Speakers rally students for political cause

By RODOLFO R. ROMAN
Staff Writer

Through joint efforts made by the university’s College Democrats, members of the Democratic Party and various Veteran associations, the John Kerry campaign trail known as “The Donkey Tour” made its way into FIU on Sept. 30.

The audience, which consisted of 200 students, war veterans, university faculty and local residents, packed the stairs leading to University Park’s Primera Casa building, holding signs and yelling their support for the Massachusetts senator turned presidential candidate.

Many well-known figures of the Democratic Party attended the event including Florida Representative Kendrick Meek; Senator Max Cleland; Party chairman Terry McAuliffe; Kerry’s war companion, Del Sandusky and Hialeah mayor Raúl Martinez.

The rally made itself evident throughout the school. Pamphlets, Spanish bumper stickers reading “No mas Bush” (No more Bush) and signs carrying the motto “Veterans for Kerry” inducted the space between PC and the FIU Fountain. The speakers informed students on Kerry’s political agenda, advising them to cast their votes and make a “positive decision” on Nov. 2: Vote Kerry to oust Bush.

“There are 27 million young voters who need to vote to take this man out and avoid the departure of more soldiers to Iraq,” said Cleland, who urged students to vote for Kerry out of fear of a national war draft. “This country should go to war not because it needs to, but when it needs to.”

With drinking water to help with...
Independent hold separate debates

By MARK SCOPETTA
Staff Writer

The nation’s TVs tuned into the debate between President Bush and Sena-
tor John Kerry on Sept. 30, but under their noses, another debate was taking place: the other guys’ debate. Across the street from the University of Miami’s Convocation Center and the media circus created by Bush/Kerry 2004, in a small, purple and green Holiday Inn, prepara-
tions were made for the gathering of two other wise ignored p o l i t i c a l groups, the Libe r t a r i a n and the Green par-
ty. As 5 p.m. approached, a u d i e n c e members gathered outside Inn’s B a n q u e t Hall. Unlike the freshly pressed suits and polished shoes of the major debate across the street, this audience mainly con-
sisted of men and women wearing t-shirts and blue jeans. A woman with half of her hair dyed blue stood dressed in camouflage, her eleven-year-old son wearing a t-shirt that read, “Revolutionaries always spoil the party. Vote Nader 2004.”

Ten minutes before the debate, the candidates, David Cobb of the Green Party and Michael Badn arik for the Libertarians, made their appearance and began to work the crowd. They called the volun-
teers by name and even acknowledged a few of the spectators. Their navy suits election who received six million votes. He now serves as the chair of the independent parties. Well, I call them the independent parties. The greatest inquir-
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Overall, the two parties stood in solidarity, arguing for their purpose for the pur-
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When pressed further on how he planned to do that, Cobb spoke about the need for international intervention and the need for a stronger Iraqi police force:

Badnarik responded, “We can do one of three things about Iraq; we can leave there and lose more American lives; we can kill all the Iraqis who live there and honestly say we won in Iraq or we can bring our troops home. We should have never sent our troops to Iraq and we should bring them home.”

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Police referred the student to her bank and credit
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No other staff business was interrupted.

-Compiled by Eric Pena

Rallies urge students to cast votes

From RALLY, page 1

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THE BEACON

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Whitman’s Leaves of Grass are read aloud in celebration of the first amendment.
Policiers must heed call to continue assault weapons ban

By JAMIE BLANCO
Staff Writer

One day after the expiration of a decade old assault weapons ban, Miami-Dade police officer Kereyna Hubert escaped with her life after being shot by a man wielding what’s believed to be an AK-47.

Twenty-four rounds were fired, far more than the typical 10 round clips available before the ban. Officer Hubert was hit in the head and shoulders. Her police car set ablaze by the amount of bullets pumped into it. Fortunately, she is expected to make a full recovery.

“Those shooting being to the potential harm and danger from high-powered weapons," declared Miami-Dade Police Director Robert Parker at a press conference the following day. “These are weapons of murder.”

This is only the first ominous reminder of what police must face more of now that 19 types of military-style weapons and American-made copycat weapons, many with stealth cosmetic enhancements, are available for sale to civilians. Many have larger magazines that hold more bullets as well.

As the Associated Press documented in an interview, some gunsmiths are ready and eager to sell copycat models of U.S. military standard-issue M-16s. This gun, called a Colt AR-15, was banned in 1994 but can be sold today.

“What keeps these weapons from falling into the wrong hands?”

Allowing the ban to die only makes it easier for these assault weapons to find their way into the hands of criminals, drug dealers, and mentally unstable, depressed or violent individuals.

It’s only a matter of time before we hear about another incident like the 1997 Los Angeles Bank robbery in which two men with illegally modified fully automatic and semi-automatic weapons held 320 police officers for hours, wounding a dozen before they were finally taken down. They fired 75 rounds a minute, showing no regard for human life.

There’s no practical purpose for a civilian to have such a powerful weapon.

You can’t eat a dear shot full of holes and allowing assault weapons ensures that more accidents will happen, not only in hunting, but also in the home.

As the rate of domestic violence and sexual battery increases in the city of Miami, so does the risk of possible violent deaths by high-powered weapons if they are in the home. Dangerously individuals don’t always have original records to begin with and may acquire a weapon without incident. The 2nd Amendment protects our right to defend our homes, not to procure dangerous weapons to hang on the walls as ego enhancements. Americans do not need more than a handgun to defend themselves.

Even gun enthusiasts, like FIU alumnus and registered gun owner Lazaro Blanco, haven’t forgotten how the 2nd Amendment protects our right to defend our homes, not to procure dangerous weapons to hang on the walls as ego enhancements. Americans do not need more than a handgun to defend themselves.

Even gun enthusiasts, like FIU alumnus and registered gun owner Lazaro Blanco, remain concerned. “Where are they going to shoot 300 or 600 rounds a minute? They’ll go shoot illegally in the Everglades or go shooting off and then someone is going to get hurt,” Blanco said.

Strong distribution laws still exist for gun retailers. But it’s not the retailer who submit to these processes that I worry so much about. It’s the gun that make it into the wrong hands with new features available to make them even more lethal.

Gun Violence in Duke County as a whole has dropped dramatically in the past 10 years. Youth gun-relate death is down 50 percent, so why jeopardize a good thing?

With higher capacity magazines for guns, aren’t we giving that percentage of gun criminals more chances to hit their intended targets?

The bill killed in the House of Representatives was an expansion of the previous ban, aimed to remove copycat weapons still being sold with minor cosmetic changes. Although 68 percent of Americans supported the bill, according to the University of Pennsylvania’s National Annenberg Election Survey, it was not even brought up for vote.

ABC news learned that the National Rifle Association, a powerful gun lobby, promised to endorse President Bush’s re-election campaign only after the ban expired.

What’s truly sad is that the Democrats are just as willing to see the issue die to ensure the delicate status of their presidential hopeful and congressional candidates.

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Candidate showdown offers more of the same propaganda

By DANNY MUELA
Staff Writer

In the spirit of fair and concise journalism, I will attempt to keep my comments neutral and not reveal that I am in fact going to vote for Nadar and that all of you are communists for not letting him debate.

This election is obviously going to be one of the closest in this nation’s history. This year, the election is about more than trivial tax cuts and White House intern’s administering fellatio.

The stakes are high. Our nation is at war and the billions of dollars being spent on it are throwing us further and further into the deficit. This is not World War II. Hell, this isn’t even the heavens and so on and so forth.

Americans need to realize that party loyalty has to take a back seat to what is needed in this country, leadership. Whether you’re Republican, Demo-crat, Independent, or Amish, you need to start listening to what these candidates have to say instead of what party they belong to.

If you just happened to stay with the debates long enough to hear all the post-debate coverage, you might have noticed something very odd.

All the Democrats thought that Senator Kerry had finally picked a stance and was beating President Bush into red paste when he had to play defense and never really got the chance to chase the good Senator off.

Republicans were convinced that Senator Kerry was lecturing his audi-ence while President Bush was can-didly speaking to the America, never wavering, no matter how strong the wind blew.

This debate did get some things right: There were seldom moments of gritty, balls to the wall, hot, hardcore political action.

It gave the American public a chance to see how both candidates stand on the very important topic of foreign policy.

Senator Kerry believes that the world no longer respects us and that we should finish our duties in Iraq as soon as possible and get our sol-diers back. President Bush feels very strongly about the Polish war machine and that chocolate will rain down from the heavens and so on and so forth.

But overall, the debate was pretty dull. There were no home runs, touchdowns, goals or what ever you do in Jai-Alai to score. The candidates played small ball.

But, asking this debate to be some-thing ground-breaking is like asking a high school production of Othello to win a Tony.

And it’s a shame because in a time when most voters would like to see the candidates naked. It’d be great to see them without their prepackaged sound bytes and just have them go at it.

Unfortunately, what we got was two political advertisements running opposite one another.

This debate probably won’t decide who becomes president. Only after being grouped with the two other upcoming debates will it really find its place. It was an interesting discussion, but it really didn’t prove much.

Both candidates held their ground, both showed confidence in their leader-ships abilities, and both had really nice suits on.

Looks like the people who will make or break this election are the undecided voters. It’s a shame that undecided voters are left in the dust.

For the uninformed, it’s pretty dif-ficult to decide which rhetoric they should buy when a debate boils down to two guys shouting, “I can do it better than he can!” and “Everything you just said is a complete lie. I’m right.”

It’s much easier to just vote for your party and move on with your life.

This is exactly what we need to stay away from. Don’t be afraid to break out of your democratic habit if Presi-dent Bush sees something you like.

Don’t call everyone a communist if they even think about voting for Kerry.

Unfortunately, these scripted debates don’t have any content besides the propaganda we’ve been hear-ing for the past six months.

But, that doesn’t mean that you can’t research it yourself. There are numer-ous information sources all over the Internet where you can research the candidates.

Sure, most of it is just more pro-paganda, but it’s very concise pro-paganda and you don’t have to miss your “Sanford and Son” reruns.

Well, at least next week we get to watch the vice presiden-tial debates.

Make sure to tune in next week to see Vice President Cheney head-butt Senator Edwards for having a “Fruity haircut.”
A FAMILY GATHERING: A family enjoys a meal at El Tambo Grill, where one can find authentic Peruvian flavors for affordable prices.

By CARLOS OLAECHEA
Contributing Writer

Long before the ideas for Pollo Tropical and Boston Market were ever conceived, Peruvians, as well as many South Americans, turned to rotisserie chicken, or pollo a la brasa, for inexpensive fast food. In Peru, a polteria (rotisserie chicken restaurant) is the equivalent of what a pizzeria would be in New York City.

There are no chains or franchises, and each independently owned and operated polteria competes against the other to see which has the moest, most flavorful chicken, the crunchiest “papitas” (French fries), and the best dipping sauces. With the influx of Peruvian immigrants to Miami, this tradition has been transferred to this side of the equator and has enjoyed great success among the Peruvian diaspora. Colombians, Argentines and Uruguayans soon followed suit, and now you can spot many different South American polleras all over the city like El Pollon and Zuper Pollo.

One such polleria is El Tambo Grill, which opened about two years ago. After only a couple of years, this restaurant has been a major success in the Peruvian community, and one who finds the restaurant empty. The secret to its success is the cook, known to regulars as Diego, who has a carefully guarded recipe

The tables are equally simple – each naked with paper napkin dispenser and a plastic vase containing silk flowers. Overhead, two televisions air Spanish-language soap operas, music videos or soccer games. During an important soccer match, the game is projected onto a large screen so that everyone can easily view it. It is during these nights (especially during Peruvian matches) that the restaurant is packed and has an energetic ambiance, reminiscent of a televised American football game at a Sports Bar, but with more fervor.

You order at the counter, where there are green laminated menus in English and Spanish, give your name, and take a seat until your order is ready. The basic order is rotisserie chicken, French fries and salad. This comes with the two classic accompanying sauces, huancaina and huacatay. The former is a creamy, slightly spicy, cheesy sauce with a pale yellow color from aji chilies and the Peruvian herb huacatay, which is a relative of mint. The latter is much spicier and is made from vinegar, rocoto chilies and the Peruvian herb huacatay, which is a relative of mint.

A whole chicken, French fries and salad, or rice and beans with two sauces costs $11.00 and can easily feed four people. However, the chicken is not the only hit on the menu. The second most popular dish there is the arroz chaufa, a type of fried rice and is made to order and is phenomenal. As unappealing as this may sound, even the most squeamish diners, upon trying it, have no regrets. Not to be missed is the house-made Chicha Morada, a traditional punch made by steeping purple corn and fruit in boiling water, along with spices and sugar, and reserved the liquid. The result is a refreshing beverage that is perfect alongside any dish.

While El Tambo Grill excels in their chicken and other main dishes, they are weak in their desserts, which are brought in from an outside source. They mainly consist of pastries filled with manjar blanco (dulce de leche), a type of milk sweet similar to caramel. The picarones, however, are made to order and are phenomenal. These typical Afro-Peruvian pumpkin donuts are deep fried and then drizzled with a clove-scented brown sugar syrup. Each bite is simply heavenly. So, next time you think about having chicken at a franchise, consider the alternative and be prepared to be ultimately satisfied.

Employees of El Tambo Grill eagerly await customers arrival.

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Firefighter flick burns with heated action

By ROGER MOORE
The Orlando Sentinel

“Ladder 49” is a solid, old-fashioned fire-fighting melodrama. It’s a string of sentimental snapshots of a firefighter’s life told in flashback as he and his crew fight for his life in a towering inferno where he has been trapped.

Every cliché in every movie or TV show about firemen is recycled here, but often to pleasant effect.

A comfortable leading-man turn by Joaquin Phoenix, a professional supporting performance by John Travolta and a knowing way with the fires themselves don’t make for cutting-edge drama. But it makes a nice counter-balance to the edgier, more corrosive firemen is recycled here, and a specialist in sentimental snapshots (“My Dog Skip” and “Tuck Everlasting” were his). He has a reverence for the subject that pretty much precludes the film showing us anything new, from the corner hang-out Irish bar to the growing, boisterous family. Brave men are hurt, brave men die, and then we go to their funerals.

The blaze that has Jack trapped is impressive enough, but the flashbacks take away any sense of urgency about his fate. And the smoothed-over procedures followed, the pecking order on the trucks and at the fires, seem spot on. But there is little here to tell us why any of these guys do what they do, “go into burning buildings when everybody else is running out.” Phoenix has a scene or two suggesting that he gets a rush from “helping people,” but nothing more.

“Ladder 49” is, as its Disney lineage suggests, a fire-fighting movie that’s family friendly. Treated as a movie you can take your kids to, its sense of routine heroism, the reassuring continuity of people who show up for work and save us when we need saving, is its greatest asset.
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**Tuesday, October 5, 2004**  
5:00 p.m. - Graham Center, East Ballroom
Lady Golden Panthers continue to struggle

By XAVIER VILLARMARZO  Staff Writer

The lady Golden Panthers suffered a distressing loss to rival Florida Atlantic University after coming back from two games down only to lose the fifth game, coming back from two games against Florida Atlantic University after suffering a distressing loss to rival Stevens.

"I was very disappointed at the start is what I was trying to play. It's disappointing the way we performed the first two games," said Stevens.

"The third game we fought back, we were sharper," Stevens said.

The Golden Panther followed its momentum with 30-23 win in the forth set tied that tied match and forced a deciding fifth game. To no surprise, Dmowska led the way for FIU by adding another six kills.

In set five however, things slipped away from the Golden Panthers as the Owls got match point with a 14-9 lead. FIU showed some resilience by then scoring 3 consecutive points, but it was too late. FAU rallied back and put the game away sending the Golden Panthers to its 11 loss of the season.

Despite the comeback to send the game into a fifth set, Stevens doesn’t want her team to fight back, they need to built leads.

"We came back in the middle but we didn’t put ourselves in that position. I will keep pushing them," Stevens said.

Failing to start strong is what hurt the team in the fifth set.

"We had a good start and momentum but we faltered," Stevens said. "It was a short game to 15 and we failed."

TOUGH START: The volleyball team is off to one of the worst starts in years. The team currently has one win and 11 losses on the year. Above, Oksana Zabolueva spikes the ball. GEOFF ANDERSON/SPECIAL TO THE BEACON
Writer advises Strock to keep resume in mind and “shhh” about Wannstedt

STROCK, from page 12

Wannstedt didn’t appreciate Strock’s comments. The Miami Dolphins have had an 11 and ten game winning season during Wannstedt’s first two years and Strock never made a complementary comment.

“I've only been here six years, and I didn’t realize that Don had that strong of a relationship and ties with the Dolphins,” Wannstedt told The Miami Herald.

“I'll have to look back when we won 10 and 11 games and check my notes about my past phone calls of encouragement,” Wannstedt said Strock used the comments as a way to promote himself. “I’ve been coaching 30 years, and one thing you don’t do is try to promote your own agenda by criticizing another team anywhere, coaches, or other players,” Wannstedt said. Wannstedt wasn’t the only one answering Strock about his comments. Miami Herald columnist and football expert Greg Cote wrote an Insider column a message to the FIU coach.

“The Insider likes Don Strock, the erstwhile famous Dolphins backup QB and current FIU coach. That’s why the Insider would have offered the following advice before Strock, a man of limited resume as a coach, went on the air to blast Dave Wannstedt the other day: Shhhhh!

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Football and school come first for Haritan

HARITAN, from page 12

a little, but then it got bigger in college,” said Haritan who has also been featured on Ocean Drive Magazine.

As a freshman at FIU, John adapted very quickly on the field; he was named the First Team All-Independent by the coaches after leading his team with 86 tackles. While Haritan was very active with the football team, he also met an agent who recruited him to the Golden Panthers, has been a dream for Haritan. “It’s awesome down here and it’s a beautiful campus,” Haritan said.

Now entering his junior year at FIU, the Criminal Justice major is still excited at the thought of picking up his modeling career, moreover the opportunity to play Division I-A football. “I want to try and help the team a lot this season,” Haritan said.

Whether he is flirting with the camera beneath the flashes of a camera, or getting down and dirty on the football field, Haritan is sure about one thing: he will be successful at what he does, no matter what it is.

Nothing less can be expected from a player who compiled a 39-1 record in high school as a wrestler. “It’s all in the works right now,” said Haritan who hopes he can standout in both modeling and the football field.

Coming to Miami to fulfill his dreams of football and playing for the Golden Panthers, has been a dream for Haritan. “It’s awesome down here and it’s a beautiful campus.” Haritan said.

Now entering his junior year at FIU, the Criminal Justice major is still excited at the thought of picking up his modeling career, after another successful season of football and moreover the opportunity to play Division I-A football.

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End of content.
Trouble in Dolphin Country?

Golden Panther head coach Don Strock took verbal potshots at Miami Dolphin head coach Dave Wannstedt. Upon hearing of Strock’s criticism, Wannstedt tackled the issue and questioned Strock’s ties to the Dolphins.

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

With a struggling Miami Dolphin football team in town, many former Dolphin players have been taking verbal potshots at the team and the coaching ability of head coach Dave Wannstedt.

A player bashing their former team is not out of the norm but when coaches begin to question other coaches’ motives, that’s when it becomes unusual.

In his weekly show, FIU head coach Don Strock spoke critically of the Dolphins’ strategies this season and of the leadership of Wannstedt. As a former player, Strock doesn’t like what is happening to the Dolphins.

“I played there 15 years. I hate to see what’s going on,” Strock said on his radio show.

During the show heard on ESPN 790AM on Wednesdays, Strock suggested that Wannstedt is too laid back with his players. “[He] may have lost a major part of this team,” said Strock, who was a longtime backup quarterback for the Fins.

Strock also mentioned how ex-Dolphin head coach Don Shula would have never allowed leaks of the team to reach the media and how Shula would be tougher on players.

Strock criticized the trade for A.J. Feely and how the Dolphins didn’t bring any free agents to upgrade the team.

The Dolphins’ offensive line has been a key problem for the team this season. Strock didn’t speak highly of Damion McIntosh, who was brought in by the Dolphins to fill holes on the offensive line.

Strock wondered how can a coach, who was a longtime backup quarterback for the Fins, tackle them is the first game of the season proving how tough he is, but the defensive back is also a star model.

Standing at six feet, 200 pounds, Haritan leaves football practice thinking about not only his possible career as an athlete, but maybe his modeling career.

“I never really thought about modeling, but I have a ton of fun doing it,” said Haritan who is considered one of the best at the position.

Standing proud in his blue and gold uniform, glaring down toward his opponents, who have no idea what they are in for, his near future due to his prior success.

Despite a busy schedule balancing football practice and school, Haritan explained how he doesn’t participate in any modeling until football season is over.

“Duties of the team, I don’t do any modeling,” Haritan said.

Fort Lauderdale, FL, which is just north of Miami, Haritan was involved in modeling in high school, along with being named The Miami Herald’s Seminole County Defensive Player of the Year in 2000.

“High school I modeled for Abercrombie and Fitch, Haritan has now realized there may be more modeling in his near future due to his prior success.

Abercrombie model lays the hit on opposing players

By NATALEE SABA
Staff Writer

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Despite a busy schedule balancing football practice and school, Haritan explained how he doesn’t participate in any modeling until football season is over.

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“Football and school come first.”

Born and raised in Casselberry, FL, which is just north of Orlando, Haritan was involved in modeling in high school, along with being named The Orlando Sentinel’s Seminole County Defensive Player of the Year in 2000.

“In high school I modeled for Abercrombie and Fitch, Haritan has now realized there may be more modeling in his near future due to his prior success.

Abercrombie model lays the hit on opposing players