measures and felt safe staying in housing.

“I think the administration was pretty good about the whole thing. Panther Hall seemed to be evacuated to PC. Many students went with friends to their parents’ homes so it’s not chaos if we have to evacuate. Many students went with friends to their parents’ homes or left to be with their families,” said Towers’ resident assistant Shannon Hanson.

Despite the impending threat of Frances and the stress of a slow-moving storm, many students took solace in simpler activities.

“We did a lot of stuff together. We played board games, people came over and we watched TV and movies. I played PlayStation when I wasn’t doing anything else,” Fox said.

Others found the evacuation procedures bewildering but appreciated the efforts of housing staff.

“I think the administration was pretty good about the whole thing. Panther Hall seemed to be evacuated to PC. Many students went with friends to their parents’ homes or left to be with their families,” said sophomore Andres Camacho.

Anders Woychick—a childhood friend of Pernsteiner’s—said it was financially saved by Washington Mutual’s Free Checking Deluxe—thought his childhood friend needed to get his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com.

“Until Andy decides to get Free Checking—what his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com. Then he, too, could sign up for Free Checking—an account with services like free online bill pay. “Until Andy decides to get Free Checking,” said Woychick, “I’m never eating out with him again. I’m pretty sure I won’t return his phone calls either. I might even change my name.”

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College student tries to return uneaten food for partial refund

By POLLY BROWN

Checking his dignity at the cash register, college student Andy Pernsteiner recently presented a local diner cashier with a plate of picked-over food, demanding money for the vittles he didn’t ingest. The cashier—who wishes to remain anonymous—was flabbergasted by the whole incident. “It was both sick and sad at the same time,” she said. Pernsteiner had a different take: “I didn’t eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?” Pete Woychick—a childhood friend of Pernsteiner’s—said it was monthly fees tacked on to his friend’s checking account that drove him to the shameless act. “Andy has been pounded for months by fees on his checking account. He’s pathetic. I never really liked him when we were kids either.” Woychick—who says he personally was financially saved by Washington Mutual’s Free Checking Deluxe—thought his childhood friend needed to get his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com.

“I didn’t eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?”

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EDITORIAL

In moments of crisis, one of the first things we are forced to sacrifice are our basic rights, guaranteed by the amendments. Only in the most exceptional of situations is such action understandable but in the sheer chaos last weekend, when FIU closed because of Hurricane Frances’ impending arrival, our rights as journalists were unabashedly overlooked.

It’s difficult to think that at FIU the first amendment is taken for granted (to refresh your memory, the first amendment guarantees freedom of the press). Last weekend, the red tape of bureaucracy was woven so thick that this freedom seemed like a dream.

While trying to report on the hurricane and tell the story of thousands of students living on campus, The Beacon encountered more hesitation than Frances had as she slowly made her way towards Florida. Trying to interview anybody important was nearly impossible.

During the storm, speaking to the administration seemed out of the question and resident assistants were given orders to remain tight-lipped by the resident life coordinator. Although we were able to speak with administration after the storm, it was too little too late.

We understand this is not a direct violation of our first amendment rights and we are grateful to be able to publish this opinion. Furthermore, we were ultimately able to work around the problem through other resources. What really concerns us is the lack of cooperation for such an important matter.

Had the situation been different and the big story involved, we would have received the same treatment as any other major newspaper. Because of Hurricane Frances’ impending arrival, our rights as journalists were unabashedly overlooked.

For example, providing coverage for some sort of housing event or special program, the doors of information would have welcomed The Beacon warmly.

If we are expected to serve our purpose as journalists and produce a quality newspaper that is honest and recognizable for its exceptional work, we cannot be taken so lightly. We expect to receive the same treatment as any other major newspaper. The Beacon is by no means a public relations rag; we strive to produce a quality newspaper that is honest and recognizable for its exceptional work.

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To get into the writing strategies class, one must score a 65 or higher. To exit the class, you must take the test again and get at least a 75. Every attempt at the test will cost the student $15.

I have come across a lot of good writers in my three-plus years at FIU and a few of them struggle when it comes to this test. In a time where spell check is the new whiteout, a gerund is the least of my concerns.

Recently an email was sent out to the students in the SJMC indicating that the scores received on the test would last longer than the five-month window it once had. Obviously, the grammar test issue has been somewhat tackled. I think, though, it needs to be further evaluated.

On my exit test for Writing Strategies, I scored an 85. There are two other classes that journalism majors need to take that require a certain grammar test grade. News reporting needs at least an 80 and the choice of either feature writing or news and public affairs reporting calls for a score of 85.

The rule ought to be, if you take the test and get an 85 you qualify for entrance into all of the classes without the need for retesting. It goes without saying that most college students are not rich and the constant inflation in tuition does not help. Must you continue to take $15 out of our pocket? It’s money we could be spending on the high gas prices.

I think my solution is reasonable or at least wave the test fee after exiting Writing Strategies.

Shane Howard
Junior
Journalism Major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grammar test causes pain for SJMC students

I am not one to openly complain about FIU administration but I feel I must at this present time. I am majoring in Journalism and students enrolled in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications must take a test called the grammar test.

To get into the writing strategies class, one must score a 65 or higher. To exit the class, you must take the test again and get at least a 75. Every attempt at the test will cost the student $15.

I have come across a lot of good writers in my three-plus years at FIU and a few of them struggle when it comes to this test. In a time where spell check

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How did you get along with Panthersoft?

• I love it, the new system is incredibly helpful and I have experienced little or no trouble.
  24%

• Although it is convenient and structured nicely, I found it difficult to search for classes. It limits your search options and can be frustrating at times.
  30%

• I couldn’t figure out how to do anything at all, I hate this confusing mess of a software and I miss the old system.
  24%

• What’s a Panthersoft?
  16%

Total participants: 122
Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

Phew! [FIU] RATINGS BOOST!

BY LUIS NIN
SPECIAL THANKS TO KATHLEEN OLIVA

Many South Floridians cast their vote in favor of the hurricane relief as Hurricane Frances slows down and almost completely misses Miami-Dade Country. But, don’t change that hurricane relief is completely unpredictable! It could change course at any time!

It still could come to your house, knock down your door, stab you in the chest, and liquidate your house.

Many Floridians have decided to keep their bottles of water and quality canned foods.

So make sure to stop by Publix and pick up some bottled water and quality canned foods.

Thank you to Publix.
Fearsome Frances: beware of my destructive breeze

By ALCIA BUSTAMANTE
Opinion Editor

In last year's movie "Something's Gotta Give," Jack Nicholson tries to explain his errant behavior as a suitor to Diane Keaton:

"I've never lied to you. I've always told you some version of the truth," he offers, weakly.

But, she protests: "Truth doesn't have versions."

Ah, Diane, wish you were right. But sorry, in love, as many people know, the truth often does have versions. And people choose to believe what they want to believe about what a lover is saying or doing. It's a human foible connected to being in love.

Unfortunately, politics is a lot like this regard, and people act much the same. Best example to date: The different versions of Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry's Vietnam War record.

Another fresh example: two versions about the ability of this country to win the war on terrorism -- both from the mouth of President Bush, one day apart.

It's an election year, and Americans know what that means. Voters have been subjected through advertising and campaign rhetoric to the usual nonissues, side issues, misstatements and outright distortions. Most are some version of the truth, loosely defined.

Whom can voters trust? Who speaks the truth?" And how can voters ever possibly know?

Absent guarantees, it seems most Americans are choosing what to believe based on their personal views of the candidates themselves. Public opinion polls show us to be an already polarized country concerning our choices in the presidential election, and the Republicans haven't even finished their nominating convention yet.

Some say that Kerry asked for a dissection of his war record by making his veteran status part of his resume to serve as president. Yes, the dissection that occurred -- by a GOP-connected veterans group -- has been countered by a claim of inaccuracy that is backed up by official records.

The Swift Boat Veterans for Truth discredited the stories of other veterans who actually served with Kerry in the war, including one who says Kerry saved his life by plucking him out of the water under enemy fire.

In fact, one of Kerry's chief detractors on the war issue received a Bronze Star for the very same action that he now says Kerry fabricated. The military's official version of what happened is incorrect, he says. I'm sure his memory hasn't faded in all these years.

Further, many Republicans now say, the issue of military service isn't important in choosing a president. That isn't what they said when Bill Clinton ran for president, of course.

Facts get fuzzier as election day approaches

By LAURA SCOTT
Kansas City Star

The election is not until November, and it is just September. Lots more time for "facts" and "records" to show up.

But because most Americans seem to have made up their minds about whom to believe and what to believe, it is likely that we will just continue bat¬ting "facts" back and forth. Likely most voters won't be dislodged from their favorite fellow.

That leaves the minority of undecideds in key states to determine which way this election will go. And the campaign spin¬meisters are going to be very busy trying to appeal to them in the coming weeks.

Hold your ears, cover your eyes, and wait for incoming. More versions of the truth are on the way.
Preparing for the worst – Sept. 2 & 3

On Sept. 2, the university cancelled all classes and events and began preparing for the incoming storm. Massive advisories were sent to all students and faculty and the order to evacuate housing students was given. The Breezeaway Cafe (below) stayed open until 12a.m. to accommodate the needs of students.

FIU vs. Frances – Sept. 4

Hurricane Frances’ wind finally began to pick up on the evening of Sept. 4. FIU only sustained the weaker winds of Frances’ outer feeder bands and fortunately escaped the potential for damage.

Aftermath of sorts – Sept. 5

Surveying the aftermath of the storm, only minimal damage was sustained. Surprisingly, only a few trees were destroyed or damaged (above) leaving only minor foliage rubble. The fences were also knocked down near the new Graham Center renovations (below) but the buildings did not sustain any major damage.

FIU spared from potential disaster

By JOHN LOVELL
Managing Editor

Whoever coined the phrase, “calm before the storm” obviously has never been through a hurricane. While all of South Florida scurried to find shutters, water, batteries and other post-apocalypse supplies, FIU launched their emergency system and began preparations for a storm that was already being dubbed “The Big One” by many. As Frances loomed in the Atlantic Ocean, stalling to a halt only about 100 miles from the eastern coast of Florida, students at FIU waited along with thousands of others while visions of Andrew danced in their heads.

Fortunately, all that ultimately awaited FIU was a weakened category two hurricane with rain no greater than a typical thunderstorm and wind gusts far below dangerous levels. During and after the storm, the worst of Frances’ fury met the students – monotonous boredom and frustrating cabin fever.

By Sunday, however, businesses began to open, the skies cleared (for the most part) and power returned to the few who had lost it. In the end, Frances proved to be a bigger nuisance than a problem, at least for students and faculty at FIU. North of Miami, in West Palm Beach and Ft. Pierce, power did not return to thousands of homes for several more days. We lucked out this time, but what’s next? Ivan, maybe? Only time and The Weather Channel will tell.

A Hurricane Frances photo timeline
Frances makes Floridians frantic with lockdown boredom

By JULIA MARCHESE
Lifestyle Editor

It’s when you’ve been cooped up in the house for too long. Cabin Fever -we’ve all experienced it on different levels during the existence of Hurricane Frances last week. Symptoms include talking to yourself, dressing up in your fanciest outfits and getting “tanked.”

The first couple of days aren’t so bad. One could use the sleep, especially after being physically drained from boarding up your house and your Grandma’s house and waiting in those half a mile long lines at Publix and your local Shell gas station. Yes, when your head finally hits the pillow, it will be good.

Your eyes finally open on the third day. But not because the morning sun has casted its glorious rays upon your face. No, that wouldn’t happen because your room is still all boarded up. You fall out of bed and wonder what’s for breakfast. The most effortless, yummiest, non-parishable food item you discover in your kitchen cabinet is of course, Cheerios. After a couple bowls of dry cereal (your mom used up the milk the day before because she didn’t want it to spoil due to loss of electricity the hurricane was supposed to incur) and watch some television or those Buster DVDs you rented last week from Block-buster, something suddenly dawns on you. Where the hell is the hurricane? It’s when you’ve been cooped up for a good while before venturing back into the four walls of your room and pulling the covers over your head. After all, you have no choice but to stay indoors because the hurricane warning is still in effect and the streets are still unsafe. Once you’ve snuggled back into your queen-sized bed (as comfortable as it is, you’re already sick of it and wish there was an alternative to just relaxing all day and night) you turn on the tube and flip to everyone’s favorite, MTV, and watch an episode of Room Raiders. After losing interest in the show that followed, Road Rules, you search through your extensive DVD collection. Pulp Fiction, no. Kill Bill, maybe next time. Big Fish, now we’re talking. But sleep has made you lazy, and you’ve fallen asleep half-way through your favorite flick.

It’s now 4 a.m. and you’re entering the fourth day of being held captive by Frances. Agh, you can’t sleep! You slip out of your bed again and fumble through your things, only to realize the mess that you live in. You begin cleaning and organizing your room. You must be beyond bored to have to result to cleaning. At 7 a.m. your roll continues. Half an hour earlier you found that kidnapping, murder mystery book, “No Second Chance.” You decide that now would be a good time to finish it. You cry your eyes out for 20 pages as the father and daughter are reunited. It’s 11 a.m. Downing yet another bowl of dry Cheerios wasn’t as easy as it was during the last three days. While you’re going through the monotonous routine of eating, the lights are flickering on and off. You think to yourself, “So much for using my computer to finish up that English paper that’s due on Tuesday.” Your parents gasp in disbelief after seeing your room completely picked up, bed made, and closet color-coordinated. They’re proud of you, but at the same time, worried.

You figure that you can’t blame them, because everyone’s on edge after being restricted to the confines of the house. So it’s been decided for you that cleaning the bathroom would be your next task of the day. You’re semi happy that you’re being productive.

After scrubbing the mildew off the grout in between the tiles of the bathroom walls, cleaning the toilet, and wiping the bathroom mirror, you’re stuck. You don’t know what to do with yourself. “Where are my homies?”, you’ve been wondering all day. You make some phone calls and make sure your friends are still maintaining their sanity. After reminiscing about your high school days by looking through four years of pictures and then reading a couple chapters in preparation for Tuesday’s Psychology class, you make your way back into the bathroom to wash your nappy hair. After doing so, you spend from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. blow-drying and ironing your hair.

Your growing increasingly restless so you try to experiment with your makeup. You try on eye shadows of different hues. Time to try on clothes and accessories. You try on your classic, dark red prom dress. You like the outfit but you’re red Diesels will complement your outfit and look great with your girly storm - will no longer get the best of you. Besides, the hurricane warning had been lifted earlier that day. You’re now well dressed and your hair looks great. You’re going out! It doesn’t matter where you go, but you’re going. You can hear the rain and wind outside, so you decide it’d be best to wear sneakers – you’re red Diesels will complement your outfit and look great with your new jeans. You kiss your mom and dad goodbye as they wish well on your first outing in four days in to the outside world. They warn you , “be careful and cautious of the down power lines.”

You’re now turning the knob to the front door. It finally opens- the experience is euphonic. The light of day is the most beautiful thing you’ve ever seen, and the air has never smelled so sweet. Who cares if it’s raining – you like the rain. You make your way to your ‘98 blue Saturn as the rain drops dance on your head. You don’t even mind that your beautifully styled hair is getting messed up. By this point, driving feels foreign to you. However, it’s never felt like less of a nuisance. And you’re grateful because you’ve survived “Hurricane” Frances and never before has life seemed as blissful.
Polyphonic Spree: From feel good sounds to pastel gowns

By TOM MOON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The No. 1 question that Tim DeLaughter, leader of the Polyphonic Spree, gets when people see his 25-member group wearing flowing choir robes in pastel colors, and singing unabashedly positive songs is: Is this some kind of a cult? The second question: Is there room for one more?

“Every show, somebody comes up to us with this look in their eyes, and you just know they want to be in it,” DeLaughter said a few weeks back, on the day the Dallas-based band’s long-awaited new album, “Together We’re Heavy” (Hollywood), arrived in stores.

“I mean, they’re really serious. They’re prepared to relocate. I’ve got enough room for one more.”

DeLaughter said it with a smile, but the music industry is so unbelievable, it’s easy to think people know what to make of this band.

The songs of “Together We’re Heavy” came about through improvisation. DeLaughter would bring in a skeletal idea, and strum the chords while singing what he hears as the melody.

The musicians, many of whom are classically trained, would fall in around him; they are encouraged to add counter lines or whatever else they hear.

“Most of these people grew up reading sheet music. At first they’d ask what key and what the chords were, and I had to get them to let go of inhibitions. Now, when we work on material, it’s ‘Let’s all just play and see where we go with it.’”

When asked if he purposely leaned in the direction of the idealistic _ if not the celestial _ when writing the Spree’s lyrics, DeLaughter referred back to Tripping Daisy. “From when I first started in music to today, the general tone of hope has been present _ it’s always been my subject matter. I didn’t change my lyrics for the group.”

But, in the next breath, he acknowledged that the themes do resonate differently when sung by such a large ensemble: “It works out, conveniently, that having so many people sing gives the lyrics extra weight. And I like that. It’s sort of uncharted waters, this very innocent way of talking about being human in these times.

Some people see it as almost borderline hokey. But to us it’s key, because some sort of spirit is there when we perform. And we’re not afraid of communicating that.”

For the record, DeLaughter says that despite all the spirit talk, the Polyphonic Spree is not a cult. “I haven’t adopted a specific religion in the songs. There’s no clear-cut agenda. As for the robes, DeLaughter says they’re just another way to differentiate his group.

“I was thinking a lot about the way people look at someone’s clothes, and they made judgments about what kind of person they’re looking at,” DeLaughter says. “That’s annoying to me. I wanted something to unify the group, and the first image was white robes, so I went to my mother-in-law, and boom _ right away we made the robes. At first the idea was to project images on the (white robes), but as we’ve gone along, we’re so much more of a band and a family, we’ve realized there’s a lot of vividness, a lot of color. So now each of us wears our own color _ we’re like pixels on a TV screen.”
Coben’s No Second Chance, with conspiracy theories, mayhem yield best seller

By JULIA MARCHESE
Lifenews Editor

Suspense, shock and surprise. With these elements combined, author Harlan Coben created the New York Times best seller entitled No Second Chance. Dr. Mark Seidman endures the unfathomable pain of his wife being murdered, his daughter vanishing and nearly being murdered himself by an unseen assailant.

The authorities thought he did, but were unable to fill in the blanks, such as him being shot and nearly meeting his death the day the crime took place. He is given a chance to fix his six month old baby, Tara, when a ransom note is delivered to his rich father-in-law.

He ordered him not to contact the authorities or they would disappear and he would never know what happened to her. They had an inside source, but little did Mark know it was his best friend and lawyer. They wanted two million dollars. His every move was anticipated and watched.

When the first ransom drop was made, things went wrong. You’d think that was the end to him seeing his daughter again, but that was only the beginning of Dr. Seidman’s hellish reality.

For eighteen months he agonized over the occurrences in his life.

He tossed and turned at night replaying that morning in his head and trying to search for reasons or clues.

As the plot unfolds he begins to realize how wrapped up in his work he had been and failed to address issues in his life, such as his unstable wife’s condition. He was forced to analyze his relationship with his depressed wife, family members and ex-girlfriend, Rachel Mills. But more importantly, he evaluated his own manhood.

As the story line thickens, a second ransom note is delivered to his father-in-law requesting another two million dollars. His father-in-law provides him with the large sum of money in hopes of his granddaughter’s safe return home, but has to warn Dr. Seidman of his depleting liquid funds.

Dr. Seidman decides not to contact the authorities this time. He requested the expertise of former FBI agent and ex-girlfriend from his college days, Rachel Mills. They embark on a life altering experience together and repeatedly risked their lives for one another as well as Tara. They bonded and realized their was so much more to their relationship than just the past.

It’s not until the last few pages that everything falls together. From the granola bar he was eating when he was shot to his wife crying at night and the mysterious girl from his childhood who appeared standing on his lawn twice during those eighteen months finally made sense.

His life was truly flipped upside and changed for the better. While trying to find his daughter he made companions and confronted his feelings for Rachel Mills.

The irony is that he actually did get a second chance with her. And, he was given a second chance with his daughter when they were reunited her, leaving readers in tears.

The title refers to those who betrayed Dr. Seidman that didn’t get a “second chance.”

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Universities watch out for torrent of users

By ERIKA D. SMITH
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Who says students don’t learn anything over the summer? Chances are quite a few of them attended the new school of file sharing. They learned all about BitTorrent, and how it’s easy to download full movies, CDs, video games and software.

But the University of Akron and Kent State University are prepared. “We monitor network usage and bandwidth and we respond to complaints,” said spokesman Paul Herold, summing up UA’s strategy.

Kent State isn’t much different. “We know we have a lot of people using it,” said Greg Seibert, Kent State’s director of security and compliance.

The university doesn’t root out and punish students for using BitTorrent or any other file-sharing network. It does, however, limit how much bandwidth a single student can use. That way the university’s high-speed network won’t get bogged down by a few users swapping the new Eminem CD.

The only time that changes is when the Recording Industry Association of America slaps Kent State with a cease-and-desist notice.

Then, the university will block a user’s access to the network until he removes all the offending files from his PC.

Last year, Kent State received 45 of those notices, small potatoes compared to the hundreds and thousands sent to other colleges. No numbers were available Thursday for the University of Akron.

At Kent, more and more of those notices list BitTorrent as the partner in crime, Seibert said. “They don’t understand how it works,” he said of students. “They just go to a Web site, and they see movies and they see songs, and they’re happy.”

This year, Seibert expects even more notices. “I could get hit by a bus, but I’m not going to,” he said. It’s incredibly efficient and stable, even though people tend to swap huge files of full-length movies.

That could be behind BitTorrent’s growing popularity. By some measurements, the use of BitTorrent has eclipsed that of KaZaA, the most popular file-sharing program for music.

In June, CacheLogic also reported that about 8 million users were online at any given time sharing a petabyte, or 10 million gigabytes, of data.

“It’s much stealthier,” said Eric Garland, chief executive of the P2P tracking firm BigChampagne LLC.

But buzz aside, BitTorrent is still largely the domain of early adopters in the United States, typically teen-agers and college students. Much of mainstream America is still taking its legal chances with P2P.

“They feel there really is safety in numbers,” he said. “They think, ‘Yeah, I could get hit by a bus, but I’m not going to.’”

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Student-athletes share how to work fitness into college life

By BRIDGETTE WILLIAMS
The Dallas Morning News

Staying fit, or deciding to get fit, can be a challenge in college, with its crazy study schedules, classes and jobs, friends to meet and pizzas to eat.

But college also means campus activities that can get you up, out, around and some. Pick your pick from any number of phys-ed classes, intramurals and sports clubs.

There’s no denying that balancing it all is the key. We ask area students who are especially determined to stay fit, or deciding to get fit, can be a challenge in college, with its crazy study schedules, classes and jobs, friends to meet and pizzas to eat.

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FIU not ready for Division I-A football

COMMENTARY

By MESSOD BENDAYAN
Contributing Writer

Well, here we are, folks. Part tross of FIU Football. Year uno out of 1-A. It seems like yesterday when 17, 314 fans packed into FIU Community Stadium to see the Inaugural Game, way back on Aug. 29, 2002. I was a sophomore, then, and that game was my first taste of being a football play-by-play broadcaster. Now, I’m about to graduate. I get to call five more games before Radio Golden Panther sends me that opposing teams averaged more than 110 pounds. When you line up for the first time, you’re going to be hearing a lot. Especially when the losses come.

I’m a Golden Panthers fan, to be sure. But, I’m also an aspiring media geek, and in the business I hope to go into, facts are facts. And the facts about this move are depressingly simple: FIU isn’t ready for big-time college football.

Here’s 5 reasons why:

1. The Golden Panthers’ all-time record: 7 wins, 16 losses. Most of their opponents up to this point have been I-AA schools. The difference between I-AA and I-A is huge. It’s like comparing the Florida Marlins to the Durham Bulls, or comparing the Miami Dolphins to Miami’s former arena football league franchise, the Hooters — both of whom can claim FIU Head Coach Don Strock as a former member.

2. FIU has never won a road game.

3. FIU has never beaten a conference opponent.

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Under new coach ‘Tiger’ Clark, defense switches to 4-3 formation

by Chris GARCIA
Contributing Writer

FiU football team was in disarray and facing a possible post-season loss in their opener at Temple. Since that time, the defense has stabilized and the Golden Panthers have improved to 2-1.

Last season the team played a 4-3-4 alignment. As a result, the defense suffered and was forced to rework the original 4-3 scheme half-way into the schedule. “We had to change it up,” declared Defensive Line Coach Taubert. “We’re more familiar with the 4-3 because that’s how we first started.”

Last season the 4-3-4 style demanded large defensive tackles that can handle more yard rushing and let the defensive linemen go out and chase after the quarterback, said linebacker Gerrod Clark.

The large discrepancy in yardage is not impossible and is trying to make a tackle. While arduous, this task is not have that luxury. The defensive tackle average on the quarterback,” said Clark.

By HENRY GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Twenty-eight points per game, a four-and-a-half yard rushing average and a miniscule twenty-one sacks. When you couple those underachieving numbers with the fact that opposing teams averaged more yards rushing (227) than they did pass (172), defensive line changes are a must.

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Position by Position Analysis:
FIU strong at QB, Receivers, weak on offensive line

By ANDRES CORDERO
Staff Writer

With the 20-10 record nearly tucked in the back of their minds, the Golden Panthers are set to kick-off a new football season. The sports world is cyclical and once the disappointment of a losing season fades, it’s replaced with the hope and prospect of a clean slate.

Regardless of last season’s performance, every team kicks off the Fall with a zero in the loss column. FIU will try to add wins by relying on its strength, the defense. While it’s a widely accepted cliché that defense wins games, it’s still impossible to win without putting points on the board. What follows is a preview of the individual parts that make up the team’s passing game should be every bit as good as it has been. They are the school’s only career 1,000 yard receivers. Both played in all 12 games last season, and were a huge part of Josh Padrick’s break out season.

Also in the mix will be senior Chandler Williams and junior Andre Rollins. Williams is an experienced threat that made 29 catches for 460 yards last season as the number three receiver playing the slot.

Rollins has been impressive in the spring after returning from a shoulder injury. At 6-foot-4 and 222 pounds, the big guy out of Carol City High can be a good option at the slot or wide-out position. He looks more comfortable in the offense than in previous years and should see more time in the wide receiver rotation.

Quarterbacks
If ever there was a strong position on this team, this is it. The Golden Panthers have a good situation at quarterback with the return of Josh Padrick and a healthy Jamie Burke.

Padrick stepped in for the injured Burke in 2003 and quickly earned him praise from the coaching staff and made him a viable option to fill some of the holes left by injury. The bottom line is the number of sacks decreased with nearly 50 percent of his passes, the top-25 Miami-Dade recruits Williams and junior Andre Rollins.

The receiver position is one of the strongest on the FIU offense. With returning starters such as Harold Leath (6-foot-3,199 lbs.) and Cory McKinney (6-foot-3,219 lbs.) both healthy, the team’s passing game should be every

OFFENSIVE LINE

The O-line is the backbone of any offense. Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, this is where the team is in most disarray. FIU has two very capable quarterbacks on its roster and it may need them both if the O-line can’t protect the starter.

The unit has given up 76 sacks for 583 yards over the past two seasons. With junior John Shanahan suffering a high-ankle sprain in a recent scrimmage, FIU will start the season with three offensive linemen sidelined. Tackle Tim Dierks (knee) and Guard Jonathan Taylor (shoulder), who combined for 1,579 snaps in 2003, will be alongside Shanahan on the injured list.

Offensive line coach Leon Searcy will look for converted defensive tackle Ronny Silva and freshman Ted McConahie to contribute. McConahie is a 6-foot-3, 310-pound lineman who can play guard, tackle and center. His strength and versatility has earned him praise from the coaching staff and made him a viable option to fill some of the holes left by injury. The bottom line is games are won and lost along the line of scrimmage and the offense will need the O-line to hold up to be effective.

Running Backs
The Golden Panthers’ ground attack rushed for 1,417 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2003. When placed side-by-side with last year’s Sun Belt Conference rushing champ, the former Delray Beach standout has made him a viable option to fill some of the holes left by injury. The bottom line is games are won and lost along the line of scrimmage and the offense will need the O-line to hold up to be effective.

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Tight Ends
Junior Joe Struyf will be sidelined with a possible season-ending surgery. This means that the door is open for either Daniel Smith or Moses Hinton to step into the starting role. Smith is a sophomore who caught 9 passes for 119 yards in 11 games as a true freshman. Hinton is expected to challenge for the starting spot. David Tabor is an experienced back up who can step in if things go terribly wrong for the number one and two guys.

The addition of Tavares Kendrick is a solid move for the future of this team. Kendrick was the top rated quarterback out of the top-25 Miami-Dade recruits and should be the quarterback of the future for FIU. At 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds, he runs a 4.60 40-yard dash. He is praised for his size, speed, and powerful arm.

TRIUMPHANT TRIO: Quarterbacks David Taber, Josh Padrick, and Jamie Burke are the top three in FIU’s death chart. 

BULLET PASS: Josh Padrick practices hard to secure his position as starting quarterback on FIU’s team.

Henry Coleman/The Beacon