University mourns death of couple

By LUIS NIN
Copy Editor

From The Miami Herald to the Sun Sentinel and CNN, the death of two prominent FIU students—Pi Kappa Phi President Tony Perez and Phi Sigma Sigma member Janelle Bertort—became news that quickly spread around the country.

On the morning of Nov. 14, Perez and Bertort, a sophomore majoring in sports management, expressing enthusiasm when it comes to selling their school books online. However, in order for the bookstore to pay students half of what they originally paid for their books, it needs to receive instructors’ book orders for the coming semester. These book orders are called adoptions. When all the adoptions have been submitted, the bookstore is able to determine which used books they will need to meet their professors to see if they have placed orders’ book orders for the next semester. If students money back for returned textbooks.

“I think it’s too much of a hassle, but I know people that [sell their books online] and get more money back that way,” Daz said.

“Some times [of the year] are better than others for selling back books,” Quaintance, who is majoring in accounting, said. He stated that the bookstore actually prefers to buy students money back for returned textbooks because they are 25 percent cheaper than new books and distributors might not always have the necessary texts available right away.

Quaintance recommended that students who are not sure if they should sell their books to the bookstore double-check with their professors to see if they have placed adoptions for the next semester. If they have not submitted them, then it is unlikely that those students will receive half price for their books. Knowing this information before trying to sell them back, he said, may help to avoid disappointment.
Devastation everywhere along main supply route through Fallujah

Sgt. Marc Veen, a 24-year-old Chicagoo, worked his way across the roof of a house on Route Henry and located an insurgent sniper who had set up his own rooftop vantage point a third of a mile away.

Adjusting for the distance and a light south wind, Veen held his breath, tightened his right index finger on the trigger of an M-14 rifle named Lucille, and hit the crowning Iraqi with a shot to the stomach. Two more rounds and the insurgent stopped moving.

Veen’s group, Cougar Company, was on the southern end of the city, where the remaining resistance was toughest. The northernmost group, Apache Company, exhausted from three days of fierce fighting, crawled overnight into a home on the quieter end of the 2-7’s terrace.

Soldiers found colorful mattresses leaning on a wall on the third floor. Their bulletproof vests leaned against walls as young men with far-off eyes stared looked at nothing, or slept hard.

A good friend in another platoon was killed storing a house on Saturday.

“I hate him,” said Veen. “I know that it sucks to have to look out for my guys.”

Grief he pushed off. Rage he kept.

As his team slept, he used a marker to write “This is 4 my buddy” on a 40 mm grenade for his M203 launcher.

“This is 4 my buddy” on a 40 mm grenade for his buddy, staring looked at nothing, or slept hard.
Honors students attend national conference

By KATHERINE BEALE
Staff Writer

Walking together through the chilly Louisiana weather, six female FIU students strode down the famed Bourbon Street of New Orleans on Nov. 13.

The students, members of the university’s Honors College, ventured to the “Big Easy” this Veteran’s Day Weekend to attend the 39th Annual National Collegiate Honors Council conference, an event in which students from all over the country participate in academic presentations and competitions.

Part of FIU’s participation at the conference included a presentation by three students about their Honors College study abroad experiences.

The session was moderated by Dr. Manuel J. Carvajal, director of the Honors College study abroad program to Spain, and professor of economics. Juniors Annette Shumway and Shradha Ramchadani, along with senior Patricia Castillo, each discussed their study abroad experiences.

All three students fulfilled their fourth-year Honors College course requirements through their participation in the Honors study abroad program this past summer.

Juniors Ola Akache and Adriana Campos presented their research on Nov. 12 with a poster titled, “Making Waves: Women’s Struggle for Recognition.” The poster highlighted some of the accomplishments women have made in science and law.

Their glossy, burgundy poster attracted more than its fair share of attention in a room full of student presenters from honors programs around the country.

Akache and Campos answered questions from curious conference attendees, explaining the meaning of their research and the reasons why their topic held special significance for them.

“I’m prmed and she’s prlaw,” Campos said, gesturing towards Akache. “We are women in science and law, so this was interesting to us.

Over the course of four days, the students and faculty attended a wide variety of conference sessions on every-thing from how to build a better Honors program to attention to images of Islam in today’s media.

Other FIU Honors College conference attendees included Inelaya Griffith, dean of the Honors College and professor of political science, who gave a presentation on how to attract and reward superior honors professors, and Lesley Northrup, associate dean and honors professor. Various other administrative and faculty members within the college also attended.

While the FIU students had their plate full, the students plan to go to the conference next year’s conference, to be held in St. Louis, Mo.

stated. He mentioned that the important thing was not the budget, but the experiences the students received.

With the trip funded by the college, the students admitted to having more time to gain good experiences and memories.

“Definitely appreciated the opportunity to go to the conference,” Shumway said. “We learned so much, not only from the conference itself, but also from all of the people around us. It was such a wealth of knowledge.”

Besides attending the various sessions, the students took advantage of New Orleans’ famous cuisine and just relaxed.

“It was a very worthwhile experience,” Akache said. “It was a mixture of fun and academics, but more fun than anything else.”

Aside from Castillo, who graduated this semester, all the students plan to submit proposals for next year’s conference, to be held in St. Louis, Mo.

CONFERENCE CALL: Students and faculty attendees to the National Collegiate Honors Council conference, from left to right: Adriana Campos, Patricia Castillo, Dr. Manuel Carvajal, Ola Akache, Elizabeth Williams, Annette Shumway, Shradha Ramchadani, Dr. Lesley Northrup, Dean Inelaya Griffith, Sharon Placeide, and Florentin Maurisse. COURTESY PHOTO

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SAQA president discusses school policies, athletics, BBC

By MICHAEL CABBAGE
The Orlando Sentinel

Nearly two years after the Columbia disaster, some NASA managers fear that cost-cutting measures and pressure to resume shuttle launches are jeopardizing serious safety reforms.

Confidential interviews with shuttle officials, as well as internal NASA documents, portray a program rushing to fly again despite serious money problems and growing concerns about meeting an ambitious schedule.

In August 2002, the Columbia Accident Investigation Board made 29 recommendations to improve shuttle safety, including 15 designated as preconditions for returning to flight.

None of those preconditions is considered more important than the one explicitly stating that NASA "adopt and maintain a shuttle flight schedule that is consistent with available resources.

An increasing number of shuttle managers at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration are worried that isn't happening.

To help balance its books, for example, NASA is considering hundreds of layoffs at Kennedy Space Center even as workers prepare for shuttle Discovery's planned liftoff in May.

Internal schedules show that 6 1/2 months of processing work on Discovery remains, but the orbiter must be rolled out of its hangar in 4 1/2 months to make the May launch window.

The CAIB and a commission that investigated the 1986 Challenger disaster found earlier budget and schedule pressures clearly contributed to both catastrophes.

"Schedules are a necessary management tool, but they can get out of control," said the CAIB chairman, retired Adm. Hal Gehman, who added that he is unaware of any new shuttle budget and schedule problems.

"We found schedule pressure to be a cause of the Columbia accident, and it could happen again."

Senior NASA officials insist the priority remains safety, not budgets and schedules, and that the shuttle will not launch until all necessary work is completed.

"There is no unlimited schedule and no unlimited budget," said Bill Parsons, NASA's shuttle-program manager. "We have to have some target we're out there working toward. If we don't meet a certain milestone because of a technical challenge or some other reason, we'll move the milestone out, and we'll move the target date out."

However, shuttle managers speak bluntly in internal documents and e-mails about not being able to meet some recommendations before Discovery's launch.

Many communications make it clear they are not nearly as convinced as O'Keefe and Parsons that there is time and money to do the job right.

In several e-mails, strategies are discussed not for raising the bar but for interpreting the CAIB recommendations as narrowly as possible to fulfill them more cheaply and quickly.

After debris fatally pierced Columbia's protective heat shield during launch, the CAIB recommended that NASA develop a way to inspect and make emergency repairs "to the widest possible range of damage" before the shuttle's return to flight.

Efforts to engineer a boom that will be used for inspections in orbit have run into technical problems. The work on developing repair techniques also has been slow and expensive, with projected costs topping $100 million, and millions more expected in additional overruns.

One unlikely money-saving option put forward by the Orbiter Project Office at Johnson is to "terminate efforts and accept risk," leaving the shuttle with no repair kit and that crucial CAIB recommendation unmet.

Senior NASA managers told reporters during an Oct. 29 teleconference that challenges remain, but significant progress has been made on emergency-repair techniques.

The agency plans to do testing during Discovery's upcoming flight.

SAQA president discusses school policies, athletics, BBC

CRASH SITE: Searchers take a photo of a piece of Space Shuttle Columbia debris that was recovered from an area outside of Melrose, Texas on February 6, 2003. The disaster has brought about claims of negligence on the part of NASA from various advocacy groups. Guater Perez

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11/18/04
“Appointed for life” supreme court rule has been overlooked far too long

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist remains seriously ill with thyroid cancer, and now, with the elections over, it is likely that the 80-year-old will step down, allowing what many speculate will be another strong conservative judge to be appointed to the court and a moderate conservative to take his place as chief justice.

However, with the current average age of the supreme court at 70-years-old, there are concerns that the mental competency of the justices and relevance of the supreme court system may be fading.

For instance, while Rehnquist was never quoted as saying so, many hypothesized that he would refuse to step down until he knew the results of this past presidential election. Many also speculated that he would have chosen to remain chief justice even in his poor health and old age, if a democrat had been elected.

Had this occurred, it would have set a strange precedent on what should be a non-partisan, balanced final word in justice.

The “Appointed for life” supreme court rule has historically been considered a non-partisan, balanced final word in justice.

For instance, while Rehnquist was never quoted as saying so, many hypothesized that he would refuse to step down until he knew the results of this past presidential election. Many also speculated that he would have chosen to remain chief justice even in his poor health and old age, if a democrat had been elected.

Had this occurred, it would have set a strange precedent on what should be a non-partisan, balanced final word in justice. It is inevitable that with age comes deterioration in mental and physical health, and because there are no standard tests for such conditions, it is plausible that the view of a completely competent and fair court could become tainted.

Perhaps it is a good time to review the antiquated “appointed for life” rule. There are many situations where this rule may not be useful anymore.

By JON BANKE Staff Writer

While presidential campaigning was in full swing in Oct., my roommates and I decided to display a sign outside of our apartment supporting our candidate.

Like many FIU students, we wanted our feelings to be known as to which candidate we wanted in the Oval Office. For two days our sign was proudly displayed on our balcony railing. Others in the University Park Apartments also displayed signs supporting their chosen candidate.

On the second night that our sign was displayed, Resident Advisors on a routine evening patrol came to our door and asked us to remove it. We asked why, and they gave us two reasons. We completely disagreed with both but were forced to comply against our will.

The first reason was that our railing had to be available for people to use. Who uses our railing except for us? It is directly outside our door on the second floor, and the actual handrail on the frame was completely clear of any obstructions, including signs.

We had an even bigger issue with the RA’s second reason for having us remove the sign – the possibility of it becoming litter. We considered this to be a double standard. Our sign was a problem, but our RA is allowed to post flyers, promotional leaflets and other information all over our building at will.

Just days after being told that our heavy-duty, weather-proof sign was a litter problem, our RA posted over 50 flyers promoting an event to be held in our courtyard all over the outside of our building.

Flyers were stapled to our courtyard table, pinned to our trees and laundry room walls and, of course, taped to our doors and balcony handrails. The over 50 residents in our building each received an invitation to the event on top of all of the promotional flyers outside the building. Even with all of this information distributed to residents, attendance was mediocre at best.

Material is distributed every week around the apartments, encouraging residents to become active in campus life, reminding them of important deadlines and promoting events that the housing administration oversees.

With all of the weather we can get at any time in South Florida, frail pieces of paper can get at any time in South Florida, frail pieces of paper get at any time in South Florida. Litter. We considered this a problem, but our RA is allowed to post flyers, promotional leaflets and other information all over our building at will.

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With all of the weather we can get at any time in South Florida, frail pieces of paper present no match for mother nature and are often found laying in the grass or around the courtyard. Every morning our custodial workers, already burdened with so much, face cleaning up more and more flyers and leaflets. They do not have a causal relationship between the amount of money we pay out every piece of trash scattered around the building. Our problem is not with our RA or hosting events in housing facilities. We get along with our RA just fine and enjoy the multiple activities RAs plan for students who live on campus.

The issue is that housing officials don’t see loose-leaf promotional material and other such information as potential litter, while they stuff a heavy-duty sign enticing individuals to be active in our flourishing political process as quickly as possible.

When we questioned housing officials about their policies and reasons behind this decision, a simple shrug of the shoulders was the only answer we ever received. For the amount of money we pay to live on campus, a more complete and clear answer about posting signs and information and distributing flyers would seem to be the next obvious step.

However, to this day, nothing has been said or done to ease the confusion.

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Diana Dayser: The Hollywood woman is using Ebay to sell a grilled cheese sandwich bearing the image of the Virgin Mary and is now receiving bids in excess of $13,000. The falafel shaped like Moses, however, is not doing as well.

LOSER

Symbols of love: According to a national poll, one in four Britains loses his or her original wedding ring after tying the knot. This comes as a surprise to most Americans, used to losing their sanity instead.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

With Thanksgiving coming soon, what do you plan to do with your turkey leftovers?

• Have more for dinner the next day/Make sandwiches for lunch.
• Throw it out/Give it to the dog. I won’t be able to handle seeing anymore turkey.
• Get creative! Make turkey smores, turkey shakes or turkey upside down cake.
• Turkey!! No, ham rules at my house.

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La Nonna offers quality service

By CARLOS C. OLAECHEA
Staf Writer

Sometimes, when I’m really hungry, I don’t want to eat anything exotic or hard to pronounce. Dishes like lobster salad with green tomato gel and avocado sorbet seem unappetizing when there’s a rumble in my tummy. During such times, there’s only one cuisine that will satisy me: Italian. Unfortunately, Italian cuisine in Miami has gone on the South Beach diet. Instead of ordering hearty portions of beef, cheezy lasagna, I’m confronted with menus that read like a dietician prepared them: arugula salad with a light vinagrette, pappardelle lightly dressed with a light tomato and garlic broth, lightly steamed chop with capers and a light balsamic glaze. All of this new and “improved” Italian cuisine comes, of course, with practically no seasoning and the standard hefty price tag. Where are my dependable Italian-American restaurants? Fortunately, we have a nice mom-and-pop style Italian restaurant right by FIU. This great Italian restaurant is named La Nonna, which means “the grandmother” in Italian. The funny thing is that the restaurant actually has an Italian grandmother, and she is responsible for inspiring the no-frills Italian fare served in there.

The first time I ate there, I went with two friends who suggested we test it. The ambiance is very cozy and reminiscent of one of those old-school Italian restaurants in New York that you always see in movies. The walls are partially covered with wood paneling and overhead are dark wooden beams, making the restaurant look as if you’re in someone’s house back in the old country. The service is courteous and prompt.

The most remarkable thing about this restaurant, however, is the menu. Dishes average about $8 and most are under $10. All come with salad, and meat dishes come with a side of pasta. The selection was quite impressive. All of the standard items were there, as well as a few lesser known but classic dishes, like chicken florentine, a sumptuous combination of chicken topped with spinach, prosciutto and mozzarella cheese.

My dining partners ordered baked ziti and eggplant parmesan with a side of fettuccine alfredo. I ordered chicken parmesan with a side of fettuccine alfredo. The garlic bread that comes standard with every dish is very tasty, and I really enjoyed the meal.

La Nonna is one of those old-school Italian restaurants in New York that I can’t get enough of. It’s a little bit of Italy in Miami, and I highly recommend it.

See LA NONNA, page 8
Golden Idol
Students sing their heart's out

IDOLIZED: The finalists for the Golden Idol competition line up for a quick photo shoot (top). Hosts Tiffany Hunt and Alex Prado join the Dance Marathon Captains for a traditional line dance led by FIU Dance Marathon Morale chairs Marly Quincoces and Cesar Quinzada (center). The winners of the 2004 Golden Idol contest pose for a final group picture after the competition results were announced. From left to right, contest director Mariela Campuzano, second runner-up Raymond Thomas, first runner-up Schauri Dixon, and the 2004 Golden Idol, Angie Alfonso (bottom). Courtesy Photo
REality Check: Hype slows but some hits stay course

Grandma brings Italy to Sweetwater
LA NONNA, from pg 6

REality Check: Hype slows but some hits stay course

by Pamela Sit
The Seattle Times

It’s been a tough fall for reality TV. And by that I mean the whole season and the corresponding ratings tumble.

While networks continue to roll out new reality shows with mind-boggling contracts, viewers finally seem to be saying, enough already!

Recent premieres like FOX’s “My Big Fat Obnoxious Boss” and NBC’s “The Apprentice” are already moving into Lopevi. “The Bachelor” and “Celebrity Edition,” and have been featured in our weekly column “The Bachelor” and “Celebrity Edition,” and have been featured in our weekly column

“SANTA CLAUS”

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 17
Student Composers’ Concert is an FIU School of Music event and will take place at the Wolfson Performing Arts Center at UP. The event is free and will begin at 8 p.m.

Comedy Night at the Miami Improv will be hosted by The Baka Boyz from WMIB 103.5 The Beat. There will be live appearances from the best stand-up comedians from around the world. The event begins at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Live for more information contact Sheila Thomson at 305-535-2631 or honig@fiu.edu. Admission is free for members and $10 for others.

Rage Week presents a pop rally with music, pizza and giveaways. It begins at noon in the GC Forum.

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 19
Evolution/Revolution: A Century of Modern Seating, will open at 6:30 p.m. at the Wolfsonian Museum located at 1001 Washington Avenue. The reception kicks off with a brief talk by Eames Design, grandson of acclaimed designer Charles Eames. You must RSVP. For more information contact Sheila Thomson at 305-535-2645 or rsvp@thewolf.fiu.edu.

Tailgate with 99.9 Kiss Country, Mechanical Bull, Smorg’s Barbecue and more in 6 before the football game from 4–6 p.m.

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 20
The Indian Student Association of FIU presents the Festival of Lights, Diwali 2004 at the North Miami Beach Julius Littman Theater for the Performing Art. It will take place from 7-10 p.m. $10 for general admission, $15 for preferred seating and $20 for premium seating.

SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 21
Pink & White Bash will be held at Banana Joe’s Island Bar and Grill and Margarita Mama’s Restaurant located at 3015 Grand Avenue. Admission is free before midnight and everyone wearing pink will get in for free before 11 a.m. For additional information contact 305-461-1118 or visit http://www.bananajoese.com.

WMIB 103.5 The Beat will present the 2004 Caribbean Reggae Fest from noon to midnight. The concert will take place at Bicentennial Park located on University Drive. Bicentennial Park and will feature artists such as Bounty Killer, Kevin Lyttle, Becone Man and Elephant Man. Tickets start at $35. For more information call 305-358-7550.

If you would like to see your event posted on our calendar, please send your information to: Arts Calendar, The Beacon University Park campus Graham Center, Room 210, Miami, FL 33199 or e-mail beacon@fiu.edu.
Volleyball ends sour season on disappointing note

By XAVIER VILLAMARO
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers volleyball team ended its season in heartbreak fashion with a 3-2 loss to the Trojans of Arkansas-Little Rock on Nov. 14 at Pharmed Arena.

FIU finished the season with a disappointing 3-23 overall record and was 2-12 in Sun Belt Conference play.

The Golden Panthers were down 2-0 despite having a chance to win both those games. The team came together and took advantage of the Trojans mistakes to tie the match. Ultimately, however, they lost the decisive fifth game.

“We fought hard, as if we were trying to not let the season go,” said captain Laura Vogel, referring to the effort put forth by the team in their final match of the season. “It’s been rough for us, but we’re always looking forward.”

The match marks the last for seniors Danielle Dubetz, Jessica Jones and Myriam Rodney, who have all played valiantly this season despite all of the team’s setbacks.

Sophomore Oksana “The Iron Curtain” Zabalueva led FIU offensively with a career-high 10 kills and a season-record 34 digs.

Danielle Dubetz finished on a high note recording a career-high 10 kills and a season-high seven total blocks. Jones joined Dubetz in the offensive game with 16 kills, four aces and five blocks.

In game five, FIU took an early 5-3 lead only to see it vanish off six straight points by UALR.

Dubetz led FIU’s offense with 16 kills, four aces and five blocks. Jones added five kills apiece. Both led with 13 kills and four blocks. Both featured 18 tie scores, FIU had a 28-25 lead but allowed four consecutive points again. The game became a seesaw battle, ending with a 34-32 win for the Trojan.

Freshman Ruth Fleming led the way for FIU with six kills. Vogel and Dmowska added five kills apiece.

In game three, the Golden Panthers did not want to be swept. Despite having UALR score 10 consecutive points in the middle of the game, FIU clawed their way back to a 30-24 victory by scoring 11 of the last 12 points.

Game Four was much of the same for UALR, as they had 11 errors for the second consecutive game. FIU took advantage of them by taking a 12-11 lead and never looking back. For the game, Dmowska had four kills and Jones contributed with six digs.

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The game became a seesaw battle, ending with a 34-32 win for the Trojan.

The Golden Panthers return all but three players next season and hope a veteran team will improve this season’s record.

Women’s cross country finishes strong at regional

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

Another season is in the books for the FIU Cross Country team, with this year ending on a high note.

Golden Panther sophomore Amanda Howard, who led the FIU ladies all year round, once again put in a solid performance in the final race of the season.

By running a 22.25 during Saturday’s six kilometer NCAA South Regional in Tuscaloosa, Ala., Howard posted the second best women’s time in FIU history.

Howard finished in 43rd place, eclipsing her best time in the 6k by 51 seconds – a personal record she set at the same meet last year. Her 43rd place finish is also the second best place any runner has achieved at the regional meet in the school’s 32-year history.

Freshman Deidra Witherspoon finished with a time of 23:51, the second best time ever in the 6k by an FIU freshman. Not to be outdone by her teammates, Paola Reategui continued the success of this year’s squad by also adding her name to the record books, finishing with the third best time for a freshman at 24:11.

Witherspoon and Reategui finished 109th and 119th, respectively, out of a field that featured 163 runners.

April Wall finished fourth on the team with a time of 25:07, good enough for 149th overall.

The meet was dominated by two schools from the SEC, Tennessee and Georgia, who finished just two points apart. The lady Volunteers edged the lady Bulldogs 78-80. The University of Chattanooga edged out ACC front runner Florida State for third place.

Sophomore Angela Homan of Auburn University won the meet with an overall 6k time of 20.25, less then two seconds in front of runner-up Shannon Womack from the University of Chattanooga.

On a high note for the Golden Panthers, all of the runners that were featured on this year’s roster are either sophomores or freshmen.

This means that unlike every other school in the Sun Belt Conference, all of their runners will return next season as they chase the Sun Belt crown.
Coach Russo on season: “We’re going to do better than last year.”

BURNETT, from page 11

averages of 16.6 points, 8.2 rebounds, 2.2 blocks and 1.6 steals per game in 2003-04.

Tomova had a breakout season as a junior, earning a spot on the tri-athletes in their respective

The team has been

Back Court

The other returning senior is 5-foot-8 guard, Deniz Boz who is one of the tallest players on the team. She has a good low post-game of the tallest players on the team.

When Ivelina Vrancheva graduated, the Turkish born Boz was expected to move back into the starting point guard position but an ACL injury has ended her season. The senior also missed the 2002-03 season due to a torn ACL.

Before the injury, Russo was expecting Boz to lead the team.

“Deniz is one of our hardest-working players,” said Russo. “We won the Sun Belt Conference when she was starting point guard position and she wants to lead the team back there.”

Junior Faaza Bouderra is expected to see more time on the hardwood than she did last year, when she averaged 15.9 minutes per game. Sophomores Aniela Ash and Eva Makela will add depth at the guard spot.

Meanwhile, second year freshman LaQuetta Fargason and newcomers Iva Ciglar and Ashley Painter will contribute to their role in the future. Newcomers Shantel Ragain and Jasmine Jenkins may both see some time at the forward position. Both freshmen were tri-athletes in their respective

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NEW ATTITUDE: With the addition of new head coach Sergio Rouco, Burnett has noticed a difference in attitude in the lockerroom. The senior hopes the positive mentality will lead to success in the season after last year’s disappointment.  

Grown-Up Soviet

They have grown and matured, and with a tough pre-season, we will be ready.

Cindy Russo on her players

Women’s Soccer Coach

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SPORTS
SPORTS

Men’s soccer headed to NCAA tournament

By NIKOLAY OREKHOV
Staff Writer

Two days after a brilliant performance and win against the No. 14 Harvard, which enabled the Golden Panthers to clinch the conference title and earned the automatic bid into the NCAA tournament, FIU lost its season finale at South Carolina on Nov. 14.

The 3-1 loss snapped the team’s five-game winning streak and improved the Gamecocks’ all-time series record to 5-0-1 against the Panthers.

With the loss, the Golden Panthers finished the regular season with an 11-6-0 overall record. The Gamecocks improved to 12-6-1 for the season.

South Carolina took an early 1-0 lead in the sixth minute of the match and never looked back, going ahead 3-0, before FIU scored its lone goal of the game.

Gamecocks’ Freshman Sebastian Lingholm scored his sixth goal of the season in the winning effort, juniors Ryan Deter and Eric Szeszycki added a goal each to combine for the South Carolina score.

FIU senior Fernando Plentz scored his seventh goal of the season during the 71st minute to break up the shutout. Shawn Crowe of FIU and South Carolina’s Brad Guzan each recorded three saves for the match.

Although, the outcome of this game had little effect on the Panthers’ tournament hopes, it ended the longest winning streak of the season.

At least the good news despite the loss, is that the Golden Panthers’ new season goes into full swing Nov. 19, when their quest for the NCAA Championship gets underway.

“We’re thrilled to be back in the NCAA Tournament again,” said head coach Karl Kremser.

The Golden Panthers will face a familiar opponent in the University of Central Florida this Friday at 7 p.m. The game will be at the FIU Soccer Stadium, and it is going be the third consecutive year that the two teams will square off against one another in the first round of the tournament.

“It seems to be a tradition to play them in the first round,” Kremser said.

The Golden Panthers won six straight versus UCF and hold a 23-6-3 all-time series advantage over the Knights.

“We got a win over them earlier this year, but we need to be ready to play them again,” Kremser said.

“Can’t back down” mentality expected from center Burnett

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

With homecoming past us, Thanksgiving approaching, and football season coming to an end, there is only one thing left in the year: the start of basketball season.

With a new coach, a new team outlook and a heavy schedule, this season appears to be one for the ages. The Beacon met with team leader and senior Byron Burnett and discussed a little bit of everything, from his career to his future.

Q: On your biography it states that you did not play basketball in high school. Did you play at all before attending Southern Union College?

A: Kind of but not really. I played from time to time when I was younger. It was always kind of like one of those situations where I was the big guy around, so people would pick me to play. I basically started playing my freshman year at Southern Union College.

Q: You were recruited out of junior college by the University of Mississippi, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and other programs. What made you decide on FIU?

A: I took a visit here, and I took a visit to Ole Miss, but I just wanted to be in a different situation. I like the environment down here the best and the diversity. That’s why I chose to come down here.

Q: What do you wish to accomplish personally during your final season? What about for the team?

A: Personally, just to be the best team player, do what I got to do, sacrifice for the team. Team wise, we like to see a conference championship and hopefully go to the tournament if we play hard and work hard everyday. We have to take every game one at a time and not get ahead

See BURNETT, page 10

Women’s basketball look to rebound from losing season

By ANDRES CORDERO
Staff Writer

Since its 1975-76 inaugural season, the FIU women’s basketball program has established a winning tradition second to none in FIU athletics. During the span of 29 years the Golden Panthers amassed 22 consecutive winning seasons, 17 20-win seasons and 13 post-season tournament appearances, while piling up 535 total wins.

With the loss, the Golden Panthers finished the regular season during the 71st minute to break up the shutout. Shawn Crowe of FIU and South Carolina’s Brad Guzan each recorded three saves for the match.

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See BURNETT, page 10

See REBOUND, PAGE 10

COACH

The Golden Panthers have won 516 of 535 victories under head coach Russo. All of the team’s 20-win seasons and 13 post-season appearances have come in the past 26 years. The Russo Era.

The 13th winningest active coach in NCAA Division I women’s basketball has high hopes for this year’s squad and believes that this season will be an improvement over the last.

“We’re going to do better than last year,” said Russo. “We played some good basketball, but we didn’t get enough wins. We have more home games this season, and we have a lot of players returning. They have grown and matured, and with a tough preseason, we will be ready.”

FRONT COURT

One of only two seniors returning from last year’s team is forward/center Milena Tomova. The 6-foot-3 Bulgarian native received All-Sun Belt Conference honors after leading the Golden Panthers with an average of 16.6 points, 8.6 rebounds.

SENIOR LEADER: Milena Tomova received All Sun Belt Conference honors after leading the Golden Panthers with an average of 16.6 points, 8.6 rebounds.

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