Democrats

Romero and the FIU College Democrats encourage political activism.

CRISTELA GUERRA
BBC Managing Editor

Professor Damian Fernandez of the Department of International Relations was chosen as the interim vice-provost for FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus on Sept. 19. Fernandez is replacing Raul Moncarz who served in the position for nine years and retired this summer.

Acting Provost and Executive Vice President Ronald Berkman formed a task force composed of students, faculty members and deans who helped interview and choose the individual for the job.

Fernandez headed up this task force with Rosa Jones, vice-president of Student Affairs and also has served as director of University Long Range Planning since 2005, overseeing various options for future University expansion and redevelopment.

Fernandez knows he has very large shoes to fill.

“I think [Moncarz] set the bar very high,” Fernandez said. “I hope to be worthy of this opportunity.”

Although Berkman was not available for comment, he announced Fernandez’s promotion through a University memo.

In this memo, Berkman described the new position as “exciting and a challenge to revitalize FIU-Biscayne Bay [Campus].”

Fernandez served as director of the Cuban Research Institute as well as a professor of international relations and is now enthusiastic about taking on a new role.

“I’m really excited about the challenge at BBC because there are so many opportunities to be creative with the programs,” Fernandez said. “I cannot think of a better challenge because it allows for innovation with graduate and undergraduate interdisciplinary classes.”

The task force discussed BBC reforms in a report reviewed over the summer. Fernandez said he would follow the guidelines set in this report, which included “a vision for the campus within the parameters of ‘one university’ that would result in robust expansion.”

Fernandez did mention that since housing at BBC was full this year, there was talk about eventually expanding housing facilities.

He also plans on bringing new classes as well as allowing deans to give their input for new programs.

“I’m a facilitator, but I hope ... we will be able to create a dynamic start to finish programs that would all be in [BBC],” Fernandez said.

Fernandez refers to start and finish programs since various departments have classes split between University

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Research VP confronts many faculty concerns

NAIHOBE GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

George Walker, the new vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School, has been hard at work meeting with University officials and learning about the research needs of the University since Sept. 11, his first day on the job.

Walker, 65-years-old, is a renowned physicist who has served in a variety of roles, including professor, researcher, administrator and dean.

He has received a warm welcome from University administrators who see a great deal of promise in him.

Acting Provost and Executive Vice President Ronald Berkman recently said in a press release, “We’re all looking forward to this new chapter in FIU history.

Among other goals, Walker is interested in creating undergraduate research opportunities, expanding on existing research projects, developing a research relationship with the new School of Medicine and improving the quality of the faculty and students that FIU attracts.

Walker credits his academic experiences—beginning at the undergraduate level—for his passion in research and hopes that he can facilitate a similar experience for FIU students.

“When you know you’re the first person to learn something, there’s a high involvement in that, and you’ll want to do it again,” said Walker. “That’s the kind of experience I want to make sure students have here.”

Senior Tiffany Brannon agrees.

“Involvement in research has shaped my scholastic maturity, and it has allowed me to have a more well-rounded learning experience that extends beyond the classroom and text,” Brannon said.

Undergraduate research opportunities are currently limited.

The Honors College Student Research and Artistic Initiative (SRAI) and the psychology department’s Psychology Research Initiatives Mentorship Experience (PRIME) are two successful examples, but as Brannon points out, “there is

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College Democrats encourage political activism

MARTHA CASTILLO
Contributing Writer

With elections just around the corner, exercising democracy is one of Mark Romero’s main goals.

As the president of the FIU College Democrats Club, he wants to increase political awareness.

In an effort to get students interested in the political process, Romero and the FIU College Democrats promote the values of the Democratic Party.

Their main goal is to encourage students to get involved in political activities.

“Despite the fact that we are trying to further the presence of the Democratic Party on our school, we’ve been trying to be as neutral as possible,” Romero said. “So despite the fact that we’re Democrats, our main goal is to simply increase political activism.”

For Romero, recruiting members has been a challenge during the past year. Romero was even told by a political science professor that today’s students aren’t interested in democracy.

“I was told, ‘Even political science majors at FIU are not interested in politics; most of them are just using it as a stepping-stone for Law School,’” Romero said.

It’s attitudes like these that create a weak Republican Party presence on campus, according to Romero.

Unlike other universities, FIU does not have a College Republicans Club.

“I find this is a sad predicament and truly, it doesn’t matter if students are Republicans or if they’re Democrats,” Romero said. “Political activism is extremely important.”

Another problem that the FIU College Democrats face is the amount of members they have each semester.

The number of club members tends to increase in years of major elections and drop tremendously in years where there are no major elections.

In an attempt to increase their numbers, the Democrats brought Democratic leader Howard Dean to speak on campus last February, according to Romero. Dean discussed U.S. foreign policy issues concerning Latin America.

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The Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision finding that Asahara was competent to face justice.

Japan's Supreme Court rejected an appeal Sept. 15 by Aum Shinrikyo cult founder Shoko Asahara. The rejection paves the way for the 51-year-old's execution for a string of killings including the 1995 nerve-gas attack on Tokyo's subways.

Next month, the Democrats are scheduled to bring CIA Analyst Ray McGovern to the University Park campus. He is scheduled to visit Oct. 8 at 12 p.m. where he is expected to discuss issues pertaining to the war in Iraq.

Students will be able to participate in a debate concerning the war and engage a panel consisting of a group of students for and against the war.

There seems to be a vacuum of pro-American political activism here. The Republicans don't seem concerned enough to show that they care for matters at this school, so we are here to show that we are concerned about them," said Pedro Ross, the organization's secretary.

Ross said the FIU College Democrats would like students to understand how the country's political stance relates to the world, whether it involves issues concerning city planning and affordable housing to larger issues in the world such as global warming or human rights abuses.

"These are some of the typical issues that the Democratic Party normally espouses," Ross said.

The organization meets every Monday at 8 p.m. in the Graham Center, room 140, to talk politics and watch politically charged movies such as "City of God," "The Killing Fields" and "Good Bye, Lenin!"

"We try not to play things with a right winged or left winged orientation such as 'Fahrenheit 9/11,'" Romero said.

Distressed by the lack of political movement on campus, sophomore Maria Soledad Fernandez stated that she would like to see more political activities.

"I see more associations recruiting students to join sororities than political campaigns encouraging student[s] to vote," Fernandez said.

As coordinator of special events and advisor for the FIU College Democrats, Jack Parker is concerned with the gubernatorial elections Nov. 7.

He says that the FIU College Democrats will be doing everything possible to get more students involved in voting.

The deadline to register for the Nov. 7 election is Oct. 10.

"To encourage students to vote this coming November, the FIU College Democrats will be conducting different types of political activities on campus this coming October," Parker said.

He added that some of the activities may include public speakers such as Jim Davis.

The FIU College Democrats are a member of the Student Organizations Council at FIU.

Students interested in the FIU College Democrats may contact College Democrats president Mark Romero at 954-559-1254 or by email at Mrome014@fiu.edu.
Law panel reviews Constitution’s importance

NICOLE ACOSTA
ABC Assistant

Sophomore Madeline Garcia admitted to never being interested in politics until she started college. That’s why she was interested in attending the Judicial Independence discussion forum.

“I wanted to be more informed in regards to the judicial process,” Garcia said. The Judicial Independence forum, organized by the FIU College of Law, was held Sept. 18 in the Graham Center Ballroom in celebration of Constitution Day.

Even though there were 100 seats available at the event, only about 20 were filled, mostly by law students.

The forum began with Leonard P. Strickman, Dean of the College of Law, welcoming everyone to the event and talking briefly about Constitution Day and its reason for being created by Retired Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Sandra Day O’Connor.

This was followed by a DVD presentation, “Conversation on the Constitution: Judicial Independence,” which featured a discussion between high school students from California and Pennsylvania and Justices O’Connor, Stephen Breyer and Anthony Kennedy.

After the DVD, there was a discussion panel that featured College of Law professors Elizabeth Foley, Thomas Baker and Howard Wasserman, as well as the Honorable Adalberto Jordan, United States District Judge, Southern District of Florida.

According to Strickman, the subject of this project, judicial independence, was proposed by O’Connor because “judiciary has been under assault by some members of Congress who want the courts to decide cases as Congress would wish them to.”

The DVD discuss the separation of powers among the three branches of government, why an independent judiciary is needed and how the Constitution safeguards the role of judges so they can safeguard the rights of minorities, as well as those who have unpopular views.

Jordan said that the term “judicial independence” was difficult to define, but that it’s basically “the ability of the judiciary to make decisions without undue pressure or influences from other branches.”

Jordan also mentioned that it was an important topic to discuss.

“In the DVD, O’Connor pointed out that the job of the judiciary is ‘to carry out its duties in ways that are fair and impartial.’”

“If you go back and look at what the Constitution is trying to do is prevent the tyrantizing of the minority by the majority,” she said in the film.

Jordan went on to say that the Constitution works only with the participation of citizens.

“I don’t care how exquisite it is on paper,” she said. “The Constitution is not automatic. It runs because you believe in it, you understand it.”

“The more the public gets involved and the more information we get to the public, the better the citizenry can challenge it,” he said.

Wasserman stressed clarifying this definition and understanding it.

“We definitely have to come up with a mutual definition of what judicial independence is. The question is: how do we come up with an understanding of judicial independence?”

In the DVD, O’Connor pointed out that the job of the judiciary is “to carry out its duties in ways that are fair and impartial.”

“One of the reasons for the creation of the government was to prevent a British lexicon government with an unchecked parliamentary system,” she said, referring to Thomas Hoobies’ Leviathan.

“I think we’ve gotten to that point today.”

Senior Adrian Bishoff had hoped to learn more about the Constitution and judicial independence, as well as to hear new things on the topic that he hadn’t heard before.

“I feel that I got that, as well as some great opinions from the panelists,” he said. “It clarified a lot of points for me, like the actual day-to-day thought process of a judge.”

Sometimes it seems like just a formula, but in reality, like Jordan was saying, they just take the case that’s in front of them and sometimes they’re right, and sometimes they’re wrong.”

Feminist author discusses concept of space in art

SAMANTHA QUINON Staff Writer

The Steven & Dorthea Green Critics Lecture Series welcomed culture critic and scholar Camille Paglia as its first speaker of the season Sept. 15.

The lecture, organized by the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum, also introduced the museum’s newest exhibit, “A Room of One’s Own.” Teresita Fernandez, Maria Elena Gonzalez, Quisayayi Hernandez and Maria Martinez-Cañas.

“We have an exhibit of four women artists that have really been pioneering in their field,” said museum curator Elizabeth Cereijido.

“So the programming that complements the lecture reflects that.”

Dahlia Morgan, the museum’s director emerita, elaborated.

“The staff thought [Paglia] would be a good choice [to give the lecture] and suggested her,” she said. “Paglia is a known as a feminist, and she is of the stature and fame of the [Green Lecture] Series, so she’s on that top level as an intellectual and scholar, and she fits the theme of the exhibition.”

The exhibit takes its title from Virginia Woolf’s classic book, building upon its theme that to create art a woman needs both space and money. Each artist in the exhibit manipulated types of space in her own installation room through video, sculpture and other means.

Paglia created her lecture to address the idea of space and rooms throughout art history, from the prehistoric cave paintings of Lascaux to modernist sculptor Henry Moore.

The talk, aided by impromptu slides, was punctuated with Paglia’s humor.

“God Lord! It looks like a vampire movie,” she said, as Piero della Francesca’s “Madonna of Mercy” appeared on the screen. “Can’t you ever escape the power of the Mother?”

The fifteenth century painting shows the mother of Jesus sheltering her followers in her wing-like mantle.

Though the lecture began in the Green Library Auditorium at 8 p.m. with standing room only, some left as the hour progressed. However, most of the audience stayed throughout, laughing with Paglia and paying close attention.

“[Paglia] is very intelligent,” said junior Izla Fernandez after the lecture. “She made history interesting by adding humor to it.”

Junior Dustin Gutierrez agreed.

“I thought it was interesting in that every different thing [Paglia] spoke about you could see how it evolved as time went along,” he said. “I didn’t really know what to expect when I came here, but I’m glad I went.”

Paglia - currently a professor of media studies and humanities at University of the Arts in Philadelphia - participated in a book signing after the lecture. The author took time joking and recounting anecdotes about her writing with each person in the line, seemingly unaware of the winding queue.

“This is a museum, and I support museums,” she said at the signing.

“There’s this whole cultural heritage of the art, and the museum is the custodian of it. I feel like I’m a crusader for the fine arts.”

Feminist author discusses concept of space in art
Faculty concerned over research opportunities

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opportunity and need for growth.”

Professor Grenville Draper of the earth sciences department echoed an equal need for change. Draper, who specializes in the geology of the northern Caribbean and is currently researching high-pressure rocks and tectonic melange in Hispaniola, feels that FIU could provide more support to professors.

“I feel that for a Ph.D. granting institution our expected teaching load is too high. There seems to be an attitude that our time is infinitely expandable, and some colleagues have even been discouraged from performing research because of the lack of support we get with grants,” Draper said.

This results in an increasing number of professors handling account- ing and other paperwork that the University mandates, instead of a support staff in order to ensure that grants are administered properly.

“With me in the right direction,” Walker acknowledged the problem and said he is ready to tackle it, along with any other concerns.

“When I was a professor, I remember being suspicious of the administration … today my experience gives me a perspective. There are always many legitimate needs — there may not be enough parking, enough housing for students or high enough salaries — but it is difficult to get the kind of support needed for education, and ultimately what you need is balance,” Walker said.

“I think of my job as a steward and hope our efforts would be, as a community, to use our resources fairly,” Another concern Draper voiced was that developing the new School of Medicine would draw resources away from other projects.

“Medicine both attracts and soaks up a lot of money. Many of the rest of us feel we’ll get overlooked in this rush for the medical school. We might get short-changed,” Draper said.

Walker was also responsive to this fear.

“Any time there’s a new child in the family, you rejoice in the new child and the other children start worrying.”

However, he believes other departments will eventually benefit as the School of Medicine garners greater prestige for the University, making it possible for other areas to compete even more for outside grants.

Professors and under-graduate students are not the only groups who want to see improvements. Graduate students also have research concerns.

Graduate student Rui Duan, of the dietetics and nutrition department, has three friends who once graduate assistants at FIU like himself but decided to transfer to other universities.

“As far as I know, they felt that FIU couldn’t support them with a good platform to do their dissertation research, and at the same time, their department assigned them a lot of teaching assistant work, even teaching as instructors in some undergraduate courses,” said Duan. “I know at some universities like the University of Miami … the Ph.D. students don’t need to be teaching assistants.”

In order to achieve the established objectives, Walker will have to consider the obstacles FIU’s research goals currently face.

However, he is optimistic and welcomes input from the University community.

“At this stage, I’m not in this to build an empire, but to help out. I’m ‘Grandpa Walker,’ and I mean to get things right. If I don’t, I just need people to be straightforward and steer me in the right direction,” he said. “I want Remember that we are here for the students.”

WALKER

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Vice-Provost wants to unite University, community

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Park and BBC, forcing many students to commute on a daily basis.

Fernandez cites various other goals for the University:

Among these goals are to use eco-tourism to their advantage and to work on a global studies program with tracks that would eventually lead to connections with professional schools.

Although as Interim Vice-Provost, Fernandez admits he is too young at the discretion of the provost, he hopes to be able to implement some of these ideas.

“We’ll see after that amount of time when the provost and the president choose to begin a national search,” he said.

Though many administrators have never worked directly with Fernandez, his credentials and experience speak for themselves.

Fernandez came to FIU in 1988 with degrees from Princeton, the University of Miami and the University of Florida.

Many look forward to seeing continued advancement and improvement for BBC and believe Fernandez will benefit the campus as a whole.

“This campus we need someone of authority. We do not need so much a figure head as we need leadership and authority in order for FIU to succeed,” said Chris Brown, chairperson of the new School of Marine Biology.

Gregory Olsen, director of the Wolfe University Center, agreed.

“We need leadership and Dr. Fernandez can give us that with his past experience. I am looking forward to working with him.”

Other deans who have worked with Fernandez said they looked forward to seeing what he brings to the table.

“He’ll bring a great deal of enthusiasm, and a lot of resources to the campus,” said College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean Joyce Peterson.

Peterson worked closely with Fernandez when he was a professor for the College of Arts and Sciences and then when he was chair of the Department of International Relations.

“He’ll work in developing academic resources as well as community relations,” Petersom said.

In the legacy of Monzarz, Fernandez also emphasized the importance of community engagement with such a large outside population and classes offered for long-term residents of North Miami.

“Community engagement is a key to success. We want to interact our community with the North Miami community and continue communication with the elementary school as well as Biscayne Landings,” Fernandez said.

Since both undergraduate and graduate students were represented as part of the task force with members of SGA and others, Fernandez looks forward to working on the “infrastructure” of campus life as well as additional courses and an overall strengthening of student services.

“This is a new area of possibility for BBC,” he said. “I’ll listen to what deans propose and embark on a path to re-energize commitment.”

Annual writers’ reading series begins this week

JESSICA SOUS
Contributing Writer

For the past 21 years, the FIU Creative Writing Program has held the Writers on the Bay reading series at the Biscayne Bay Campus, which brings distinguished contemporary writers to the school for a year long series.

Founded in 1985 with the help of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Writers on the Bay gives creative writing students and faculty the opportunity to meet, listen to and pick the brains of some of the best writers in the country today, according to John Dufresne, creative writing professor.

However, the event isn’t just authors reading to an audience.

“Every reading is accompanied by a class seminar,” said Les Standiford, director of the Creative Writing Program.

Dufresne has the chance to pick the writers for this year’s series.

“Faculty get to rotate and choose writers whose work they admire, writers who are also open to give and take with students,” Dufresne said.

“The variety is something really nice,” said Denise Lanier, a Teaching Assistant in the program.

Writers ranging from poets to journalists to novelists all take part in this read.

Writing students are also somewhat isolated at times, according to Bartman, so the opportunity to socialize, inform and share mutual interest in creative writing is welcomed.

“This is a good way for creative writing students to form a community,” said Bartman.

The series also gives those students a chance to interact with the faculty and meet with the authors personally.

“These are social events as well, celebrations of writing not only in the program, but also in the community” Standiford said.

The event is free to all FIU students and will continue into the spring semester with a new set of writers.

For more information about the authors scheduled to read, call 305-891-5857 or visit http://w3.fiu.edu/~crwting/.

NEWSFLASH

SGC-BBC, Wolfsomian host public talk, screening of documentary

The Wolfsomian-FIU on South Beach, in collaboration with the Student Government Council, will host a public talk with author Michael Conners Sept. 21 and a Brunch and Private Screening of a Sydney Pollack’s film Sept. 24.

The Public Talk, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Wolfsonian will feature the topic of “Cuban Elegance: The Colonial Era to the Mid-Twentieth Century.”

A book signing taking place following the talk.

This event is being presented with the Cuban Research Institute and is free. On Sept. 24 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. the brunch will be held at the Wolfsonian’s Dynamo Café for $16 per person, plus tax and tip.

The private screening will take place at 2 p.m. featuring Oscar-winner Pollack’s first feature documentary about Canadian architect Frank Gehry called “Sketches of Frank Gehry.”

This event is being co-sponsored by WPBT/Channel 2. The Wolfsomian and with assistance from the Consulate General of Canada.

•Compiled by Nicole Acostra, Asst. BBC Editor
**SGA should obey its constitution**

In its September 16 issue, The Beacon reported that the University Park Student Government Association is recruiting members for two ad-hoc committees – the Student Health Advisory Committee and the Technology Committee – that technically do not exist. They also undermined a democratic vote and advanced the Campus Life chairperson to a cabinet position. Both incidents violated the SGA Constitution.

The function of a constitution is to delegate power to a government in a way consistent with certain established structures and procedures defined by a basic law. Sustaining a functional relationship between a government and those it serves depends on an adequate distribution of power and organization of responsibilities.

When a government violates its constitution, it loses the capacity to exercise its power in service of the community. Fortunately, the SGA infractions reported by The Beacon were minor. The unlawful perpetuation of two ad-hoc committees is not the stuff that brings down governments. This time around, nobody was hurt. However, the issue at stake is not the magnitude of SGA’s violations, but rather that SGA acted unconstitutionally at all.

Democratic government, by nature, contains bureaucracy. When an administration’s activities obey its own laws, bureaucracy is simply a necessary feature of governmental activity. By organizing its committees in violation of its constitution, SGA runs the risk of entangling itself in a mess of bylaws, loopholes and exceptions. By sticking to its rules, SGA can avoid complications and ensure that its activities run smoothly.

Moreover, organization is the foundation for transparency. If SGA begins to re-arrange its committees at will, it will be at the cost of compromising its efficiency. The question then is, “Where did those committees come from?” If student government allows itself to become disorganized, the question tomorrow could very well become, “Where did that money go?”

Of the two violations, changing the Campus Life chairperson to a cabinet position is the more ethically volatile. The SGA bylaws state in Section 5, Part B: “Committee chairpersons will be chosen through an application process and appointed by a simple majority vote of the entire SGA.”

Making the Campus Life leadership a cabinet position allowed SGA to circumvent the application process for the chair position.

SGA President Alfonso “Alfi e” Leon and SGA Vice President Providence Okoye have not announced the reason for the change. Whatever their intentions, actions like this carry the danger of opening the door to favoritism, conflicts of interest and other ethical transgressions.

A position in student government is prestigious. In a university with more than 37,000 students, a place in student government is also a position of power. If the microcosm of FIU student government reflects the political macrocosm of the real world, SGA might do well to learn from the mistakes of the latter. Minor transgressions like these have ruined the careers of successful politicians.

If it wishes to maintain the respect and goodwill of the student body and successfully serve the FIU community, SGA must obey its constitution and correct its mistakes, or else be held accountable for any past, present and future constitutional violations.

RINA LANKRY
Contributing Writer

**JOURNAL FROM JERUSALEM**

An FIU student relates her experience living in Israel during the conflict with Hezbollah

RINA LANKRY
Contributing Writer

This summer, I went to Israel for five weeks through an on-campus Jewish organization called Colleague Learning Exchange to study the Jewish religion in Jerusalem. Weeks after my arrival, the war between Israel and Lebanon started. Most people would have rushed to leave a country under fire, but instead I decided to extend my stay in Israel for four months.

Even before the war began, I was well aware of the dangers of living in Israel. People warned me not to take buses or go to central areas that had restaurants and cafes because these are common terrorist targets.

Those warnings did not hold me back, though. I couldn’t afford to take cabs everywhere and I couldn’t stay in school all the time, so I took buses anyway.

My favorite hang out in Jerusalem was Kikar Zion - the hub of activity for all young people. One of the things I started to notice were the signs on some of the shops and restaurants that commemorated the innocent victims of terrorist attacks in these spots. There were also security guards with their dogs at each of the bus stops to make sure no terrorists got on.

When I walked the streets and saw so many young men and women in their soldier uniforms carrying huge guns around their shoulders as if they were back packs, it seemed like life as usual. They had no choice but to fight and defend their people.

An Italian soldier relates her experience living In Israel during the conflict with Hezbollah

ELENA ASCOLI
Contributing Writer

in the beginning of my stay in Jerusalem, seeing these things really frightened me. Over time, though, I got used to it, just like everyone else around me.

North of Jerusalem was Safed. It lies among mountains, with quiet alleyways and an old city charm. It has many artists and a history of mystics who lived there. The city exudes an atmosphere of deep peacefulness and spirituality.

Upon my return to Jerusalem, I decided I would return to Safed the following week. When I told my mom, she got very upset. “Are you crazy? Don’t you watch the news over there?” she said. I was clueless.

Hezbollah had just fired Katyusha rockets into Safed and other northern cities that week and people were wounded and beginning to evacuate their homes. I couldn’t believe it. It was hard for me to imagine Safed under attack.

The place that felt was like heaven on earth was now a war zone. As the tension and rocket attacks continued, my family and friends back home became increasingly worried about me. My mom would call me everyday, frantic from seeing images of the conflict on CNN; she would update me on the news and make sure I was being safe. Every conversation would end with “When are you coming home?”

Flights to America were selling out. People desperate to return were stuck in Israel because there were no seats available.

I decided to stay where I was. I was feeling fine, just like everyone else around me.

Jerusalem was calm and out of harm’s reach. If I hadn’t watched the news, I wouldn’t have had no idea that there was a war going on.

I later began an internship with an online news channel based in Jerusalem, which forced us to be in touch with the news everyday. Half the staff from the office was recruited to serve in Lebanon.

As disturbing as it was, there was still a sense among everyone that this was a war that needed to be fought, because Israel had the right to defend itself.

Since I’ve been back at FIU, continuing my studies, I think of my summer in Israel and feel grateful to have had that experience. It helped me understand how people can live their lives normally, even under the constant shadow of terror. It made me realize that, since 9/11, America is not so different from Israel.

The threat of terrorism is just as real here as it is in Israel. We can learn from the Israelis the power of human resilience – to experience fear, war, suffering and loss while still move forward in our lives.

**WARZONE:** Israeli soldiers patrol the border with Lebanon as fighting between Israel and militant group Hezbollah intensified July 26, 2006.
Government neglects 9/11 heroes

ROQUE CORONA
Corresponding Writer

The tragedy of 9/11 was a national crisis, and those who responded to the tragedy deserve national attention. The federal government must act now in order to help these heroes.

WASHINGTON – It has been more than a decade since the World Trade Center collapsed. And according to medical examiners and researchers, the attacks have killed more than 2,800 people and injured thousands more.

The federal government bears the responsibility of providing medical care for those who participated in the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center. New York City cannot handle all the medical expenses on its own. 9/11 was a national crisis, and those who responded to the tragedy deserve national attention. The federal government must act now and respond to the calls of those who bravely rushed to the smoldering remains of the fallen Twin Towers.

Consensus does exist on global warming threat

The recent article by Jessica Garcia-Iniguez, “Some Like It Hot,” raised some questions about the understanding of the science of climate change. Her claim that there was a consensus that “global warming is the most severe threat in the 20th century” is a myth. At that time, scientists were trying to determine the relative importance of cooling by aerosol emissions from burning coal and warming due to increased greenhouse gases. The warming by about 6 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100. Many environmental scientists believe that global warming will be the most serious environmental problem of this century.

- John H. Parker
Environmental Studies

SOC point system burdens smaller and newer clubs

The condensed point system burdens smaller and newer clubs. The Beacon – September 21, 2006

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Have you experienced delays using the FIU shuttle service this semester?

- Yes – The bus left late, arrived late and took the long way there
- No – So far, so good.
- No – I haven’t used the shuttle this semester.

Total participants: 42
Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com
YouTube connects students via web videos

**Ben F. Badger Jr.**
Staff Writer

Founded in February of 2005, YouTube.com is an online database of thousands of original videos made by ordinary people worldwide. “YouTube is a way to get your videos to the people who matter to you,” according to YouTube’s slogan.

Well, at least that’s what it used to be. Today, it’s more of a free online cable service.

“I stopped watching regular TV,” said Junior Ian Quartin. “I can’t afford cable, so I watch cable shows on YouTube. Sometimes they pull stuff, which can be annoying.”

For the most part, videos from the site are removed because they break a restriction. Videos are limited to 100 MB in file size and 10 minutes in length unless you have been approved for a director account, according to the site.

There are some days where you will be watching a hit cable show like the “Sopranos” in ten-minute intervals. Then the next they won’t be available anymore. Unfortunately for those who can’t afford cable, there is a thing out there called copyright law.

*YouTube is essentially the same as any of the many file-sharing programs like Kazaa or Napster, which were shut down by the music industry for illegally distributing music. There are a few key differences between YouTube and Napster.*

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**Sarah Rodriguez**
Staff Writer

Part of healthy human development is learning to keep life and its events in perspective, avoiding making mountains out of molehills. As rational beings, we are expected to remain calm and collected when facing a variety of life’s ordeals. However, those suffering from anxiety disorders struggle to get over these hurdles.

Anxiety disorders are relevant to college students because, according to GotAnxiety.org, they often occur during a person’s teens or twenties, and almost 7% of college students report having symptoms. Counting all age groups, more than 40 million men and women are diagnosed annually, with twice as many women affected as men.

“Anxiety is a normal feeling that we all experience at times in our lives, even for events we consider positive,” said professor and counselor Raysa Richardson. Anxiety disorder is a broad term that in fact covers several different conditions such as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder and General Anxiety Disorder.

OCD is perhaps the most familiar of these conditions, due in part to the popular TV show “Monk,” a program that producer David Hoberman—a board member of the Anxiety Disorders Association of America—made in order to create awareness of the disorder. A typical day in the life of an OCD patient can literally be consumed by simple tasks because of the patient’s need to constantly perform certain actions.

SAD goes beyond the average feelings of social awkwardness or of not belonging. Those who struggle with it are paralyzed by fear of others’ opinions. They sense that those around them are constantly watching and judging their every move.

“It’s a focus on perfection,” Richardson said.

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**Chris Cutro**
The Beacon

**Raysa Richardson.**

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Genetics, social environment play roles in anxiety disorders

Unlike other two disorders, GAD is less specific. It can affect virtually any aspect of the person’s life. According to the Anxiety Disorders Association of America, some physical symptoms of GAD include fatigue, restlessness, muscle tension, irritability, gastrointestinal discomfort and of course, constant worry.

If these symptoms occur most of the time for at least six months, obviously the line has been crossed beyond the average stress level common to us all.

Like many medical conditions, anxiety disorders are caused by a combination of nature and nurture—genetics, brain chemistry and familial and social environments all play a role.

“Of the issues very central to anxiety is the need to control,” Richardson said. “Life is such that we're not always in control. We need to find a way to teach the patients...we're not always going to get a 100.”

Part of the reason they are often misunderstood is that, as with clinical depression, many people fail to realize that it is a physical disorder and that the patient cannot simply choose to shake it by positive thinking or by “mind over matter” techniques.

Students can take some control by helping others if they suspect they fit the diagnosis of an anxiety disorder. By visiting www.adaa.org, they can search for a trustworthy therapist, find support groups or read advice on how to help a friend or family member struggling with the disorder.

Aside from looking for anxiety resources online, the FIU Health and Wellness Center offers a variety of services to students who need help with the disorders. Students can stop by Counseling and Psychological Services in the Health and Wellness Center Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except Thursday when students can come in from 9 a.m. to noon.

Students can take some control by getting help if they suspect anxiety disorders. “Each person has to find their optimal degree of performance,” said Richardson.

Students can stop by Counseling and Psychological Services in the Health and Wellness Center at FIU to seek help. Students can also stop by the Graham Gallery from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Panther Square and Oct. 4 at University Park in the Graham Gallery from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
and file sharing programs, however.

For starters, unless you are a very talented computer geek you cannot save the video files you watch on YouTube.com. The purpose is to be able to download the streaming video pretty fast.

Let’s say you wanted to download a 30-minute episode of Super Squirrels. With a file sharing program like BitTorrent, it could take you anywhere from a half an hour to many weeks to completely download the episode. With YouTube, you can be watching the episode within seconds of clicking on what you wanted to watch, depending on your Internet connection.

“I love it 'cause you can find almost anything,” said freshman Armando Pita.

When a copyrighted show is uploaded to YouTube it is a matter of luck whether or not it will be removed. But for the most part, older shows seem to be left alone while the more current ones are held under tighter scrutiny.

TV shows and personal videos aren’t the only thing you’ll find on YouTube. There are numerous video captures of video games, music videos, documentaries and even a complete promotional video of “Why Scientolgy is For You.”

For the most part, however, it’s the quick 15-second videos are why many log onto YouTube. Right now the “Panda Sneezes” video is getting thousands of hits. After you see the quick video, you’ll understand why; it’s laugh out loud funny.

Considering the immense popularity of the site, NBC announced on June 27 that it formed a strategic partnership with YouTube.

Essentially NBC will give Yahoo significant promotion on its various stations. In return, YouTube gave NBC its own channel for it to screen upcoming shows, promos and even late night comedy shows like Saturday Night Live – a move which embraces convergence unlike the music industry in the past.

On the other hand, there are still plenty of individuals who use YouTube as it was originally intended.

“Instead of video sharing, like, eating in the car,” said freshman Stephanie Alonso.

Alonso, who has a private area on YouTube, often shares videos with her personal friends. YouTube has also made it easy for people to share YouTube videos on their own websites.

You’ll often find YouTube videos in the middle of MySpace pages and other personal websites. While the reasons for using YouTube vary, its use has grown to form an internet mainstay. With a partner like NBC its chances of survival are also much higher than they would be alone.

Website an effective tool for promoting music, video games
Comics books, trading cards can yield big bucks for collectors

BEN F. BADGER JR.  Staff Writer

Fads are like the weather: you never know what you are going to get from season to season. More often than not you end up with some kind of highly sought after doodad. These doodads sometimes manage to ensure the attention and incomes of what seems like the whole world. But where are the doodads now? Did you sell them for a hefty mint, or are they gathering dust in the back of the closet?

For many people growing up, the easiest things to collect were comic books. Comics, depending on the age and condition, can be worth a small fortune for a college student.

Do an eBay search and you are sure to see many comics on sale for over $100. For example, a copy of the first X-Men comic was sold for $405 when its original cost was 12 cents.

“Take the infamous trading card game. Just about everything one was taken in by them 10 years ago. Cards were going for hundreds of dollars.”

In 2004 a special champion-prize card was sold on eBay for over $25,000. At the time, there were only two “JC-EN001 Cyber-Stein” cards in existence.

Which explains why the price went up so much on eBay. Yet a few months later the card was mass-produced, albeit with a different serial number.

The value of playable trading cards varies depending on how popular the game is at the time. But most card games are fads, and when the fad ends, so does its value.

One fad also tends to replace the previous one in the world of collectibles.

Yu-Gi-Oh replaced Pokemon and Pokemon had replaced the cute and cuddly Beanie Babies.

“The first Beanie Baby I got was Bongo the Monkey,” said freshman Tatiana Garcia. “By the time it was over with I had around 100 Beanie Babies.”

For a while, these miniature, stuffed animals were everywhere. The more collectable Bear Beanie Babies sold for hundreds of dollars.

But they were hardly the first doll craze. Go back 25 years and you will see mothers spending the night in front of department stores waiting to buy a Cabbage Patch Doll.

Collecting is a hobby for many when they are younger and have lots of their parent’s disposable income. But knowing what will one day be worth a lot of money is anyone’s guess.

“Collect what you like, it may be worth a fortune one day,” Ottati said.
visitors a 6-0 lead.

FIU bounced back two drives later taking the lead 7-6 as on the first play of the drive Ned took Padrick’s handoff to the left and quickly cut to the right and broke the Falcons defense for an 80-yard score.

Following the kickoff, the Golden Panthers had a chance to take the game’s momentum as defensive back Marshall McDuffie Jr. intercepted Turner on the very first play of the drive, giving FIU the ball back with a chance to score.

On the second play of the drive, Padrick looked for Williams in the corner of the end zone but the pass was underthrown and intercepted by Falcons freshman Vincent Corner, ending the Golden Panthers’ momentum, handing the game back to the visitors.

“I tell the team all the time,” Strock said. “You take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves and right now, we’re not fine-tuning the little things as much as we should be and I’ll take the responsibility for that.”

The Falcons took advantage and scored two quick touchdowns. Barnes found tight end Sean O’Dronbinak for a three-yard touchdown and on the ensuing kickoff Chandler Williams brought the ball out from five yards deep only to be hit at the 9-yard line.

Sanderson scooped up the ball and walked into the end zone putting the away team up 20-7.

Sophomore running back Julian Reams brought the lead down to six on a one-yard run that ended a 14-play 73-yard drive that spanned less than three minutes.

As time expired in the half, the Falcons had a 9-point lead heading into the locker room after kicker Sean Ellis connected from 38 yards to make it a 23-14 game.

The Golden Panthers showed heart after the half, quickly bouncing back and cutting the lead to two, thanks to a 98-yard opening kickoff return by Lionel Singleton.

Singleton was positive following the disappointing start to the season.

“We’ve been in this thing working hard every week [day in] and day out coming up short every time, so it’s like we’re going through the same thing over and over,” said Singleton.

“We just need to get over that hump and come up with a victory.”

With the score in Bowling Green’s favor, 23-21, Barnes once again extended the lead on a 7-yard touchdown run four minutes into the fourth quarter as the game appeared to be out of the reach of the home side.

Reams’ second touchdown of the game with 9:02 left from six yards out showed that the Golden Panthers still had a fight left in them scoring quickly on a four-play, 69-yard drive, thanks in part to a 47-yard connection between Padrick and Ned.

Ellis connected on his second field goal of the night with 3:03 remaining leaving the score as it would finish 33-24.

The Golden Panthers will look for their first win of the season on the road Sept. 23 against Atlantic Coast Conference member Maryland at Byrd Stadium in College Park, Md.

Golden Panthers still had a fight left in them scoring quickly on a four-play, 69-yard drive, thanks in part to a 47-yard connection between Padrick and Ned.

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Men’s soccer brings own fire against Flames

ANDREW KAMEKA
Staff Writer

Days after head coach Karl Kremser questioned their tenacity, the men’s soccer team responded with a 2-0 victory over Central Connecticut State Sept. 17.

Kremser criticized his players after a bitter defeat to No. 18 Illinois-Chicago two days prior, but FIU (3-3-1) rebounded, thanks to goals from senior forward David Paul Armstrong and sophomore forward Levi Coleman.

“Central Connecticut isn’t on the level of some of the other teams we’ve faced, but I’ll take the win because this is the fourth game we’ve played in eight days,” Kremser said.

FIU showed no signs of fatigue, outshooting CCSU (4-2-1) 17 to 14.

The Golden Panthers struck first when Blue Devils goalkeeper Paul Armstrong lost control of a shot by defender Chris Handy. Hope quickly tapped in the loose ball to give FIU a 1-0 lead.

A 20-yard blast from Ebrahimi in the 71st minute made the score 2-0. Following a corner-kick build-up, Ebrahimi controlled a deflected ball and fired a curving shot that ricocheted off the right goalpost to secure a win.

Goalkeepers Shawn Crowe and Kyle Thomas combined to record FIU’s third shut-out of the season.

Kremser said that Thomas, who had four saves in the match, replaced Crowe at the half in order to gain experience.

“We wanted to get Kyle some game time in case something happened to Shawn,” Kremser said.

MAKE WAY: Junior midfielder Dadi Kristjánsson tries to get by a Central Connecticut State defender.

“He hasn’t played in a while but he made two great back-to-back saves, was confident in goal and played quite well.”

A yellow-card foul inside the penalty area was Thomas’ lone blemish of the match, but he managed to save forward Alex Harrison’s penalty kick and the follow-up shot by defender Peter Howe.

“I could read what the kicker was doing and knew he was going to pull it to the left,” Thomas said. “I was happy that I made the save, but then I realized, ‘Oh, man, I have to save it again.’”

FIU returns to the field Sept. 23 to face Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

UCF, FIU 0
After defender Mike Giffin received a red card in the 69th minute for kicking sophomore forward Levi Coleman, FIU seemed poised to upset No. 18 Illinois-Chicago Sept. 15.

But less than a minute later, Crowe committed a costly foul that led to a penalty kick goal and a 1-0 loss to UIC (6-0-2) at FIU Soccer Stadium.

As he dove to secure a loose ball inside the penalty area, Crowe bumped UIC midfielder Pavle Dundjer.

Forward Tonci Skroce then converted the penalty kick with a powerful shot sent low and to the left.

Though the Flames played with only 10 men for the remainder of the match, the Golden Panthers couldn’t equalize.

“It didn’t seem like we had the extra man; they were taking it to us,” Kremser said. “I can’t believe with Top 20 team on our home field, we gave them a goal and didn’t push up to answer.”

FIU nearly equalized in the 71st minute, but a UIC defender blocked Coleman’s header attempt directly in front of goal. The same happened to Hope’s shots seconds later.

The Golden Panthers took five other shots in the second half – none of which were on target.

Even with a one-man disadvantage, UIC took two shots and threatened to score. Kremser was visibly upset by the Flames’ ability to attack.

“We didn’t hustle and we didn’t make them work,” he said. “There was no fire, no intensity and no emotion. This is a game that we could have won, should have won and we didn’t step up.”

Seven points separate FIU from being undefeated

MISTAKES, page 16

You have to hand it to the Golden Panthers for not giving up, but anyone who has followed this team for the past couple of seasons know that this team has a problem taking over close games.

In this season against Middle Tennessee, a late MTSU touchdown – coupled with Chris Patullo’s missed extra point – was at fault for the loss.

In week two, against the University of South Florida, Julian Ream’s fumble late in the game – coupled against Patullo’s missed extra point – was the main reason for the loss.

This loss – although it’s not simple to pick one particular moment to blame – doesn’t mean there has been a pattern in FIU’s first three losses.

FIU’s opponents have capitalized on FIU’s mistakes. Sadly, the Golden Panthers couldn’t do the same.

The aforementioned reasons for the losses against Middle Tennessee, USF and MTSU show moments when FIU’s opponent took advantage of an FIU mistake.

In the loss against Bowling Green, a sequence of consecutive events in the first half allowed BGSU to capitalize on FIU.

With a 7-6 lead thanks in part to, coincidentally, a BGSU missed extra point – the Golden Panthers had a chance to take the lead and maintain momentum that led to a touchdown.

You always have to look ahead to the next game – this time against Atlantic Coast Conference member Maryland, especially after a loss.

But you have to wonder if the Golden Panthers, going up against arguably their most difficult opponent they have faced up to date, will commit critical mistakes that Maryland can capitalize on.

We’ll find out Sept. 23 in College Park, Md.

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BRIGHT NOTE: Sophomore running back A’mod Ned ran for 169 yards and a touchdown in FIU’s loss to Bowling Green.
Careless mistakes overshadow potential on special teams

CHAD CHARLIE GRAU
Asst. Sports Editor

The Golden Panthers need to change the name of their special teams unit because their play has been anything but special.

Although special teams play has shown sparks of brilliance, many of those spectacular returns have been overshadowed by a slew of mistakes.

“We made too many mistakes,” head Coach Don Strock said at the postgame press conference. “You make that many mistakes and you’re not going to win.”

Heading into the fourth game of the season against the Maryland Terrapins, FIU has missed two extra points, given up two punt returns for touchdowns, missed a field goal and fumbled a punt return that resulted in a touchdown.

“IT’s disappointing because we talked about these different areas. Making plays on special teams and we did on several instances. And then we gave them a freebee,” Strock said.

Chandler Williams fumbled a kickoff return when he was hit by Bowling Green junior linebacker Jacob Hardwick. Not only did they recover the fumble, but they returned it for a touchdown.

Williams didn’t return another kick or punt until the fourth quarter and he didn’t seem to learn his lesson when he returned to catch a punt return on FIU’s final drive. Instead of allowing the punt to roll into the end zone, he attempted to field the punt at the 2-yard line and pull out at the last minute.

BG defenders pounced on the ball after it appeared to have touched, but officials ruled BG illegally touched the ball.

It’s the same thing I tell the team all the time, ‘You take care of the little things and the big things will take care of themselves,’ and right now, we’re not fine tuning the little things as much as we should be and I’ll take the responsibility for that,” Strock said. “You can bet they’ll be fine tuned this week.”

Strock already made one change before the BG game by electing to start redshirt freshman kicker Dustin Rivest over senior Chris Patullo.

They were giddy for the play of junior cornerback Lionell Singleton who had two interceptions and a 99-yard kick off return for a touchdown that tied the school record held by Gregg Moss who set it on Sept. 27, 2003 against Carson Newman.

The kickoff return was the first score FIU has earned all season. Down 23-14 at half, Singleton’s return opened the second half of the game and cut the deficit to three.

Despite the impressive performance, Singleton said it didn’t matter because the team still lost.

And the rest of the team agrees with Singleton. Many players are getting tired of the losses and hope to end the skid this weekend in Maryland.

Senior linebacker Keyonvis Bouie voiced his displeasure in losing to opponents he feels the Golden Panthers shouldn’t be losing to.

“Everybody knows it’s us beating ourselves and not the other team,” Bouie said.

If sports are the only thing on your mind, come write for the Beacon and get paid to watch games!

Fill out an application in GC 210 or WUC 124
Opponents capitalizing on mistakes

After its 33-27 loss to Bowling Green, seven points is basically the difference between the 0-3 FIU football team being, at the most, 3-0.

Seven points. On the bright side, at least the difference in the Golden Panthers’ home-opening loss to Bowling Green wasn’t an extra point again. That would have stung harder.

You can call the game a true team effort considering FIU’s offense, defense and special teams each contributed with a touchdown, but it was a wasted effort.

The defense, which wreaked havoc on the two games prior to this one, had no answer for Bowling Green’s two-quarterback spread offense led by sophomore Anthony Turner.

It seemed that every time FIU would chip away at the lead, the Falcons would answer back with a score.

Andoni Gonzalez-Rua

The Golden Panthers hoped to end a two-game skid when they opened their home schedule Sept. 16, but what they ended up with was another loss by less than a touchdown. Their limiting factors? Inexperience and a lack of depth.

FIU (0-3, 0-1) lost yet another heartbreaker, this time a 33-28 loss at the hands of visiting Bowling Green (2-1) at FIU Stadium.

The Golden Panthers hoped to end a two-game skid when they opened their home schedule Sept. 16, but what they ended up with was another loss by less than a touchdown. Their limiting factors? Inexperience and a lack of depth.

The Golden Panthers had a shot at putting their win the game. With 3:03 left to play, the two drives saw them with a chance to score. Following a confusing play that saw the Falcons and the ball trickle off Williams’ hands and into the end zone, the Golden Panthers started out from their own 20 yard line with 1:07 to play.

The senior from Merritt Island completed four-of-six passes, driving Strock’s men down to the Bowling Green 40 yard line.

With 11 seconds to play and needing a shot at the end zone, the senior once again fired into triple coverage as he overthrew Williams in the end zone. His pass was intercepted by Jerrett Sanderson from BGSU’s Alonso Rojas.

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