President Uribe to address local Colombian community

By CESAR GUTIERREZ
Contributing writer

Alvaro Uribe Velez, president of Colombia since 2002, will be at the University Park’s Wertheim Performing Arts Center on Sept. 30 to discuss issues affecting the South Florida Colombian population.

According to Victor Uribe, director of FIU’s Colombian Studies Institute, the president’s visit will offer Colombian citizens residing in the area a venue for the discussion of many important issues relevant to their community. Colombia, which for the past four decades has been engaged in a civil war between Marxist guerrillas and a succession of conservative governments, has experienced such an economic slump and an increase in kidnappings that many citizens have chosen to leave their country. South Florida has, for the most part, the greatest concentration of expatriates.

“It will be a sort of ‘Town Hall meeting’ where people will be able to ask the president about different problems ranging from migratory issues, trade, the validation of degrees, money transfers, the new ID cards for Colombians living in the USA, the payment of social security coverage in Colombia from the USA and so forth,” Victor Uribe said. The institute’s director also says that the public can expect the president’s visit to answer a list of specific questions for the future consideration of Colombian officials, with a chance for Colombians living abroad to interact with their president.

“In addition, by hosting Uribe’s visit, FIU intends to let Colombians and the media know about the Colombian Studies Institute which is dedicated to the study of that nation’s economic, social, political and cultural issues,” said Victor Uribe. Participants will include Colombian groups, professors, elected city officials and students. Anyone wishing to attend may receive free tickets at the Latin American and Caribbean Center in UF, DM building, room 353. Although the event will begin at 9:30 a.m., students are advised to arrive early due to security measures.

Sponsors include the Colombian Embassy in Washington, the Miami Colombian Consulate, the Latin American and Caribbean Center, the Colombian Studies Institute and the Colombian Students Association at FIU.

SETTING A FOUNDATION: (From left to right) Engineering Dean Dr. Vish Prasad, Solar Decathlon Director Rick J. King, Faculty Advisor Nathaniel Q. Belcher, Project Manager Josh Freese, Engineering team leader Ted Natsu, Architecture Associate Dean David Bergwall, SMPC Dean Libby Kopher and President Modesto A. Maidique set the first cornerstone for the solar house to be built at the East Lawn of the Engineering Center as part of the 2005 Solar Decathlon. In the fall of 2005, the house will be transported to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Continued

BREAKING SOLAR GROUND

By ALEJANDRA DIAZ
Editor in Chief

The FIU community along with sponsors and supporters from the Miami community celebrated a milestone in the construction of an 800-square foot solar-powered house as part of the 2005 Solar Decathlon.

“It is an ambitious project...the team seems to be able to get a lot done in a short period of time and do very good work in the process,” said Ryan Moreno, a fellow mechanical engineering graduate student and Ph.D. candidate. “The team has a good design and I see them placing very high [in the competition].”

On Sept. 24, the College of Engineering held a groundbreaking in which President Modesto A. Maidique, along with team members, sponsors, and college dean’s, set the first cornerstone for the solar-powered house to be built on the East Lawn of the Engineering Center.

“This is the first participant team to have a groundbreaking and what it does is help to keep our sponsors engaged so they think there is a sense of something really happening,” Nathaniel Q. Belcher, faculty advisor and architectural professor, said. “The spirit of this is that it is a student run project and people see that when they come [to the groundbreaking].”

The groundbreaking, which represents a year’s worth of work and dedication by students and faculty members from across the disciplines, has team members feeling that they are headed in the right direction.

“I feel that it’s a very important milestone in the competition...it gives us a chance to feel that we have accomplished something and it gives us a chance to show the community what we have done. We have some models, a plan and a direction we are going in,” engineering team leader Edward Natsu said. “We have a lot of work yet to do, but once the details are worked out, and we get to [Washington, D.C.], we will prove that we have a lot of potential.”

As part of the Solar Decathlon, the groundbreaking will be given along with 11 for research, 12 for education and 6 for life. See SOLAR, page 4

Convocation to honor faculty

By ADRIANA PEREIRA
Contributing Writer

This week FIU’s faculty members, who have sometimes been forgotten in the crowds of students, are running the show.

Friday, the Tenth Annual Faculty Convocation will bring Faculty Convocation Week to a close, assembling FIU’s finest scholars and recognizing their efforts. The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Jordan J. Cohen, President of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

“The faculty are quite curious about medical education and that is our next big major effort. There should be a discussion of that sort and there is no one better to lead it than him,” Mark Rosenberg, provost and executive Vice President of Academic Affairs said.

The week has focused on gathering faculty together to promote discussion of the university’s future and its current strengths and weaknesses. It also has given the professors a chance to compare FIU to other urban research universities.

Rosenberg says this week allows faculty members to step back and be more contemplative about the university and their own careers and it gives them the opportunity to honor those who deserve recognition.

The largest event of the week will take place on Fri., Oct. 1, when 30 faculty members, selected by a committee comprised of one member from each college, will be honored at the Faculty Convocation.

“Recognition of faculty is key in what we do,” Dr. James Sutton, faculty convocation chairman and English professor, said. Twelve undergraduate teaching awards will be given along with 11 for research.

See FACULTY, page 2
Faculty receive awards, recognition

From FACULTY, page 1
two for service, one for advising, one for librarian-ship and three for adjunct professors.

Among the winners stand political science Prof-essor Astrid Arraras, who will be given an award for teaching.

“I feel very honored for receiving such a presti-tigious award at a very early stage in my career,” she said.

Religious studies pro-fessor and associate dean of the Honors College, Lesley Northrup is also being recognized for her service to FIU and the community.

“The truth is that many, many of our faculty deserve awards for their service to the university and the wider commu-nity,” Northrup said. “To be honored for service is really just to be one of the lucky few who represent many others.”

The most prestigious honor being given is the Council of 100, Outstanding Faculty Award that brings with it a $10,000 cash prize. The winner has been selected by FIU Pres-ident Modesto Maidique, Provost Mark Rosenberg and the Council of 100 and has been FIU’s best kept secret of the week. No one, with the exception of this selection committee, knows who the winner will be.

Aside from the award ceremony, faculty will hear the thoughts of Cohen, who has been chosen as keynote speaker and is expected to offer his per-spective on FIU’s pur-suit of a public medical school.

The university submit-
ted its proposal for the school to the Florida Board of Governors in July. “Dr. Cohen’s address is certainly of central rel-evance as we continue to refine and develop our medical school initiative,” Bruce Hauptli Faculty Senate chairperson said. “I am confident that the faculty will find his remarks instructive.”

Hauptli, who serves on the Faculty Convocation Week committee, says the opportunity to reflect on this major initiative is an impor-tant aspect of the Convocation. Apart from the many other pur-poses of the week, the fac-ulty have focused all week on discussing the medical school initiative and what it means to the university’s future.

Many of the faculty are aware of the importance of a medical school and are supportive of the idea. “I believe FIU faculty feel that the medical initia-tive is a natural step in our evolution to becoming a top urban research univer-sity,” Hauptli said.

The university faculty members are not the only ones with an opinion on the medical school pro-posal. Students have also had plenty to say as they encouraged to take on an active role in the discus-sion by attending Con-vocation on Friday and listening to Cohen’s perspec-tive. Representing the stu-dent body at the event will be University Park Student Government President Jorge Rosario and Biscayne Bay Campus President Ruth Allyson Webster, who will both take part in the procession and will be seated alongside faculty members.

“We will be there to show that the student body supports the faculty,” Rosario said. He encour-ages students to attend the Convocation because he believes it will serve as a great opportunity to net-work and meet the deans of each college and the university’s vice presidents. It will also allow students to interact with professors beyond the typical class-room setting.

FIU students are known for voicing their opin-ions and being involved. Sutton says that students play an important role in the decisions made at the university and they have a place in faculty life.

This is why Sutton encourages them to attend the Convocation: to listen in on the medical school talk and pay tribute to their professors.

“I do this because I feel it is important,” Sutton said. “I find it frustrating that some faculty blow off Convocation as unimportant or tiresome,” Northrup said. “I suspect the ones who do that are the ones who have never gone and seen how much Convoca-tion can do to build com-munity and remind us why we’re proud to be FIU faculty.”

The GREAT DEBATE: Nathaly Charina a Democrat, and Elizabeth Ramnan, a Republican, share their organization’s views during the SOC Club Fair.

THE BEACON regrets these errors. If you would like to report errors please call us at UP at 305-348-2709 or in BBC at 305-919-4712.

OTHER UNIVERSITIES
UCF’s foreign students hit with tracking fee

Foreign students will face a new $50 fee each semester at the University of Central Florida to help cover the costs of tracking international students on campus and to inform them of new rules for studying in America.

A wave of new travel visa rules imposed after the 2001 terrorist attacks have delayed foreign students who come to U.S. universities to get an educa-tion. Foreign enrollment has dropped at nearly all schools, including UCF.

Last year the university spent $1 million on “increased requirements for international student tracking” of about 1,000 foreign enrollees, or roughly $1,000 per foreign student.

In and out of Florida, universities have installed similar foreign-student charges, from $40 to $125, a UCF survey found. Among them are the Univer-sity of South Florida and the University of Florida, UCF’s chief state competitors for foreign students.

Both charge a $50 fee.

Part of the cost stems from workshops for students put on by UCF to explain employment, immigration, travel and tracking rules associated with international studies. But the costs also cover, for instance, extra work UCF must do to notify federal authorities that a student is indeed attend-ing classes there.

SCIENCE
Scientists downplay global warming as cause for hurricanes

As hurricane after hurricane strikes the southeast-ern United States, many people wonder whether the rash of storms is the result of global warming.

The answer from scientists: Probably not.

Although many experts think global warming could increase the number or the intensity of hurri-canes 50 years from now, they say this year’s storms were caused by natural changes in the ocean and atmosphere. These include a multi-decade cycle of warm water moving through the Atlantic Ocean, and the unusual mildness of the hurricane-suppressing patch of warm water in the Pacific called El Nino.

In a letter last week to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who was holding hearings on global warming, many, many of our faculty deserve awards for their service to the university and the wider commu-nity,” Northrup said. “To be honored for service is really just to be one of the lucky few who represent many others.”

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UP career fair set to help students find right jobs

By EVELYN MARTINEZ Contributing Writer

Get your resume, portfolio, and business attire ready because the Fall Career and Internship fair is here. All FIU students and alumni are urged to attend the free fair on Monday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the University Park Campus. The fair, organized by Career Services, usually features 150 through 165 companies and 1,500 – 2,000 students who come together to meet, interact, and make professional connections.

The purpose of the career fair is to network your way to a job, according to Dulce Ramirez Damon, fair coordinator and assistant director of career services. “The event allows the students to gather information regarding the company, sign-up for on-campus interviews if the company has scheduled them, find out about current job openings and simply network with companies that may interest them,” says Damon. Although the fair does not guarantee that you will get a job on the spot, students can land jobs or internships as a result of the networking and follow-ups made on the students’ part, she says. In addition, certain companies offer on-campus interviews that take place shortly after the fair. To take part in these supplementary interviews students must purchase Golden Panther Services. It costs $20 and should be purchased prior to attending the fair. Purchasing Golden Panther Services gives students access to FIU’s online interviewing system, Pantherlink. Pantherlink allows students to view positions and submit their resumes online. However, Golden Panther Services is not mandatory. Students and alumni are encouraged to attend the fair and gain experience of meeting with potential employers and practice their networking and interviewing skills.

“I can list a lot of things…proper attire, professional demeanor, resume…but I think the single thing that will give you a competitive edge is confidence!”

Duke Ramirez Damon Assistant director of career services

Most nurses will enter the U.S. healthcare system. You’re not most nurses.

WANTED!

PAGE DESIGNERS

The Beacon is seeking applicants with media layout/design experience in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Pagemaker. Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 to apply.
TRAGIC AFFAIR: Haitian citizens struggle to find food and shelter after massive floods caused by the recurring hurricanes and other massive storms devastated the area.

By MAMIE WARD and MICHAEL A.W. OTTLEY
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Aid workers warn of epidemics from Haitian flooding

The trial of homeless Haitians left by Hurricane Jeanne earlier this week huddled under tarps and scrambled for food earlier as relief workers warned of epidemics from floodwaters made fest by the bodies of human and animal victims.

According to the latest statistics, at least 1,113 people were confirmed dead and 1,251 remained missing, mostly in the northern port city of Gonaives, while more than 900 were treated for injuries and 30,000 were homeless.

About 30,000 children under the age of 5 also have been affected, some of them orphaned when Jeanne killed the parents of many of their siblings.

UNICEF will dispatch 30 staff and many of their siblings. UNICEF will dispatch 30 staff and many of their siblings. UNICEF will dispatch 30 staff and many of their siblings.

The few clinics in the city are being manned by doctors from Medicins Du Monde, two French-based volunteer organizations, 14 Cuban doctors and Argentine military officers.

New mass graves were dug Thursday at a Gonaives cemetery to dispose of the stacks of bloated bodies that have accumulated in the city’s three morgues.

But relief officials said their prime concern was delivering food and potable water to about 300,000 Haitians who have had little of either in the past five days.

The U.N. World Food Program delivered 71-12 tons of food to Gonaives, and peacekeeping officials had reported overnight shootings by property owners trying to find offi bhoires.

In terms of the security situation, it has not been controlled yet,” Fritz Fougy, deputy chief of mission at the Haitian Embassy in Washington, D.C., told The Miami Herald. “As for the distribution of food, it’s been known that people are very hungry and these things could happen.”

Aid workers warned of epidemics from Haitian flooding

“Conditions and courage to an entire nation that has been seen much pain and suffering in this tumultuous bicentennial year,” Aristide said. “We continue to stand in solidarity with all Haitians who suffer.”

From SOLAR, page 1

FIU students and faculty will compete against 18 teams in ten contests over ten days. The event itself, which started in the spring of 2003, challenges students to build a completely solar-powered house that is not only livable but energy efficient.

“The team wants to establish FIU, our school of architecture and our school of engineering as first-runners in the advancement of design and research technology,” said project manager and student leader Joshua Freese. “We want to create an innovative, sustainable design that represents [FIU and Miami] as a microcosm of the solar future. By uniting a vast array of students and professors to research, design and build normally no one will do.”

According to Richard J. King, the director and creator of the Solar Decathlon from the U.S. Department of Energy [DOE], the Solar Decathlon prompts students to work together in a competition which he hopes will have an impact as global as the Solar Decathlon’s participants.

“[FIU] will do excellent,” he said. “They’ve got to finish the house but paper they look like a very strong contender. It is a tremen-

dous opportunity for the school and the university and [the DOE] is excited have[sunny] Florida represented in the Solar Decathlon,” King said. “[The project] really has the vision of the future…some day the oil will run out and we will have to make due with the goods out of home.”

Working alongside the School of Architecture and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, students from the College of Engineering will complete the two-year project in the fall of 2005. In order to reach the final step of the event, the FIU team must build the house in Miami, take it apart and load it onto a tractor-trailer in route to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Once there, students must rebuild the house in 48 hours while cooking and determining the most suitable design, build and efficient energy house on display.

“The winner, to be determined at a date not yet set by the DOE, will be the team that best combines the conveniences and style of a modern home with the energy needs of daily life. Despite the enormous challenge of finding funding and acquiring the resources needed to build the house, team members are confident that the house will get built. “It has actually been a pretty smooth ride. To get where we are today is amazing. When we started...we didn’t think it could happen. Of course, there is always something that we need but we are off to a good start,” the team’s post-student and School of Architecture representative Jordan Trachtenberg said.

While the planning, research and building of the house seems overwhelming to some of the over 300 students working on the project, many say the outcome is worthwhile.

The few clinics in the city are being manned by doctors from Medicins Du Monde, two French-based volunteer organizations, 14 Cuban doctors and Argentine military officers.

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A MASTER PLAN: The FIU Solar Decathlon team exhibited a wooden replica of its 800-square-foot completely solar-powered house as part of a groundbreaking ceremony held on Sept. 24.

Counter Puerto
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

In tribute to the Dalai Lama’s appearance at FIU, how spiritual would you say you are?

- My spirituality is part of my everyday life; I use it to make most of my decisions. 51%
- I practice some spirituality through organized religion once a week 10%
- I rarely find time for spirituality! I don’t find it important. 27%
- Spirit? I don’t believe in ghosts. 12%

Total participants: 49
Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Conan O’Brien: It was announced that the late night host will be taking over the coveted “Tonight Show” in 2009. Time will tell if mainstream audiences will accept late night staples like Triumph the Insult Comic Dog and his need to poop on them.

LOSER
Starbucks: The bigger-than-life coffee chain has decided to increase prices on all of their products by 11 cents. That’s 11 cents that won’t be going into anyone’s tip jar.

QUOTEABLES

“Rude, vile pigs! Do you know what that means? Rude, vile pigs! That’s all of you!” - Elton John, singer and songwriter, from his new memoirs discussing his role as a musical hero for the 1960s counterculture.

“I had very little in common with and knew even less about a generation that I was supposed to be the voice of.” - Bob Dylan, singer and songwriter, on being handcuffed and forced to the ground by transit police for cursing loudly into a cell phone.

“Your bet your boots I know what I’m talking about.” - John Kerry, democratic presidential candidate, on his promises to be more fiscally responsible than his rival, President Bush.

Lack of help plagues student

By CESAR GUTIERREZ
Contributing Writer

Should students from overseas consider FIU to complete their education? Maybe they should think about it twice.

Not only do we have to pay quite a bit of money ($514 per credit), but by immigration laws we must enroll full-time meaning we need to take 12 credits per semester ($6,384) plus buy a medical insurance that costs nearly a $1,000 per year. In addition, there is rent, food, gas and don’t forget books. By the way, we aren’t allowed to work.

But, that’s okay. What’s discouraging is the unwillingness of FIU’s different departments to help international students when it comes to us asking for assistance. Whether it is either professors’ refusal to give us an override so we can meet the number of credits immigration demands, or the International Student Department’s refusal to make an exception to not report us because we aren’t enrolled full-time thanks to FIU’s lack of organization.

For instance, for this term my online appointment to register was on Aug. 10 at 11 a.m. Knowing that a minute can be vital to getting the last seat in a class, I was careful to be on time in front of my laptop to enroll for classes.

Oh, surprise! When I got to the last class in the list my advisor had given me two months before the computer kept saying “Error found.” In plain English that meant that the class was already full. It didn’t make sense to me. I had been on time to my appointment. I thought that if FIU gave a set time to enroll, it knew how many students were going to take the class.

Immediately, I started calling the advising office to talk to my advisor, but as every student knows, no one ever answers the phone. Then, I went to the office looking for some advice. However, neither the advisor nor her bosses knew what I could do.

I decided to go to the International Student Department to explain what happened. They suggested that I take another class. But since I’m in my last year, the classes that I was trying to take were the only ones I needed to register.

After a few minutes of going back and forth, they told me they could do nothing and that I knew that if I didn’t enroll fulltime my student visa would be suspended. I didn’t understand why they wouldn’t help me. I had done nothing wrong.

I wasn’t my fault that for the time my appointment had been scheduled, the class had already been full. Frustrated as I was, I asked them to write a letter explaining the situation so I could show the professor proof that I desperately needed an override for that class.

To my dismay, after explaining myself and showing proof to the professor, his response was a definite “no.” To him it didn’t matter that I didn’t have any other classes I could take, or the fact that not taking that class meant my graduation would be delayed. Or, hey? If I didn’t register for that class, my status as an international student would be taken away and all the money and time invested in my education was at risk. All he could do was suggest that I take any other class. Gee, thank you! I guess for him $1,542 is just loose change.

After many tries, I finally enrolled in the class. Now, I’m meeting all the requirements FIU and immigration stipulates. However, I still don’t understand the professor’s refusal to give me the override. Half of the class is empty and it’s not even a core class. It is just one of those classes that is a requirement.

FIU should have a better idea of just how many students can register for each class, and the amount of international students that need to, by law, enroll in classes. Or if that is too difficult, FIU could be more flexible with its rules. Maybe we should not have an appointment to register. It rather be on first come, first served basis. Then, if we don’t register on time, it would really be our fault.
By SHANE HOWARD
Contributing Writer

For all the cynics out there who think Americans are reading less and less, it is obvious they have yet to visit the Miami Book Fair.

The Miami Book Fair International in its 21st installment will set up shop at Miami Dade College’s Wolfson Campus in downtown Miami from Nov. 7-14. The week-long event, free and open to the public, will conclude with its street fair the weekend of Nov. 12-14.

“Tons of local people have been invited who are writing a bit about everything: Holocaust education, Florida election politics, New South Florida cuisine, family issues, plus fiction and poetry,” said Lisa Palley of Palley Promotes. Palley handles the public relations for the fair as well as the film festival.

The highlight of the fair, Congress of Authors, takes place all day Saturday and Sunday. Over 300 authors will have panel discussions and readings. There is also a segment called The Evenings With ... that allows readers to spend an evening with one of their favorite authors.

First known as Books by the Bay in 1984, the two-day fair has evolved into the largest and finest book fair in America. Attracting more than 500,000 literature fans every year, the fair enables both readers and writers to come together. Readers can listen to authors’ new work, participate in personal, question and answer sessions, or get authors to autograph their work.

The Street Fair offers outdoor exhibits by nearly 300 national and international booksellers and publishers, plus author presentations.

An interactive environment known as Children’s Alley allows young readers to join the festivities, while a lifestyles section will feature presentations on health, wellness, gardening and home improvement.

Authors from all over the globe will be in attendance covering a wide range of topics and literary genres.

Writers such as Bell Hooks, Maureen Dowd, Edwidge Danticat, Brian Weiss, Alexander McCall Smith and Florida International’s own Dr. Carol Boyce-Davies will be present. Dr. Davies will also head the Africa Diaspora Panel.

A Spanish language program with readings and panels with authors from Spain and Latin America is available. The annual Caribbean Authors Panel will discuss their craft and literary experiences.

All fair events will take place at the Wolfson Campus and the surrounding downtown area.
Ben Folds: Super D

Folds' new EP, final installment for full-length album

PIANO MAN: Ben Folds will compile his last three EP's onto a full length album in 2005.

By SUE ARROWSMITH
Contributing Writer

For rocker Ben Folds, his latest EP, Super D, is a personal affair. Even his wife, Frally Hayes, makes the cover as she appears sprawled on the hood of a 1964 Buick Electra. The widely anticipated EP, the final of a trilogy, was released last month and is only available online. A full-length album including the two previous installments, Speed Graphic and Sunny 16, is expected for release in early 2005.

The release of the album has been delayed due to his collaboration as co-writer and producer on "Has Been," William Shatner's upcoming album. (That's right. You read correctly.)

Folds mentioned that he chose to market the EP on the internet to prevent Big Media control and to deliver the music directly to his fans without the high prices. In the competitive, market-driven music business, Folds' self-promotion is as admirable as his musical stylings though it does not promise to make him a huge star. Super D, like most of his other contributions to the music world, will not sit well with mainstream music, but Folds and his faithful fans don't seem like they will mind.

Three of the five songs on the EP are originals. “Kalamazoo” showcases his silky piano playing and skills with the strings and is easily the best of the three. In this particular song it is obvious why some people compare him to Billy Joel. Folds has an honest way of presenting music; he pays attention to mundane things some of us might overlook.

"Rent a Cop," a song about a security guard whispering nasty things to young girls at a mall, has that sort of insight. He wrote his other song, "Adelaide," right before catching a flight to Adelaide in Australia where he now lives. The song is a deep admiration of his home.

Unfortunately, the best song on the EP is not an original. It's a cover of The Darkness' "Get Your Hands Off My Woman," which Folds endearingly calls, "heavy metal on piano." There is also a moving live rendition of the Ray Charles tune "Them That Got." About two minutes into the song he abruptly stops and casually tells the audience that he doesn't know the rest of the song. "Maybe one day I'll learn the rest," he says. On Super D, Folds juggles the roles of songwriter and producer. He also plays piano, bass and drums on some of the tracks, earning him a solid place in the rare world of serious musicians.

Like fellow rocker Tori Amos, whom he toured with in 2003, he has mastered the art of piano rock.

With songs that can easily begin as blue-like ballads and suddenly slip into funky beats somewhere along the way, it is difficult to classify his music.

While some tend to over analyze Folds' style, others simply accept it.
In 1979, George Romero came out with the B-movie cult classic “Dawn of the Dead.” While “Dawn of the Dead” might not appeal to everyone, it did inspire a cult following.

Shaun (Simon Pegg), writer and main character, and Edgar Wright, writer and director, are two people greatly influenced by Romero’s creation.

And in their homage to Romero, they have created a movie that can appeal to a much wider fan base than the original. Shaun is a 29-year-old appliance store senior clerk. He trudges around in his daily life much like the undead.

His girlfriend Liz (Kate Ashfield) is fed up with Shaun’s lack of creativity in their dating life. He is always going to the local pub, the Winchester, with his best friend Ed (Nick Frost) and makes little effort to romance Liz.

In all his misery and hung-over glory, Shaun hardly notices what the local news is calling “Z-day.”

Sitting on his couch with Ed, flipping through the news Shaun doesn’t realize that London is being taken over by zombies until the hapless pair stumble upon what they at first think is a drunk girl in their garden.

Finally wise to what is happening to the local London neighborhood (and indeed the world), they must come up with a plan. The plan being, of course, to save their loved ones and head to a sanctuary (where Ed insists he must be able to smoke) which is, of course, the Winchester. Shaun and Ed head off to rescue Shaun’s mom, Barbara (Penelope Wilton), his step-father, Philip (Bill Night), Liz and her two flat mates.

Along the way they smash their car into zombies, at times stopping to make sure their victim is indeed a zombie, not some poor innocent bystander.

Now, I have always thought of a zombie coming to bite me and eating my bowls while groaning like someone with a bad hangover and three hours of sleep, as somewhat comical. It’s not something that at first thought really sounds like it could be that terrifying. But by metaphorically suggesting that we are all going about our lives as zombies, this movie does a spectacular job of playing off that premise.

Of course it’s all fun and games until there are too many of them around to be outrun, and then someone gets disemboweled and their innards become a scrumptious buffet for all the ravenous undead.

This is a satire that becomes its own driving force. It even has Romero’s seal of approval.

At times the comedy is so much you almost forget that it is also a horror movie. Especially when it uses all the horror to help Shaun put the groove back into his relationship with Liz.

I would have to say that this might be the funniest movie of the year.

As the tag line says, “A romantic comedy. With zombies.” I think another way to look at it as a romantic dramedy with guts. And again, no pun intended.

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Volleyball team struggles with 1-10 record

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO  
Contributing Writer

The FIU lady Golden Panthers lost 3-1 in a Sun Belt Conference match up against the lady Trojans of Arkansas-Little Rock on Sept. 25 at the Trojan Fieldhouse in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The young FIU team put together this summer dropped to 1-10 this season and 0-2 in Sun Belt Conference play. The Trojans improved to 7-5 (1-0, Sun Belt).

Coach Cookie Stevens says she knows her team has had troubles against Sun Belt opponents.

“Through two conferences opponents we have been struggling,” said Stevens. Junior Anna Dmowska finished with 16 kills to lead the Golden Panthers. Freshmen Alyse Santisi and Dyssonna Smith added another 15 and 13 digs, respectively.

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Set one of the match was a back and forth battle that was eventually won by the Trojans 30-28, but not before a total of four lead changes and eight tie scores.

FIU managed to tie the score at one by another Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama. The match will take place at noon at Pharmed Arena.

Set two saw another dominant 30-19 victory. With a new group of players, part of the Golden Panthers struggle has been chemistry. Stevens is confident the players will come together.

“We have not found a group of players but in this game [against the Trojans], we did find a group of players connecting but we need to finish games,” Stevens said. Stevens says doesn’t want to hear excuses anymore.

“A new group of players takes a while to get on the same page but we have no excuses anymore. We need to get it done,” Stevens said. “ Stamina and resistance will get it done.”

The lady Golden Panthers return home on Oct. 3rd for a match against another Sun Belt Conference foe South Alabama.
Extensive time off could hurt Golden Panthers

too much of anything can be harmful. There are still questions to be answered about this team, questions that can only be answered on the football field during game-time situations. The offensive line, for example, still need to prove it can consistently protect the football. Offensively, the Golden Panthers will need to run the ball well. ULL has given up an average of 243 yards on the ground per game. If running backs Rashod Smith and Adam Gorman can be successful, it should open up the passing game for Josh Padrick.

Padrick will probably look for his new starting tight end, Samuel Smith quite a few times this game. Smith set a school record with ten receptions at Youngstown State and makes a great compliment to wide-outs Harold Leath and Corey McKinney.

As always, protecting the football will be a key component to winning. A plethora of second quarter turnovers allowed the Cajuns to come away with 29 points in the quarter en route to a 36-7 halftime lead last year. The team went through extensive practices last week for Western Kentucky and shifting strategies towards the Ragin Cajun changed some of the game plan.

“It’s tough, but we got good preparation during last week. [Louisiana-Lafayette] is a little different than Western Kentucky, but I’m sure we’ll be fine,” Strock said.

FIU killed several birds with one stone against YSU, winning for the first time in over time and against a Gateway conference opponent. A first win during last week. [Louisiana-Lafayete] was severely undersized and not as quick as advertised. Louisiana-Lafayette’s D-line will pose a bigger challenge, anchored by 6-4, 305-pound senior defensive tackle, Ken Haynes.

While the Golden Panther’s defense looked improved in the one game played so far, it still remains to be seen exactly how much better they are compared to the past two years. Questions remain as to whether they can consistently stop the run. We may have more answers to these questions after Saturday’s game, but at least we’ll finally have more football.

CAJUNS, from page 12

receiving corps is loaded with experienced seniors. Bill Sampy has been Babb’s favorite target this year along with fellow seniors B.J. Christ and Kemmie Lewis close behind. Red-shirted freshman Jordan Jackson stands at 6-feet-6-inches and 200lbs., a load for any defensive back.

Head Coach Don Strock was confident last week because after all, FIU can’t control the weather.

“We can’t control Mother Nature. It’s disappointing and it puts us back a bit but we’ve already started preparing for Louisiana-Lafayette, so we should be ready to go,” said Strock.

Under new coordinator Tiger Clark, the FIU defensive unit appears to be much improved. The main concern is the lack of experience the Golden Panthers have had this year with only one game under its belt where most teams have four.

The bye week followed by the rescheduled歙ue/Cal game-time situations.

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4-3 formation. This strengthens their secondary while making them slightly more susceptible to the run. Offensively, the Golden Panthers will need to run the ball well. ULL has given up an average of 243 yards on the ground per game. If running backs Rashod Smith and Adam Gorman can be successful, it should open up the passing game for Josh Padrick.

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**Men’s Soccer dominates Highlanders 6-0**

By NIKOLAY OREKHOV

The Golden Panthers will make a third attempt at a home opener as the 1-1A Louisiana-Lafayette Ragin’ Cajuns (2-2) visit FIU Stadium for the first time on Oct. 2.

FIU was scheduled to open the season at home on Sept. 2, but Hurricane Frances forced a cancellation and theJacksonville Dolphins could not reschedule.

The game against Western Kentucky, originally scheduled for Sept. 25th, would have been the first game played at FIU stadium this season but Hurricane Jeanne thwarted WKU’s travel plans and that game was postponed until Nov. 20.

This will be the second time FIU faces Louisiana-Lafayette, with the Cajuns leading the series 1-0. The previous game was an ugly 43-10 ULL win on Nov. 8, 2003 at Cajun Field. The Golden Panthers gave up a total of 443 yards in the game including 236 yards on the ground. The most disturbing part was that no one particular ball carrier managed the bulk of the yardage.

Instead, Cajuns Offensive Coordinator Rob Christphel used a revolving backfield of running backs Josh Harrison (63 yards), Chester Johnson (53), Dwight Lindon (32) and quarterback Jerry Babb (47) to distribute most of the ground game against an ineffective FIU run-defense.

Babb is in his second year under center for ULL and is averaging 203 yards through four games this season. The sophomore has totaled 814 yards and five touchdowns on the air, but the Golden Panthers will have to respect his legs as much as his arm.

The 6-3, 215lb. scrambler currently leads the Cajuns in rushing yards (219) and touchdowns (3). He’s also thrown five interceptions, which means with pressure at the line of scrimmage, he can be forced to make mistakes.

Despite losing both starting wide receivers in the off-season, ULL’s defense needs to keep an eye for him.

By ANDRES CORDERO

**Football to square off against Cajuns**

Ragin Cajuns vs. Golden Panthers

When: Oct. 2 at 6:00 p.m., FIU Stadium

TV: SUNSHINE Network (Tape Delay)

Radio: ESPN 790 AM, WRGP 88.1 FM

Record: FIU 1-0, ULL 2-2

Promotion: FIU lopside for first 4,000 fans

Scouting Report: ON OFFENSE, FIU will need to score early. Last game against Youngstown, FIU scored only three points in the first half. Louisiana-Lafayette ranked last in defense in the SEC last year. The team runs multiple 4-3 formations and has a 6-4, 300 pound defensive lineman that should trouble FIU running back Rashod Smith.

ON DEFENSE, FIU will need to stop the run. FIU running back Rashod Smith should trouble FIU defensive tackle Josh Harrison.

That game never happened. Neither did a second attempt at a home-opener as last week’s Western Kentucky match-up was rescheduled for Nov. 20th.

After Hurricanes Char-lie, Frances and Jeanne, what we have left is perhaps the only team in the nation that played just one game in the month of September, getting ready to host a Division I-A football team for the very first time.

Moreover, a Sun-Belt Conference opponent that’s almost halfway through its regular season in Louisiana-Lafayette.

Rest is usually a good thing in a sport as violent and overall physically demanding as football, but

See CAJUNS, page 11

**Week four, only one game? Ridiculous!**

By ANDRES CORDERO

COMMENTS

Five weeks into the NCAA football season the Golden Panthers have seen a cancellation, a postponement, a bye week and a bunch of natural disasters. What FIU hasn’t seen is a lot of football.

Before the originally scheduled home opener against Jacksonville University, Head Coach Don Strock worried that with the NCAA cutting back on two-a-day practices, his team may not have been in football shape.

That game never happened. Neither did a second attempt at a home-opener as last week’s Western Kentucky march-up was rescheduled for Nov. 20th.

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See FOOTBALL, page 11