The Beacon, November 18, 2004

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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 Bertot—became news that quickly spread around the country.

On the morning of Nov. 14, Perez and Bertot, a sophomore majoring in premedicine, were found dead in a Weston Mini-mall parking lot. The Broward County Medical Examiner’s Office declared their cause of death to be carbon monoxide intoxication. The odorless gas acted as a tasteless poison that does not irritate the skin.

The odor quickly made its way to FIU, where Greek Affairs held a meeting that afternoon to inform the Greek community of the deaths. Over 200 students attended the meeting, which consisted of an information session and a moment of prayer. The department then cancelled the fraternity and sorority homecoming court ceremony and the week’s intramural games.

Perez’s and Bertot’s friends and peers have spent time sharing their memories and accomplishments.

“They were both very amicable, very caring. They were heavily involved. They touched people,” said Karen Katz, assistant director of Campus Life for Greek Affairs.

Bertot was 19-years-old and an active member of Phi Sigma Sigma, FIU’s first sorority. She was the Alumnae Chair of the organization’s executive council. Among her many accomplishments, Bertot had submitted a proposal to President Maidique regarding the establishment of sorority houses on campus and served as a morale captain during FIU’s all night Dance-a-Thon charity event.

“Janelle had such stature about her. She was someone everybody wanted to confide in, very mature for her age. She was so brilliant and full of potential. You could tell she was going to succeed in any area of life,” Katz said.

Tony Perez was 25-years-old and scheduled to graduate in December. Known for his public support of Delta Lambda Phi, FIU’s only gay fraternity, those who knew him remember him as a student full of conviction.

“When I think of Tony, I think of someone with integrity. He lived his values, he lived his life the way you should. He was a great man. He always had a smile,” Katz said.

Memorial services were held on Nov. 15 for Perez and Nov. 16 for Bertot. On Thursday, Nov. 18, there will be a candlelight vigil by the Graham Center Fountain at 7:30 p.m.

During the day, there will be two poster boards on display by the GC Pit on which students can post pictures or write messages.

The Greek organizations will present the posters to Perez’s and Bertot’s parents later that evening.

Bookstore’s buyback policy irks students

By ALLAN PICHARDO
Contributing Writer

Students might be familiar with the advertisement posted around FIU with a young woman holding a sign that reads: “We want 50 percent back,” in large boldface characters. This sign refers to the FIU Bookstore’s approaching textbook buy-back season.

As the semester closes, the UP bookstore begins to both restock its shelf for next term’s book demands while offering students money back for returned textbooks.

“Don’t tell me you are giving me 50 percent back,” in large boldface characters. This sign refers to the FIU Bookstore’s approaching textbook buy-back season.

During finals week every semester, students gather their used books and stand in line at either the University Park or Biscayne Bay Campus bookstores, hoping to return them for some extra cash. Nevertheless, the consensus among students is that the bookstore is not keeping up their end of the bargain.

“Do they have 50 percent and then give me 10? I’m upset about that,” said Natalie Diaz, a junior.

Don’t tell me you are giving me 50 percent, and get more money back that way,” Diaz said.

Chris Quaintance, operations manager of the FIU Bookstore, expressed concerns that students might not be completely informed about the process that must occur before the bookstore can pay students half price for their used books.

“Some times [of the year] are better than others for selling back books,” Quaintance explained, “but, the limiting factor is the timing of the book order.”

According to Quaintance, finals week is the peak time for selling back used books. 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 next semester’s demand.

Quaintance, who is majoring in accounting, viewed the problem from a student’s point of view.

“If costs students money if [instructors] don’t turn in the orders,” he said. He stated that the bookstore actually prefers to buy used books 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 planned their 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.
Standing in front of his peers, University Park Student Senate President, Jorge Rosario, raises a gavel and asks the council to have a seat.

The council sits and watches as Rosario bangs the gavel and announces the commencement of the meeting.

Mid-term into his presidency, Rosario heads each weekly meeting of council members, ready to present their organization’s accomplishments. Rosario opens the meeting, looks up at the members in front of him, and says, “Welcome my friends.” And, that’s how he likes it.

“Motivation is a key ingredient in keeping the council ready and able to get the job done. The meetings help us focus on the task at hand,” Rosario said. Along with UP SGA Vice President, Malik Wilkes, students elected Rosario under a slew of controversy after his opponent, David Medina, heard speculations of Rosario’s disqualification from the race. Rumors about Rosario, Wilkes and their campaign spread like wildfire all over UP. Medina insisted that a board of elections member had leaked confidential information stating that the Rosario, Wilkes campaign had broken election rules such as stealing signs and defaming opposing candidates. Although gossip and a two-hour sit-in before Patricia Telez-Irsin, the former Vice President of The Student Affairs Office, were the results of this election controversy, Rosario was not around to witness it all. Carried off by his fraternity brothers and thrown into the UP Apartment’s lake – a traditional “winner’s ceremony” – Rosario stood misty-eyed in front of his campaigners and thanked his FIU family for their support. “I want to thank all of you for helping me win this election. You are all like family to me,” said Rosario, following his presidential win. “We did it together and I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year.”

According to Rosario, the win proved that hard work pays off. He maintained that he made a conscious effort to enjoy himself and celebrate a victory that he felt he deserved. “In every election there are always controversy and speculation about things that happened and didn’t happen. I was fully aware of what my [campaigners] were doing and not doing,” said the SGA president who became involved with the organization in 2001. Born into a working class family, Rosario related that his parents are an extraordinary pair whose constant commitment to the family has shown him what it takes to lead a successful life. His mother was born in Guam, a small U.S. territory in the Pacific Islands, and met his father, a U.S. Air Force soldier, when he was stationed on the island. After the birth of Rosario’s older sister, the new family moved back to the continental U.S. Two years later, his parents had Jorge and his younger brother, Javier.

Loyal to his family, Rosario recounted having to leave school and work full-time to support them and put his younger brother through school. “It was a tough time, but I knew what I had to do. It was my turn to take some responsibility,” Rosario said. “I grew up with a tight family bond, and I always held a respect for how much my parents worked for the family.” According to Rosario, this was a very trying time that made him realize the importance of family values and a strong work ethic.

When he returned to school, Rosario said that his family was there early trying to keep up and stay involved. “Personally, my challenge has always been allocating enough time to do this position. I am the typical FIU student in that I have always had to work full-time. I have always had to support myself,” Rosario said. Rosario’s work ethic and family are not the only things that keep him going. According to Wilkes, Rosario can do anything he sets his mind to. “With anything he does even outside of FIU, you know [by how he works] that he is doing it. When he puts his passion and drive into something, it comes out,” Wilkes said. “You can tell that he cares, and he knows what he is doing. He gives off this energy that is unexplainable.”

Now, six months into his presidency, the 24-year-old says that he has enjoyed his time as president and is still enthusiastic about what he has yet to accomplish. “I became a president because of my love for dealing with people. [Being president] is everything I thought it would be and more,” Rosario said. “It is a lot of work and a lot of time, but it is a dream come true for me. I am doing as much as I can each day.”

During his presidential campaign in April 2004, Rosario made promises to...
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 proud and she’s préâu,” 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 everything 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 Irelaw 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 administration and faculty members within the college also attended.

While the FIU students had their plane tickets, hotel rooms and conference fees paid for by the Honors College, many conference attendees from other colleges had to pay some or all of these expenses themselves.

“The students from [the University of] Puerto Rico had to pay over $2,000 each,” Shumway said.

Several FIU students commented that had the college not sponsored their trip, they would not have been able to attend the conference.

“This conference was an investment in the students,” Griffith 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 a good experience and memories.

“I 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, though, the students took advantage of the New Orleans trip to have a good time.

They explored New Orleans, sampled the city’s 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 graduates this semester, all the students plan to submit proposals for next year’s conference, to be held in St. Louis, Mo.
Nearly two years after the Columbia disaster, some NASA managers fear that cost-cutting measures and pressure to resume shuttle launches are jeopardizing critical 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 pre-conditions 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 directly 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.

“But 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 and 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.

SGA president discusses school policies, athletics, BBC

From SPOTLIGHT, page 2

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By MICHAEL CABBAGE
The Orlando Sentinel

Safety reforms in danger, some NASA managers say

Three years ago, after the Columbia disaster, NASA Administrator Sean O’Keefe told the Senate that the agency’s culture would change to prioritize safety over cost and schedule.

“We are in a mindset of safety,” he said. “We cannot have another Columbia." O’Keefe said that he “hopes to graduate FIU in time for the spring semester.”

In this future, Rosario hopes to graduate FIU in time for the spring semester. “I normally don’t tell people that I love helping people and seeing them succeed,” he said. “In the end, I can guarantee that I will end up in a classroom before I die.”

While Rosario is still new to the presidency and has just begun to tackle some of his goals, some say he shouldn’t be compared to his predecessors.

“Jorge is just himself. He doesn’t pretend to be something he is not. He is true to himself and to others around him. He is well liked and respected by the people on the council,” Owles said. “I wouldn’t want him to be like the others before him. He is his own person, and that is what makes him unique.”

He is well liked and respected by the people on the council,” Owles said. “I wouldn’t want him to be like the others before him. He is his own person, and that is what makes him unique.”
“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. 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.

RA’s regulation demonstrates hypocrisy

By JON BANKE

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

Like many FIU students, we wanted our feelings to be known as to which can- didate 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, Resi- dents 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 becom- ing 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 build- ing 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 invi- tation to the event on top of all of the promotional flyers out- side the building. Even with all of this information distributed to residents, attendance was mediocre at best.

Material is distributed every week around the apart- ments, encouraging residents to become active in campus life, reminding them of impor- tant deadlines and promoting events that the housing admin- istration oversees.

With all of the weather we can get at any time in South Florida, frail pieces of paper laying in the grass or around the courtyard. Every morn- ing our poor custodial work- ers, already burdened with so much, face cleaning up more and more flyers and leaflets. Though they do a phenomenal job, they are not able to pick up every piece of trash scat- tered around the building.

Our problem is not with our RA or hosting events in hous- ing 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 lose-leaf promotional material and other such information as potential litter, while they snuff out a heavy-duty sign enticing individuals to be active in our flourishing political process as quickly as possible.

When we questioned hous- ing officials about their poli- cies 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 com- plete and clear answer about posting signs and information and distributing flyers would seem to be the next obvious step.

However, to this day, noth- ing has been said or done to ease the confusion.

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

Diana Duyser: 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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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at the University Park campus, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beacon@fiu.edu. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. If brought in to an office, a legitimate ID may be accepted instead of a phone number. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 400 words.

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EDITORIAL

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.
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 satisfy me: Italian. Unfortunately, Italian cuisine in Miami has gone on the South Beach diet. Instead of ordering hearty portions of beef, cheery 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 scarred chopped 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 place is known as 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 try it. The ambiance is very cozy and is reminiscent of one of those old-school Italian restaurants in New York in 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 parmesana 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
GOLDEN IDOL

Students sing their heart’s out

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

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
Grandma brings Italy to Sweetwater

LA NONNA, from pg 6

was your basic buttered and toasted French bread topped with garlic, dry parsley and grated parmesan cheese. The complementary salads were pretty basic and consisted of small plates of romaine lettuce, carrot strips and tomatoes with a creamy Italian dressing. When the main courses arrived, however, we were all impressed. The portions were big and the food looked very appetizing. The baked ziti was good and dependable – anything but light, with no surprises, just what you want from a plate of baked ziti. The eggplant parmesana was equally good and well portioned.

My chicken parmesana was satisfyingly crisp with a good, tangy tomato sauce and plenty of mozzarella cheese. The fettucine Alfredo that came as a side with the eggplant and chicken parmesana was perhaps one of the best that I have ever tried. Its butter cream sauce was of perfect consistency and creaminess.

Dessert selections were equally good. They included a house made ricotta cheesecake, Italian ices and tartufos, which are balls of ice cream dipped in chocolate or nuts. We ordered the almond tartufo and shared it. The ice cream had a very pleasant, soothing almond flavor and was coated in toasted pecans.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Beacon chooses restaurants at random based on their prov- enance in the FIU campus and their affordability to students. The restaurant is not informed of the Beacon's affiliation with The Beacon, and the reviewer pays for all the meals.

THE BACHELOR 6

The series reached a new low when Byron used the word “irreparable.” And speaking of meaningless words, can we ban the phrase “Everything happens for a reason” from reality dating shows, please? No one who says it ever means it _ like when someone breaks up with you but says “we can still be friends.” (9 p.m. Wednesdays, ABC)

SURVIVOR: VANU-ATU

I have to say I will miss Sarge and his one-liners, delivered in that mumbled Southern drawl. When a cute, spotted baby pig is delivered to the recently merged Alinta tribe and the survivors are instructed to feed the pig rather than eat it, Sarge responds: “It was about as big a letdown as when I found out Estrogen City was moving into Lopevi.” Why is Eliana still here? (8 p.m. Thursdays, CBS)

THE APPRENTICE 2

The most fun part of this task _ organizing a bridal trunk show _ was watching the men try to help women find wedding dresses. One customer says she’s looking for a sleeve-less gown. Bumbling Wes’ agreeable response: “Who likes sleeves?” Incompetent Maria continues to be so forgetful to include a phone number on a mass e-mail to New York brides, which also happens to be Mosaics main marketing effort.

But Mosaic, whose notorious secret weapon is bridal shop owner Sandy, still wins by a landslide and Bleeping Chris of bleep-less boss _ is introduced to the fake boss’s wife and child, who is described as the “most beautiful and brilliant” of all time. (9 p.m. Sundays, NBC)

AMERICA’S NEXT TOP MODEL 3

Diva Eiva has a mini-meltdown when faced with a photo shoot involving tarantulas. Ann continues to take bad pictures. Tosca can’t pronounce “Jean Paul Gaultier” and gets bashed. This week: Actor (and former model) Taye Diggs shows up and will likely out-prett the girls. (8 p.m. Wednesdays, UPN)

THE SWAN 2

You know, after watching the stories on “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” it’s hard to get excited about people getting makeovers just because they got fat. (9 p.m. Mondays, FOX)

MY BIG FAT OBNOXIOUS BOSS

The clueless contestants have to sell hot soup on the street on a weltering July day in Chicago. They’re actually not bad at it. (8 p.m. Thursdays, ABC).

THE SURREAL LIFE

VH1 has announced the cast of its upcoming fourth installment of “The Surreal Life,” which cemented its place in popular culture history with this season’s unlikely romance between Flavor Flav and Brianna Nielsen.

THE NEW MOON CAME FROM BAHAMAS

Divine and the new motley crew includes Verna Trocher (aka Mini Me), Adrienne Curry (“America’s Next Top Model”), Marcus Schenkenberg (male supermodel, Pamela Anderson’s ex), Christopher Knight (“The Brady Bunch”), Jane Wiedlin (former Go-Go’s bassist), and stars of CBS’s “Survivor” is still going strong. Ratings machine “American Idol” returns to FOX in January. Tonight’s 2-hour premiere of “The Amazing Race 6” (9 p.m., CBS) features, among others, a pair of married pro wrestlers, an ex-Playboy Playmate and a Mormon who is a former “streetwise aero-

ics” instructor.

RED REALITY CHECK: Hype slows but some hits stay course

By PAMELA SITT

The Seattle Times

It’s been a tough fall for reality TV. And by that I mean both the season and the corresponding ratings tumble. While networks continue to roll out new reality shows, the mind-boggling tear, viewers finally seem to be saying, enough already.

Recent premieres like FOX’s “My Big Fat Obnoxious Boss” and NBC’s “The Swan” and CBS’s “Survivor: Micronesia” instructed to feed the piggy is delivered to the tribe and the survivors are all the more aware of the season’s unlikely romance between Flavor Flav and Brianna Nielsen.

THE NEW MOON CAME FROM BAHAMAS

Divine and the new motley crew includes Verna Trocher (aka Mini Me), Adrienne Curry (“America’s Next Top Model”), Marcus Schenkenberg (male supermodel, Pamela Anderson’s ex), Christopher Knight (“The Brady Bunch”), Jane Wiedlin (former Go-Go’s bassist), and stars of CBS’s “Survivor” is still going strong. Ratings machine “American Idol” returns to FOX in January. Tonight’s 2-hour premiere of “The Amazing Race 6” (9 p.m., CBS) features, among others, a pair of married pro wrestlers, an ex-Playboy Playmate and a Mormon who is a former “streetwise aero-
Volleyball ends sour season on disappointing note

By XAVIER VILLAMARIO Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers volleyball team ended its season in heartbreaking 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 team’s inexperience was evident throughout the match. The Senior class, which is made up of seven starters, lead the way for the Golden Panthers.

Junior Laura “The Crane” Vogel added a double-double with 10 kills and 10 digs. Senior Kristina Zabalueva led FIU offensively with six kills.

Forty eight hours after the match, the Golden Panthers returned to the Pharmed Arena to face the University of Arkansas Little Rock.

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 20-24 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.

In game five, FIU took an early 5-3 lead only to see it vanish off six straight points from the Lady Trojans. UALR scored 15 consecutive points and never looking back. For the game, Dmowska had four kills and Jones contributed with six digs.

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

Freshman Dijyonna Smith also had her own double-double with 28 assists and 13 digs. Junior Anna Dmowska contributed with 13 kills and four blocks. Both women played in only four matches.

In a thrilling Game One, FIU had game-point with 29-27 lead but allowed four consecutive points to ultimately lose 31-29.

Game Two featured an equally thrilling yet heartbreaking finish. In a game that 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.

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Coach Russo on season: “We’re going to do better than last year.”

Newcomers Shantel Ragain and Jasmine Jenkins may both see some time at the forward position. Both freshmen were All-Pan American athletes in their respective high schools, competing in basketball, volleyball and track & field.

Jenkins stands 6-foot-2 and was a highly coveted recruit out of Augur High School in California. The 5-foot-7 Ragain played at Flanagan High and has the versatility to play guard as well forward.

BACK COURT

The other returning senior is 5-foot-8 guard, Deniz Boz who led the Golden Panthers to a Sun Belt Conference title in her sophomore year.

When Ielena Vrankova 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 our starting point guard, and she wants to lead the team back there.”

Junior Faeza Bouderra is one of the tallest players on the team. She has a good low-post game and can be one of the premiere post players in the conference, according to Russo.

Bouderra saw action in 13 games last year and will play limited minutes behind her fellow natives of the former Soviet Bloc.

That is because we came in last place last year. We only won one conference game. We don’t really read [into] that. They are going to say what they are going to say. We have to come out and show them something.

Hopefully, we will be better than last year. We are not reading that. They can say what they want to say. They don’t really know what we have down here, but they will.

Q: This is coach Sergio Rouco’s first season. How have things changed since last season?

We have changed our attitude. We can’t back down. We [have to] work hard and finish our job. Everybody is being on time. He is teaching guys for the long term situation in your life. Just be on time. Be strong, and be together. The team is more together. We are a more humble team, a kind of family situation. Everybody feels comfortable with each other. This is going to be a different story, a different situation for years to come.

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.

BURNETT, from page 11

average of 16.6 points, 8.6 rebounds and 2.2 blocks, sixth in field goal percentage.

The game against Miami is a big one for the Eagles. “We’re going to do better than last year.”

The game against University of Connecticut is a big game, and Florida State and George Washington is only going to help us.

The team has been ranked fifth in the preseason conference poll. Do you think that position is justified or is there something lurking around that no one knows about?

The Sun Belt Conference title in her first season. How do you feel about that?

The Golden Panthers will see their first action of the year when they host the Traveler’s Tournament, Nov. 19-20 at Pharmed Arena. The game can be heard live on Radio Golden Panther, 88.1-FM.

Classifieds

“Have they grown and matured, and with a tough pre-season, we will be ready.”

Cindy Russo on her players Women’s Soccer Coach
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 Hartwick, 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 Szestycki 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 Golden Knights.

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

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 along the way.

Now, putting aside the disappointment of an early 11-16 campaign in 2003, head coach Cindy Russo and the women’s basketball team are prepared to tip off the new season on Nov. 19.

“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 depth this season, and we have a lot of players returning. They have grown and matured, and with a tough preseason, we will be ready.”

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 depth 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.

See REBOUND, PAGE 10

See BURNETT, page 10
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