Two students die in boat accident, one injured

Two FIU students died last weekend in a boat accident on their way back from the Columbus Day Regatta in Biscayne Bay. James “Jimmy” Noel-Pou and Monica Burguera, along with six others, were on a broken-down rental boat that was being towed back to land. A 35-foot powerboat hit the group’s rental boat from behind causing a fatal accident, according to The Miami Herald.

Noel-Pou, whose body was found Oct. 9 floating in Biscayne Bay, was a few days away from celebrating his 24 birthday. He graduated in 2005, but was continuing at FIU as a graduate student in construction management, according to the FIU School of Engineering. He twice served as president and vice president of the Tau Kappa Epsilon social fraternity, members said.

“He was caring, loving and always smiling,” said Shoahm Segal, a TKE member. The fraternity has chosen to celebrate Noel-Pou’s birthday Oct. 14 and remember him the way he was. TKE members said they have lost a family member, someone that was always willing to give the shirt off his back.

Monica Burguera, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, was a 20-year-old business major. She was killed in the collision, according to The Miami Herald article. “She was ambitious and had a full life ahead of her. ... I will never forget her and she will always be in my heart,” said her friend Daniela Betancourt, a junior majoring in art.

Betancourt’s best memories with Burguera date back to a trip iela Betancourt, a junior majoring with Burguera date back to a trip they took together a couple of years ago to Universal Orlando’s Halloween Nights. “We had a lot of fun that night,” she said.

She described her longtime friend as someone who always wore a bright smile. “As much as it hurts, I know she is in a better place watching over us,” she said.

Burguera’s wake took place Oct. 9 and she was buried Oct. 10 in Miami. Burguera was with long-time boyfriend Andres Perez, 20, at the time of the accident, according to The Miami Herald. He survived and was taken to JMH where he is recovering from a shattered pelvis.

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique released a statement Oct. 9 about the tragic accident. “All of us in the FIU family are deeply saddened by this weekend’s tragedy which has touched us deeply. We extend our sympathy to the families of Ms. Burguera and Mr. Noel-Pou. For us, the loss of a student, or a classmate, is the loss of a friend and we mourn this loss. At the same time, we are praying for the quick and full recovery of Mr. Perez,” he wrote.

He also wrote that counselors would be available at the University Counseling Center to help students through the loss.

Despite several attempts, we were unavailable for comment.

As of press time, there was no news of Noel-Pou’s funeral arrangements. However, the TKE-hosted memorial service for Noel-Pou will be held at 5 p.m., Oct. 14 in the Graham Center.
Mixed-use developers to change Miami's way of life

Can Miami be the next Chicago? According to an article published in The Miami Herald, some South Florida developers hope to be among the first to make the change.

Mixed-use development – combining stores, restaurants, condos and offices – may become the new way of life.

Despite a slowdown in the condo market, Miami has almost 1.5 million sq. ft. of retail under construction and 5.7 million sq. ft. of proposed construction. If all gets built up and filled with tenants, it would add more than 26 times Miami’s existing retail space.

NATIONAL

Computer errors could lead to Medicare and Medicaid service problems

According to federal investigators, they have found serious computer security errors that could lead to inappropriate disclosure of sensitive medical information on people enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid.

Investigators said that key information and security controls were missing from a communication network used by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. According to their investigative report, “these weaknesses could lead to disruptions in services.”

However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are saying that none of the flaws had led to “actual security breaches,” and that they are taking steps to correct the security flaws.

Time Magazine reports Castro to have terminal cancer

Citing several U.S. government officials who did not wish to be identified, Time Magazine published a report that Cuban leader Fidel Castro has terminal cancer and will never return to power.

In the article, one official cautioned that definitive proof is nearly impossible to obtain. However, the Cuban government denies the report.

Castro ceded power to his younger brother Raúl this summer to undergo intestinal surgery. He has almost 1.5 million sq. ft. of retail under construction and 5.7 million sq. ft. of proposed construction. If all gets built up and filled with tenants, it would add more than 26 times Miami’s existing retail space.

WORLD

Rosales’ supporters in Venezuela march opposing Chávez

Thousands marched the streets of Caracas Oct. 7 in the biggest show of public support, yet for Manuel Rosales.

Rosales, who is Venezuela’s main opposition presidential candidate, is pledged to undo what he calls the “ills of President Hugo Chávez’s government.”

Rosales accuses the Chavez regime of mismanaging the country’s oil wealth and ignoring crime.

He called Chávez’s government a puppet of a “few close friends,” and pledged to “undo the Chávez regime in its tracks.”

The festivities began with the traditional March of Nations parade in which Honors College students held flags from various countries and United States. The flags represented the nations and states from which many students hail.

“I think it’s a great thing,” said Honors College freshman Martha Baratton. “My heart swelled with pride.”

The parade also consisted of Faculty Fellows—professors that either teach and/or participate in the Honors College—the FIU marching band and ROTC.

“I’m part French, so I chose to bear France’s flag,” said Honors College freshman Eugenio Barreto.

The parade began at the Chapman Plaza in University Park and made its way to the housing quad, where the FIU marching band played a few songs. The parade then continued to the water fountain next to Primera Casa and the Torch of Knowledge.

There, the flag bearers circled the fountain and listened to the marching band play several more songs including an altered version of the FIU fight song.

“We never get to see stuff like this,” said freshman Carolina Miranda.
Maidique tackles College of Medicine concerns

So that’s the most important thing that we’ve done and we’re moving along quickly, because the medical school was written into law in June and here we are in September and we already have five finalists.

Q: The University will need to raise a lot of money. How much has been raised so far, and what are the methods being used?

Monies at this level, I have to be personally involved with the donor ... We have raised, all told, $60 million for the medical school, but the real money will be coming from the state.

The state this year will hopefully fund us to the tune of $6 million, then $12 million, then $18 million, then close to $24 million over the next three years. So every year, the state contribution will increase.

Also, we hope to announce partnerships with other entities to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars within the next month.

Q: Can you specify what those entities are?

Hospitals, other groups that are involved in the health care area, but I can’t give you anymore details in that. We expect that the month of October will be a phenomenal month for medical science at FIU.

Q: We have the College of Law, the College of Medicine, a school of architecture — are there any other target programs or school in the works?

There are always new Ph.D.s, the possibility of new schools, but I think we now have all of the pieces.

We've got the pieces now; now we need to make that car move.

So it's if you're given a choice, well then you need to add an engine, then you need to add axles, then you need to add seats.

We’ve got the pieces now; now we need to make that car move.
Sixth annual festival celebrates Caribbean culture

ELSA REINOSO
Contributing Writer

The School of Hospitality Management at the Biscayne Bay Campus celebrated its sixth annual University Fete Oct. 7, a unique festival celebrating the traditions, food and entertainment of the Caribbean.

Mohammad A. Qureshi, the School's coordinator of facilities, said that close to 2,500 people attended the event.

The exact amount of tickets sold was not known as of press time.

Qureshi was assisting Associate Dean Lee Dickson in this event, supervising student volunteering in conjunction with Angostura, Trinidad and Tobago’s largest bottling company.

“The event helped students learn different techniques on how to put an event like this together,” Qureshi said.

Victoria Fernandez, a junior hospitality and management student that she enjoyed the event because she got the opportunity to put into practice her skills in the area.

“I got the opportunity to work with Chef Kelly. She was the one in charge of the FIU dish,” Fernandez said.

“This event would benefit [both] the Angostura Scholarship Fund for international students and students at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Plus this event is also a great opportunity for networking.”

About $10,000 of the event’s proceeds would go towards scholarship funds, Qureshi said.

CL Financial, Angostura’s parent company, recently donated almost $300,000 to the school’s audiovisual department.

“As a sign of appreciation, we named one of our classrooms after Angostura,” Qureshi said.

Wayne Rodriguez, Angostura event organizer and supervisor, said that he expected the carnival party to turn out well.

“I found people come here to enjoy and have a great time; this is what I want,” Rodriguez said.

This event — called a “Red Carpet Affair” by its organizers — is the leading social and cultural event of Miami-Dade and Broward County’s Carnival Weekend, Rodriguez said.

Trinidadian tourist Emmanuel Johnson enjoyed the party because he loves Soca music, which is a mix of Trinidad’s calypso and Indian music.

“I am here in Miami for the first time,” Johnson said.

“The food and the music here are great.”

The Fête featured a diverse blend of authentic Caribbean food and entertainment, which included Chinese, East Indian and Creole. Hospitality majors got a chance to serve some of their signature dishes.

“The spaghetti and shrimp [was] delicious,” said Lisa Jones, a 27-year-old Jamaican resident of South Florida. She said that she was here for entertainment, drinks and mingling.

The host for Fête 2006 was Maxine Williams, film and theater celebrity who hosts events on Black Entertainment Television and other productions.

DJs Gisele the Wassy One of 96.1 FM and D’Soca General from Trinidad Power 102 FM, as well as bands T & TEC Gaytones, David Rudder and Roger George kept guests entertained and dancing through the night.

COOKIN’ UP A STORM: Patrick Sepe (left), Chef for Angostura USA and Lucien Duppey (bottom left), a chef child for the same company, speak to the host of the University Fete, Maxime Williams (right).

Organization gives children hope

YOLANNE ALMANZAR
Contributing Writer

Firefighters, doctors, TV reporters, actors — with the help of the FIU Chapter of the Association for Women in Communications, 20 children from the Child Hope organization will be able to experience these and other professions Oct. 21.

Formerly known as the Christian Home for Children, Child Hope is a non-profit organization that provides foster care for abused, abandoned and neglected children.

The AWC also works to provide some of these services include resume and portfolio workshops, as well as graphic design classes to hone the skills they may need in the workforce.

Their work has allowed the FIU student chapter to be awarded the Outstanding Student Chapter of the Year in the nation four times.

At Wannado City, an interior theme park in Sawgrass Mills Mall in Sunrise where they’ll be taken Oct. 21 children earn a check, can set up bank accounts and spend their money as they deem fit.

“They’re also able to immerse themselves in various job fields.”

Wannado City is so relevant because we show these kids a brighter future after such a horrific yesterday,” Berman said.

The AWC also works to provide the children with a safe environment in communities where the children play, learn and receive spiritual guidance.

The organization is also a highly regulated one, not allowing the children to go on any field trips without their parents transporting and chaperoning them, so as to protect the children’s identities.

Despite such restrictions, the AWC has organized an array of events for the children, including Disney on Ice, trips to the Miami Seaquarium and IMAX theaters, bowling parties, magic shows and pony rides.

Every year we try to do some special event for these children, especially during the time of year when most people don’t think about them,” Berman said.

Senetta Carter, director of education at Child Hope, felt there were many benefits of the AWC’s efforts.

“We also want [the kids at Child Hope] to feel inspired to do something else with their lives, just like we are,” Berman said.

Alina Balcac, president of AWC, shared what her advisor told her about these children’s pasts. “Think about the worst thing you could do to your child, and then think of something worse,” Balcac said.

The families of Child Hope live in communities where the children learn, play and receive spiritual guidance.

“We want more of these kids to get involved in the world is to give back — whether that’s your money, talent or time,” Berman said.

The most important thing in the world is to give back — whether that’s your money, talent or time,” Berman said.

“Kids get to see that there’s a different side of life and that there are people that do care about them,” Carter said.

NEWSFLASH

Spiritual lecture series comes to BBC

Elaine Gavalas, a New York yoga instructor, exercise physiologist and nutritionist, will hold a hands-on workshop dealing with spirituality and cooking Oct. 22.

This event requires advanced registration on www.eventbrite.org. The event, “A Yogi in the Kitchen,” will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. at the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management, room 142-A.

This event requires advanced registration on those who are interested in coming to the event.

“The event is for everyone,” Arvinder Gill, the AWC’s academic advisor, said. “This event is for everyone.”

National Coming Out Day celebrated

On Oct. 11, the Women’s Center sponsored National Coming Out Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event was put together in order to raise awareness about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and their allies.

Information booths were set up at the Wolfe Academic Center in the Panther Pit and in the hallway between Academic I and the Campus Life Office. These booths offered resources for students and friends and families and had students, faculty and staff to sign their names as a promise to stay involved and eventually, the AWC picked up where classes have left off.

Laura Molina, senior and vice president of special projects for AWC, feels that they are meeting the purpose of the organization: giving back to the community.

“In the past as a class assignment,” said Margo Berman, the AWC Student Advisor, who presented the challenge to her classroom.

After Berman’s students were successful in getting Child Hope on the radio, in the newspaper and other mediums, Berman continued to stay involved and eventually, the AWC picked up where classes left off.

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Despite such restrictions, the AWC has organized an array of events for the children, including Disney on Ice, trips to the Miami Seaquarium and IMAX theaters, bowling parties, magic shows and pony rides.

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Education can save a boy’s life

BOBBY JOE BRACY
Copy Editor

Cars and murder aren’t the only things killing our nation’s boys in record numbers: boys are killing themselves. Compelling statistics from the Center for Disease Control show that they are committing suicide at higher rates; something is drastically wrong in how we are raising our boys.

So how big is this problem for boys when compared with girls? Feminists argue that girls are the ones who need more help; girls are attempting suicide more often than boys. The suicide rate is increasing for boys around the age that they are entering or applying for college.

However, while girls are attempting suicide more, boys are actually going through with it more often – a boy is over four times more likely to kill himself than a girl. The suicide rate is increasing for boys around the age that they are entering or applying for college.

Why do American boys think they have fewer reasons to live?

Education in America is revealing the gender gap between boys and girls. In high schools, more girls than boys are taking up leadership positions, Advanced Placement classes and membership into honor societies – all are big factors in predicting success in college.

“The average 11th grade boy writes like an 8th grade girl. He’s predicting success in college. They have fewer reasons to live?” said Dr. Michael Thompson, a school psychologist, in the same interview. While girls have needed our help in the past and still do today, the same is now especially true for boys in this era.

Boys need the extra attention in schools because literacy can keep them out of trouble. If you can read and understand this, your chances of dying or ending up in prison are a whole lot lower than those of a boy who can’t.

Thompson attributes the problem facing boys to the absence of positive male figures in their education. Boys need men in their lives to help them deal with the modern pressures of masculinity. There are too few male figures in education that boys can look up to. How many men who liked poetry and art did you see while you were going to school?

There are solutions out there that can give boys hope: Jefferson Academy in Long Beach, California has a 1:1 ratio of male and female teachers. In class, boys and girls are segregated to meet their specific educational needs. In the United Kingdom, they have implemented more all-boys schools and programs to help boys read and write better.

The result: boys’ test scores are improving.

American boys face new problems in our time; there is no doubt about that. Boys are lagging behind and speeding recklessly toward an ever-widening chasm of gender inequality while society ignores the signs. Boys are falling behind in morals, self-esteem and education.

It’s boys who are facing down the barrel of guns and searching for meaning. If our nation continues to ignore their plea, the answer we are giving them is a resounding “bang.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Abortion a question of science, not choice

The abortion battle is one that cannot be ignored, regardless of whether or not you believe women should have the right to have an abortion. I also think it’s important to understand that the real issue behind abortion has to do with the fate of the unborn to do with one vital question: is a fetus in fact a human being? That question should be answered based on a scientific and philosophical perspective, not on the beliefs of a well-educated college student or professional, to find out for yourself. Is a fetus a human being or an object of our nation’s boys? I just follow the crowd on this issue.

Julie Sierra
Senior
English

New metrorail could overcrowd FIU

I’m amazed by the continued support for a Metrorail line on the 107th Avenue side of the [University Park] campus. I want it to be a reality, but I want the millions of dollars spent to alleviate traffic with the 16th Street exit to 107th Avenue, as well as improving the school’s athletics over the last few years to go to waste.

Those who want a huge traffic calming on 107th Avenue during construction will support this initiative, which is being proposed by the administration and most of the student body.

A station on the far west side of campus would force the school and community to improve the infrastructure, lighting and safety on that side of campus, and might also lead to a University-wide transportation system, [similar to] University of Miami’s “Hurricane” buses.

The construction of the Metrorail [station] alongside the turnpike would not be an enormous burden on commuters, would lead to the construction of Metrorail parking garages and would increase safety around the campus, especially in that particularly ignored part of campus.

I would not want our already stressed-out lives to accommodate even more traffic with heavier traffic, parking chaos, more theft or create an even larger sense of being a commuter-school with the Metrorail on 107th Avenue.

Anthony Rionda
Junior
Marketing

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Would you use the proposed Metrorail line to FIU?

• Yes – I’ll save myself the time and money.
• No – It wouldn’t be any cheaper or faster for me.
• No – Eww, the Metrorail is dirty.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com
October 12, 2006

With FIU’s football game against the University of Miami approaching, many students — some who didn’t even know we had a football team before the semester began — are all of a sudden ready to call Roary their best friend. Though there are FIU students who bleed blue and gold at times of competition, there always seem to be some individuals who, no matter the circumstances, will stop at nothing to show off their dislike for this University.

“I didn’t even know we had a football team until my cousin who goes to UM told me about the game against them,” said freshman Ana Perdomo. “We’re going to probably lose because we’re FIU.”

Some students share similar thoughts when it comes to perceptions of the University.

When asked to describe FIU in one word, junior Lily Hernandez chose “average.” Hernandez is a transfer student from Florida State University and is currently in her second semester.

“I left FSU after two years because I heard a lot of good things about the chemistry department at FIU,” Hernandez said. “My aunt lives down here, and she told me I could stay with her until I wanted, but I preferred to live in housing.”

Hernandez was very involved on campus back in Tallahassee. She was a member of The Renegade yearbook staff, Gay Straight Alliance, Student Government Association and an employee of University Counseling Center. But at FIU, Hernandez is only taking classes.

I went to all the club fairs in the summer and attended some meetings of clubs I was interested in, but the lack of spank at FIU really gets to me,” Hernandez said. “I remember one club in particular had a roster of 240 interested people. There were three at the meeting including myself. It’s pathetic.”

Hernandez also lived in housing at FSU and explained the differences between both residential communities.

“We got to partner with other offices and plan socials and gatherings so students can meet other students,” he said.

“The main difference with FIU and other universities is that FIU is located in Miami. In other universities, most locales are walking distance from campus here, you need a car to get around to most places.”

— Junior Jorge Valens

Although these multimedia websites let students watch whatever they want for no cost, there are other alternatives.

Recently, shows such as “Darkwing Duck” and “Thundercats” have been released on DVD to appease fans that want to see their favorite shows again. Unlike the free websites, this alternative could cost collectors a lot of money. The first two seasons of “Thundercats” bundled with a bonus DVD retailing for $259 when the bundle is released Nov. 28.

Junior Rajiv Kirpalani admits that the websites provide the only viable option for nostalgic yet budget-conscious students.

“Unless you can know someone who recorded the old stuff from the ’80s and ’90s, you’re going to have a hard time finding it anywhere else,” he said. “You might find some things for sale on eBay, but pay for it if you can find it free?”

— Asst. Life! Editor

GEORGE ANDERSON JR.

Students such as junior Jorge Valens occasionally reminisce about some of the television shows they watched during their childhood.

“Sometimes, I wonder what happened to all those cartoons I used to watch as a kid,” he said. “Stories like ‘Duck Tales’ and ‘Darkwing Duck’ were so cool back then, but I don’t remember if they got canceled or something.”

Fortunately for students trying to recapture some of their youth, websites such as RetroJunk.com and YouTube.com let students upload old commercials and television show clips they may have recorded or found taped at someone’s garage sale. Whether you’re searching for the introduction to Mighty Morphin’ Power Rangers: The Movie or just looking up some of your favorite cereal commercials, these websites have a library of media for people to explore for free.

Websites such as YouTube rely on visitors for most of their media content. YouTube, for instance, lets anyone who signs up for a free account upload their own videos, which could include anything from home videos to recordings of television shows and movies. Similarly, RetroJunk requires potential uploaders to register their account before letting them add to the library of commercials, movies and television shows.

Sophomore Antonio Carrillo, an international student who frequents YouTube, uses the website as a means of watching the cartoons he missed out on as a child.

“Because I didn’t grow up in this country, I never really got to see the types of cartoons that people here saw when they were growing up,” he said. “The sites let me look up a lot of stuff my friends talk about when they talk about their childhoods.”

Even though YouTube and Retro Junk allow visitors to upload and view content from past years, there are certain drawbacks. Both websites have limits on what type of content can be uploaded.

If you want to upload an entire episode of “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles” on Retro Junk, you’re out of luck – the site is limited to television show introductions.

“Sometimes, I wonder what happened to all those cartoons I used to watch as a kid.”

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— Junior Jorge Valens
Students torn over FIU’s identity

MORALE, page 8

Even though Hernandez admits she would be getting a better education here than at FSU, she plans on returning there for the Spring semester.

“Under a bachelor’s degree is a bachelor’s degree, no matter where you get it from,” Hernandez said. Even though Hernandez admits she would be getting a better education here than at FSU, she plans on returning there for the Spring semester.

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Underdogs part of American history

UNDERDOG, page 8

are going for the tailgate celebrations; some may be going to watch the Canes for free, and there are those who are going with the hope that the underdog will pull off an upset.

“They want to see the little person win because people are tired of the bigger person winning over and over,” said junior Johnny Garcia who is majoring in athletics training.

“Hey, they can hope, right? After all, if you asked Hollywood, you’d get a billion confirmations – Miracle, Chariots of Fire, Bend it Like Beckham, Seabiscuit, Cinderella Man and every other cliché-ridden inspirational sports movie from Remember the Titans to Gridiron Gang.”

“It pumps you up. It’s an adrenaline rush,” said junior Johnny Garcia who is majoring in athletics training. “When you’re watching a sports movie, you have a feeling they’re going to win, but you cheer them on anyway because it’s fun.”

To pinpoint where Hollywood’s obsession with the underdog tale truly began is uncertain but they have certainly tried. Of the 10 highest grossing movies of all time, eight of them have themes addressing the underdog. In Star Wars, part of the small Rebel Alliance beat the evil Galactic Empire. In The Matrix, Neo and the rebels have to beat the machines that control the whole world; Captain Jack Sparrow and Will Turner almost single-handedly beat the villainous Captain Barbossa and the crew of the Black Pearl in Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl.

So what is it about the underdog that truly fascinates us?

“The root of the underdog concept in American. America was created by individuals who wanted to avoid persecution by the religious majority in Europe. Rather than fight back, they moved across the Atlantic to start a new life. The Revolutionary War is perhaps the greatest underdog story in American history, where the small American rebel army led by George Washington defeated the great British Empire.

With a nation’s history founded in the underdog theory, you can see why it’s a popular concept. Hollywood supports the underdogs because it’s part of the American Dream. With FIU now stepping into its own movie-like scenario, expect me to be one of the 4000 students cheering on the Panthers, fingers crossed for a miracle.
FATHER AND SON WILL WATCH GAME FROM OPPOSING SIDES

CHARLIE GRAU
Asst. Sports Editor

Growing up, FIU sophomore cornerback Xavier Shannon always heard his father Randy Shannon, defensive coordinator for the University of Miami, tell him to work hard and cut his leg, leaving a scar that he has until this day. Known for his tough love on his players, Randy didn’t make many exceptions for his son that day and didn’t even make a big deal about the cut when his son returned from the hospital.

Randy doesn’t expect things to change as his defense prepares to take on FIU Oct. 14.

“No matter what it is, it’s his brother lining up across against you, your grand- mother, your mom, you got to do a job,” Randy said. “You can’t feel bad about it. That’s how it is, that’s my son, but you know what, we have to find a way to win. Them guys have to do that if they got to do to beat his butt.”

And Xavier said he is ready to love on top of one of the best defense teams in the nation and isn’t holding anything back. He would love for FIU’s first win to come against UM and thinks a win will put a stamp on this season.

“My father always told me growing up that every- one’s the same. Everyone wears a mouthpiece, everyone puts on a helmet, everyone has hit pads,” Xavier said. “It doesn’t bother me that they’re probably bigger than us and probably faster than us.

You just got to go out there and play hard and whoever has the most heart will win the game.”

Just like his father, he has a tremendous amount of confidence in his own abilities and his team.

“We’re the only team in the city, because the last time I checked, the University of Miami is in Coral Gables and FIU is in Miami,” he said. “So I think this is our city; they have to do it for us. It’s a home game for us.”

Xavier knows how good and fast most of those guys in Coral Gables are because he’s always down at their athletic facility with his father.

Every Sunday since his freshman year, he brings some food from his great- grandmother’s house for his father and the two hang out for an hour or two, talking about football and life.

But the dinner on Oct. 8 wasn’t the same. When dropping off some roast beef, macaroni and cheese and green beans, his father was breaking down film from FIU’s sextuple overtime loss to North Texas, game planning for the game against him.

“When I first walked into the football complex, I bumped into some of their players and they were like, ‘What are you doing here?’ And I was like, ‘Every Sunday, I come here.”

While inside his father’s office, Xavier wasn’t sure if he should “walk out or stay.”

Often times, the two discuss football and technique. But the only advice that Xavier received from his father that day was to “play hard.”

Despite being named a 2003 third-team all-state player, Randy never recruited his son, preferring that he play somewhere else. He figured that would his son would grow into a man.

“I don’t believe in getting a son on your team, if not he won’t develop as a kid. If I’m here and he’s here, he won’t ever grow up,” Randy said.

“Go anywhere you want to grow, but I told him you’ll never go anywhere where I’m coaching.”

“Xavier knows his father will have more fans on his side during the game. During class this week, one of his classmates was wearing a UM shirt and all he said to him was ‘nice shirt.’ He even admitted to owning his own UM paraphernalia and even wore some orange UM shorts to a workout session during the summer. But the only fans that matter to Xavier are his family, which he says will be pulling for him during the game.

“Before the season, I wanted Miami to go 1-1 and their one loss came against FIU. But it didn’t turn out that way so hopefully they’ll finish 9-3.”

“The whole family is root- ing for me, from the youngest to the oldest.”

Garcia, Xavier rooted for UM since his father played there and coached there when he was younger. He even got to watch UM win the National Championship in 2001.

Despite family members and friends taking sides during the game, both are approaching the game with a business-like attitude.

“We’ll hug before the game and after the game we’ll joke and have a good time. But from the beginning whistle to the end whistle, it’s just business,” Xavier said.

“He has to do a job and I have to do a job. If he doesn’t do his job, he’ll be removed and if I don’t do my job, I’ll be removed.”

MELLO: I was surprised and disappointed

ATHLETICS, page 1

Mello said his salary would remain the same. However, the money for his salary will come from the corporation instead of the athletic department.

Still, Mello also said that the announce- ment took him by surprise. He did not know that changes were in the works and was notified of the reappointment Oct. 8, just a few days before the official announcement.

“I was surprised and disappointed, but I’m going to put forth all my effort into building the stadium,” he said.

Maidique praised Mello in the press conference for what he has done for the athletics department during his six-year tenure, including doubling the athletics budget, establishing the FIU football program and its quick progression to Division I-A.

He has also secured football matches against top teams like the University of Florida in 2009 and Penn State in 2007. He was also a main player in getting FIU to play its first football series against UM, the first game which will take place Oct. 14. The next game will be in 2007.

The stadium and the student services complex are expected to be completed by 2010. Considering that he will have one year left on his contract after this pre- sumed deadline, Mello said he does not know what he will be doing after that.

“We’ll worry about that when the time comes,” he said.

He also said if another athletic direc- tor’s position were offered to him by another university, “it would have to be a damn good offer” for him to leave FIU.

“Put my heart and soul into this pro- gram, and I really want to see this project finish,” Mello said.

Garcia, who has a degree in business administration from UM, said he was hon- oneyed to be given the position and wants to improve the athletics program.

“One of the things that I would like to do in my career is establish an elite sports program at [FIU] that [the South Florida community] can rally behind and be proud of,” Garcia said. “We gotta get back our own... We have close to 40,000 students here. We have over 100,000 alumni in South Florida [and] those are the ones we gotta get to support our program in every way.”

At UM, Garcia was in charge of ticket sales, media relations, marketing and the management of all major contract nego- tiations with corporations such as Nike, Gatorade and Coca-Cola.

Garcia would not say for what team he would be rooting for in the FIU/UM football game.

“This Saturday, I don’t know if I’m going to the game,” Garcia said in Spanish after the press conference. “I’ll probably be staying home.”

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Headling to this weekend’s first game against the University of Miami, The Beacon sat down with FIU Offensive Line Coach and former UM offensive line manager Leon Searcy. Searcy retired in 2002 following an injury he sustained while at the Miami Dolphins’ training camp. It was his third season as the Golden Panthers’ offensive line coach.

Q: What did you learn from the coaches at Miami? How do you apply that to what you are doing day in and day out at FIU?

A: To love the game. You have to be able to spend that day through playing the game. You do everything you can between Monday and Friday in the film room, in the weight room, in classroom, out on the field in preparation so when [Oct. 14] comes it’s all supposed to be fun. That is what I learned at the [UM], come [Oct. 14] it was time to party. I was privileged to be coached under some pretty good offensive line coaches, starting with Tony Weiss, who is now with the New York Jets. Then it was Art Kehoe, who is now with Ole Miss, and then Greg Smith who has been in the [NFL] for a couple of years and is now coaching at Idaho. I was privileged to be coached under those guys and they groomed me into the player that I was.

Q: Do your players ever ask about your days at Miami?

A: All the time and they don’t believe half the stuff I tell them. That is the misconception with [UM]. I try to tell the guys over here that we don’t work hard enough with all these NCAA rules and stuff, these one and a half hour practices, over there at Miami we worked a lot more. A lot of the players over here is that ‘oh coach you didn’t have to do this or that’, it’s contrary to my belief. Over there it was a full time job. Those guys were committed to winning and that is why we had so much success.

Q: What are your feelings heading into the game this weekend at the Orange Bowl against your alma mater?

A: I want to win. I bleed orange and green, don’t get me wrong. I love everything about it. They have attributed to the mass majority of my success in college and professional ranks, but my check says FIU, so much as I like that program over there … I am here at FIU and I want these guys to win. I want them to experience that if it is all possible. We are preparing to win.

Q: What do you think your feelings are going to be coming out of that tunnel? It’s going to feel different getting boxed. It’s going to be different coming out of the smoke and the visitors locker room. I have never experienced that before.

A: That is the key, the difference is that [UM] has a rich tradition; a bunch of great pro players, first round draft picks and they are fired up. With the guys over there … I am here at FIU and I want these guys to win. I want them to experience that if it is all possible. We are preparing to win.

Q: What are the biggest differences you see between this program and UM’s, excluding the fact that FIU has been around for only five years?

A: There are a couple of things, the greatest exodus of pro athletes ever. In his regime with Butch [Davis], he was responsible for bringing in guys like Ed Reed, Clinton Portis, Jerome Shockey, Bryant McKinnie and all these guys were first round draft picks. In a span of four to five years, they had 16 first round draft picks. The guys know what he is doing. As far as football operations go, [Garcia] is A+ and you can’t deny that. I’m pretty sure that he is being brought over here to bring that same kind of experience to FIU.

Q: What was your most memorable moment at UM? At FIU?

A: The tickers tape. The parade. Being adored in a convertible with confetti falling down on you. I had the opportunity and I tell the kids here. [With UM] you didn’t have to do this or that, it’s contrary to my belief. Over there it was a full time job. Those guys were committed to winning and that is why we had so much success.

Q: What do you think about your days at Miami and professional ranks, but my check says FIU, so much as I like that program over there … I am here at FIU and I want these guys to win. I want them to experience that if it is all possible. We are preparing to win.

Q: What are your thoughts on Pete Garcia as the New Athletic Director at FIU?

A: Pete’s track record speaks for itself. We are responsible for probably the greatest pro athletes ever. In his regime with Butch [Davis], he was responsible for bringing in guys like Ed Reed, Clinton Portis, Jerome Shockey, Bryant McKinnie and all these guys were first round draft picks. In a span of four to five years, they had 16 first round draft picks. The guys know what he is doing. As far as football operations go, [Garcia] is A+ and you can’t deny that. I’m pretty sure that he is being brought over here to bring that same kind of experience to FIU.

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FIU to face Marshall Oct. 11

SOCcer, page 12

Kristjánsson got open in front of the goal. Kristjánsson pounced on a ball played in by senior forward David Hope, but his shot sailed over the crossbar.

The Golden Panthers came together for another strong performance against Denver. After dropping the first game, North Texas played a sloppy second set where they never led. In the final game they managed to jump out to a 9-3 lead. Golden Panthers responded with a 6-0 run to level the score before taking the lead at 13-12 en route to the four set win.

FIU 3, DENver 1

The Golden Panthers wasted little time asserting their dominance against North Texas as Vergun opened the game with two consecutive kills to push FIU in front. Vergun led FIU with her second double-double of the year, recording 19 kills and 10 digs. Oliveira added a double-double of her own as she had a strong 41 assists, 10 digs and five kills while Guerra took over in the backrow with her career high 26 kills at a .365 clip with 13-12 en route to the four set win.

Vergun led FIU with her second double-double of the year, recording 19 kills and 10 digs. Oliveira added a double-double of her own as she had a strong 41 assists, 10 digs and nine-kill performance. Vergun tied her career high 26 kills at a .365 clip with ten digs and a match-high five aces.

According to head coach Danijela Tomic, the team will take it one game at a time as they look to continue stacking up wins.

“We recruited hard workers and built this team to reflect that, and our guys are definitely giving the effort that [coaches] expect of them.”

The Thundering Herd is also winless in conference play after losing back-to-back games to Alabama-Birmingham and Tulsa.

The match loser will fall to last place in C-USA, so FIU is focused on victory.

“It’s a must win game. We need wins to stay in this race and we have to come away with one in that game,” Kremser said.

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FIU to face Marshall Oct. 11

Volleyball off to 8-0 start in Sun Belt play

RENALDO SMITH
Contributing Writer

With outside power hitter Yarimar Rosa sidelined with an injured knee, the women’s volleyball team knew that it needed every-one to step up in order to keep their undefeated record intact.

The budding team did just that as junior setter Keila Oliveira and freshman hard hitters Olga Vergun and Anaysa Guerra led setter Keila Oliveira and freshman hard hitters Olga Vergun and Anaysa Guerra led the way in a 3-0 (30-28, 30-20, 30-24) win over North Texas on Oct. 6 and a 3-1 (30-16, 30-22, 28-30, 30-23) victory over Denver on Oct. 8 at the Pharmed Arena.

Guerra, who posted double-digit kills in both contests expressed her confidence Oct. 8 at the Pharmed Arena.

“I feel really good to keep winning and with every win we are doing great. We are a really confident team right now and I think we are doing well. We always work hard and we are prepared to play against anybody and it doesn’t matter who it is,” Guerra said.

The Golden Panthers came together for another strong performance against Denver. After dropping the first game of the match, the Golden Panthers never trailed in the opening game and were just as dominant in the second. After stealing the third set, it appeared as though the Pioneers were poised to force a deciding fifth set as they jumped out to a 9-3 lead.

However, it wasn’t meant to be as the Golden Panthers responded with a 6-0 run to level the score before taking the lead at 13-12 en route to the four set win.

The whole philosophy is that we are not looking at records,” Tomic said. “We take one game at a time and we go into every match thinking it is the most important match of the season. So far it has been successful and I am just happy for this group of kids.”

FIU (15-4) will put their school-record, nine consecutive wins and Sun Belt-leading eight-game series against the Gamecocks.

“We have a letdown the game before last but we really got it together against a tough team,” he said. “You have to remember that we’re a rebuilt team and still trying to get where we need to be.

“We recruited hard workers and built this team to reflect that, and our guys are definitely giving the effort that [coaches] expect of them.”

FIU now turns its attention to Marshall (3-6-1, 0-2-0), which hosts the Golden Panthers in a critical C-USA showdown Oct. 11.

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Touchdown overturned in overtime

FOOTBALL, page 12

eight-of-16 for just 86 yards and a crucial touchdown and two-point conversion that gave the hosts a 16-13 lead with just two minutes to play in regulation.

Running back Jamario Thomas led the way on the ground, carrying 38 times for 148 yards while wide receiver Johnny Quinn managed 10 catches for 88 yards and a touchdown.

Kicker Hopovac finished the day five-of-nine kicking, including three makes in the extra sessions.

After having to punt on the opening drive, everything seemed to be going FIU's way as North Texas took a gamble running a flea flicker as their first play. Starting quarterback Woody Wilson threw down field and was intercepted by FIU's Robert Mitchell. The Golden Panthers struggled with a three and out. On the ensuing punt, the snap sailed over the head of freshman punter Chris Cook, rolled through the end zone and gave NT a 2-0 lead.

Following the safety punt, NT took over the football at their 48-yard line. Their 13-play drive culminated in a 35-yard field goal by Hopovac; NT led 5-0.

FIU's last possession of the first half began with 2:46 remaining as FIU quickly moved the ball down field, with Padrick completing the 700 pass of his career, a 22-yard completion to Williams, only to feel NT push back once inside the red zone.

Following two incomplete passes, Padrick found Williams for a gain of nine setting up a fourth-and-goal with 14 seconds to play. Strock's men had plenty of time to think about their play as they used up their last timeout, only to come out of it handing the ball to Reams who couldn't find his way into the end zone, ending the half with NT leading 5-0.

FIU's opening drive of the second half looked as if a new team had stepped onto the field.

Padrick led the visitors down field on a seven play, 80-yard drive that culminated in Padrick finding Anderson for a 21-yard touchdown. Rivest's extra point was blocked, marking the fourth missed PAT by a Golden Panther this season and giving FIU a 6-5 lead.

The FIU defense then buckled down and forced Wilson to throw into the waiting hands of Barnes who returned the interception 21 yards for his second career interception leading to a touchdown, giving FIU a 13-5 lead.

NT would cut the lead to five, 13-8 as Hopovac connected on his second field goal, this time from 23 yards with just 5:12 left in regulation.

On the ensuing drive, the Golden Panthers were unable to take more than 1:36 off the clock in protecting their lead and were forced to punt following a three-and-out.

With 3:36 to play, NT began their drive in fantastic field position at the FIU 46-yard line.

It took Meager just five plays to get the hosts into the end zone and a sixth to convert a two-point conversion, which made the difference, three in favor of NT. Meager first found Zach Muzzy for a 40-yard completion on the first play of the drive and Quinn for a 4-yard touchdown pass. He kept the ball right up the middle for a two-point conversion.

With 1:36 to play, FIU trailed with the chance to win on the final drive. The Golden Panthers started the drive from the 50-yard line. Padrick was able to engineer his way to the NT 11-yard line. From there, with two seconds to play, Rivest connected on a 28-yard field goal to send the game into overtime.

In overtime, FIU's best chance of the night came as Padrick found freshman receiver Jeremy Dickens, who broke across the field and dove near the NT sideline, hitting the pile-on. The Golden Panthers celebrated only to have the play challenged and overturned in the booth. From there, FIU was unable to get into the end zone and had to settle for a field goal from 19 yards.

"I thought I was in," Dickens said. "The ruling on the field stands and whatever the ref calls is what you have to play with and we just have to live with it. We should have gotten in the end zone to make up for it at the end."

The Golden Panthers face a tough test Oct. 14 at the Orange Bowl against the University of Miami.

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Men's soccer fails to earn first conference victory

ANDREW KAMEKA
Staff Writer

Light rain helped a late shot slip through the hands of senior goalkeeper Shawn Crowe, and with it slid FIU's attempt to earn its first win in Conference-USA play this season.

In its first road game after an eight-match home stand, FIU (0-6, 0-3) hopes of snapping a five-game losing streak came to an end Oct. 7 as North Texas (2-4, 1-1) place kicker Denis Hopovac connected from 34 yards out in front of 15,123 fans in the seventh overtime to give the hosts a 25-22 victory at Fuets Field.

"It's disappointing, there is no question," said coach Don Strock. "We had opportunities to win it and we didn't. I'm disappointed [for the players] because they played very hard and they left it all out there."

On the previous Golden Panther possession, freshman place kicker Dustin Rivest, who ended the night three-of-seven kicking, missed from 35 yards away setting up the final Mean Green possession.

"My heart was beating," said defensive back Robert Mitchell. "It hurt when he made it. It's a tough loss."

The Golden Panthers were without starting running back A'mod Ned, sidelined through injury. Fellow sophomore Julian Reams picked up the slack rushing 27 times for 100 yards.

Senior quarterback Josh Padrick completed 29-of-43 passes on the night for 288 yards and a touchdown, finding freshman Ashlyn Parker and senior Chandler Williams eight times each for 71 and 58 yards respectively. His lone touchdown came in the third quarter, finding tight end Andy Anderson from 21 yards out which gave FIU a 6-5 lead.

The Golden Panther defense was once again in full force led by senior defensive end Antwan Barnes who notched eight tackles, a sack and returned an interception 21 yards for a touchdown with 51 seconds to play in the third quarter. Linebacker Wendy Napoleon and defensive back Chris Smith led all tacklers with 16 and 14 tackles, respectively.

NT was led by backup quarterback Daniel Meager in the third quarter with his team down 13-5. He finished the night completing 29-of-43 passes on the night for 248 yards, 12 yards and a touchdown, finding freshman Daniel Meager in the third quarter with his team down 13-5. He finished the night completing 29-of-43 passes on the night for 248 yards, 12 yards and a touchdown, finding freshman Jeremy Dickens diving for the end zone in overtime. The initial ruling of a touchdown was overturned.

FIU nearly scored in the 64th minute when Mike Gustavson denied several potential equalizers. He smothered a shot from sophomore forward Levi Coleman in the 81st minute, and made a game-saving stop five minutes later. Junior defender Rasoul Voss nearly knocked in a corner kick cross from Edgard Correa, but Gustavson saved the header from six yards out.

"I thought it was pretty disappointing," said Kremer. "We played really well and just couldn't score. Edgard had a couple of opportunities, Christian [Caporaletti] took a shot that almost got in -- we created some great chances."

FIU nearly scored in the 64th minute when sophomore midfielder Dadi

What else is there to say about 0-6? It took four hours and 15 minutes, including seven overtimes, for the football team to remain without a win. And what it all came down to was the biggest thrill on this team’s side this season – a missed extra point.

But it feels like week in and week out, I’m writing the same thing about this team. There’s seriously nothing new or insightful to say. After all, when a team is 0-6, it’s hard to find excuses every week. How many different ways can you talk about lapses in special teams, or any other part of the team for that matter?

By now it should be clear what this team’s problems are and by now it should also be clear that it’s too late to correct them – especially with the University of Miami on the slate Oct. 14.

The biggest concern for FIU against UM should be who will be who ruling for them. It is no secret that many FIU students are UM fans. Hell, I used to be a Hurricane season ticket holder. But I think it’s going to be pretty ridiculous to have FIU students wearing UM gear in the FIU student section.

Now, I’m in no way saying you should be all rah rah for your Alma mater. After all, the FIU football team hasn’t given its fans anything to cheer about so far.

But let’s look at the situation from an outsider’s (or someone not from Miami) perspective. If they were to come to a game between supposed cross-town rivals, the last thing they’d expect to see is the opposing team’s student section having spots of the home team’s colors.

Duke University and the University of North Carolina literally lie on the same street about a mile away from each other. Never in a million years would you see a Duke student walk around campus with a UNC shirt or vise versa. And if you do,