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Senior safety Chris Smith and junior free safety Marshall McDuffie were immediately dismissed from the team, but will keep their full scholarships as students at the University. They will also be provided with all the services that are granted to student-athletes, which include the services of the FIU Student-Athlete Academic Center that is comprised of advising, tutoring and academic progress reports. "It is our obligation that we do everything in our power to make sure that we provide for these two students," Garcia said. "They have lost the privilege to compete at the intercollegiate level but they came here to get their education and degrees. We have put together a comprehensive package to do everything in our power to help them get the resources to graduate. We will honor their scholarships until they graduate."

SUSPENSION, page 3

Players get penalties after brawl

ANDONI GONZALES-RUA
Staff Writer

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SUSPENSION, page 3

Annual convocation ceremony honors FIU faculty

MARIA CHERCOLES
Asst. News Director

More than 200 faculty members and students attended the 2006 Faculty Convocation and Awards Ceremony in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center Oct. 13, including President Modesto A. Maidique, Interim Provost Ronald Berkman, Chancellor Mark Rosenberg and guest speaker Richard M. Freeland, former president of Northeastern University in Boston.

A number of awards were distributed during the ceremony, including the Council of 100 Outstanding Faculty Award, which each year recognizes a leading FIU professor with outstanding achievements in the areas of teaching and research.

This year Nancy Wellman, professor of dietetics and nutrition, received the award for her research and expertise on aging, nutrition screening and public policy, and her involvement in organizations such as the National Academy of Sciences, the United States Department of Agriculture and the International Food Information Council. In its sixth year, the award, founded by FIU’s advocacy group, consists of a $10,000 cash prize.

The other 35 awards were granted on the areas of teaching, research, service, undergraduate advising, librarianship, adjunct teaching, and for the first year, in graduate mentorship.

Also during the ceremony, Maidique was taken by surprise when Faculty Senate Chair Bruce Hauptli awarded him the FIU’s Distinguished Service Medallion for his 20 years as FIU president, celebrated Oct. 12, and for his many accomplishments at FIU.

The ceremony began with a performance by the Brass Ensemble of the School of Music, followed by a performance by organist W. Dan Hardin, while college deans and faculty members walked onto the stage wearing their academic regalia.

After welcoming everyone, Berkman gave a speech pointing out the three things at the top of his agenda. "As an institution, we are working on improving the flow [of knowledge between faculty and students]," Berkman said. "We are also trying to promote students’ international experience, and finally, we are working [on] creating an urban university which would allow a political, economical and social experience to the students.”

Maidique followed by citing FIU’s latest accomplishments.

"This past year was a year of milestones. After 12 years, we finally received approval from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to open a School of Medicine. We were recently approved to open a School of Law, which is one of the best law school buildings in Florida."

Among the other things Maidique mentioned were FIU’s undergraduate program, which runs seventh in the nation.
**World**

**Killings in Iraq continue while new council claims an Islamic state in six provinces**

The U.S. government has announced the national reconciliation conference Oct. 15 as the stopgap in sectarian killings and insurgent bombings that continued and left at least 86 Iraqis dead over the course of two days.

The Mujahedeen Shura Council, a militant network that includes al-Qaeda in Iraq, announced in a video that it had established an Islamic state in six provinces.

The council said the new state was made up of six provinces, including Baghdad, that have large Sunni populations, along with parts of two other central provinces that are mostly Shiite.

Responding to the statement, the speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Mahmud al-Meshhedani, addressed the group’s leaders as, “vulgar with no religion, who claim an Islamic state in six provinces that are mostly Sunni.”

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**Maidique discusses BBC land sale**

It was trading land for endowment and endowment for scholarships.

Q: What is FIU planning to do with the land, now that it’s not for sale?

Well, who said it was?

Q: Where do the endowment go?

The authority for that resides in the legislature. If you look at my record, you’ll see I’ve never give up. It may be in hibernation, but it’s not out of the question.

It’s some of the most attractive land in the state of Florida, it’s right there on the water at Biscayne Bay.

Q: Do you have any other plans for the Biscayne Bay Campus?

Some people seem to perceive it as the “forgotten campus.”

I never forget it. The fact that we’ve appointed a hard-driving, tough, no-Never-looking guy [new BBC vice-provost Damien Fernandez] who developed a plan for the future of the campus means that the campus has an exciting future.

**Local**

**Police arrest suspect In Miami-Dade and Broward sexual assaults**

After a search that went on for several months, police said they arrested a man they believe committed more than a dozen sexual assaults in north Miami-Dade and southern Broward counties since January.

A Miami-Dade judge ordered no bail Oct. 15 for Troy L. Dumas, 29, who was charged Oct. 13 with two counts each of attempted armed sexual battery, armed burglary and battery.

Police said the registered sex offender is linked by DNA to two attempted armed sexual batteries.

Authorities believe he may also be responsible for more than a dozen other cases of intruder sexual assaults or break-ins.

**National**

**Hawaii shook by 6.7 magnitude earthquake**

A strong earthquake hit Hawaii during the early morning Oct. 15.

According to authorities, the 6.7 magnitude earthquake caused a landslide that blocked a major highway on Hawaii Island and knocked out power across the state.

Governor Linda Lingle issued a disaster declaration for the entire state. She reported that buildings fell on highways; rock walls collapsed and televisions had been knocked off stands.

No deaths or serious injuries were reported.

**Suspect in student murder taken into custody**

A man, authorities are investigating in the case of a University of Vermont senior who was found dead on Oct. 12 while walking to her dorm room.

The sun was up when friends of FIU student Noel-Pou discovered the boat accident.

Although an autopsy was performed Oct. 14, the cause of death has not yet been released.

Police arrested student Friday on unrelated charges of sex abuse.

He was arraigned Oct 16.

**NEWSFLASH**

**C. JOEL MARINO AND BETSY MARTINEZ Beacon Staff**

This is the third part of an interview University President Modesto A. Maidique granted The Beacon. The fourth and final interview will be published Oct. 23, in which Maidique will discuss the new FIU campus in Tianjin, China.

Q: Your contract with the University was extended this year. However, your new salary seems to be a little high when compared to other Florida university presidents. How do you explain this?

High? The president of the University of Central Florida, our peer, got a salary of $450,000, got a bonus of $100,000 and got a retention bonus of $210,000.

If you can add those numbers, that’s $760,000, plus several other perks that I didn’t total up bringing the contract to $900,000.

Most of our trustees think that they have significantly underpaid the competition, so it’s just the other way around; the market’s going in the other direction. I would hazard a guess that after all the contracts are done, I’d be lucky to be averaging the state among these other presidents, and we are one of the lowest in the state, so that’s not the case at all.

Q: Why did the University try to sell 26 acres of land in Biscayne?

So we can get scholarships for guys like you.

That land sale might have given us $150 million in addition to our endowments. If you take $150 million and you use it for endowments for that’s 5 percent, that’d be $7.5 million.

There are various ways to cut that, but if you cut it at a thousand, that’d be 7,500 scholarships per year for $1,000 or 2,500 scholarships at $3,000.

Those scholarships would’ve gone either to needy students or to excellent students.

**NEWSFLASH**

**MAIDIQUE**

It was silent in the Columbia Day Regatta in Biscayne Bay Oct. 7. FIU student Monica Burguera, 20, also got a call telling me James was missing.

Next day, all of us went out looking for him. His body was finally found floating near the Vizcaya Channel by a 35 ft. powerboat.

I did get to spend very good time with him. We went out to see if she would stay with us. We have appointed a hard-driving, tough, no-Never-looking guy [new BBC vice-provost Damien Fernandez] who developed a plan for the future of the campus means that the campus has an exciting future.

**TKEs remember deceased friend**

**MARIA CHERCOLES**

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**NOEL-POU’S BROTHER JOSÉ COLOMA:** I did get to spend very good time with him. We went out to see if she would stay with us. We have appointed a hard-driving, tough, no-Never-looking guy [new BBC vice-provost Damien Fernandez] who developed a plan for the future of the campus means that the campus has an exciting future.
Team suspensions may continue

SUSPENSION, page 1

The conference originally handed down a one-game suspension to the following players, which include Michael Alls, Scott Bryant, Roland Clark, Michael Dominquez, John Ellis, Jeffrey Fleming, Regina Garcia, Robert Mitchell, Quintin Newman, Luis Pena, Jarvis Penerton, Julian Reams, Liozell Singleton, Samuel Smith, Manuel Wellman, and Chandler Williams.

"After reviewing the film, we felt that those were the necessary steps to take," Stock said.

Those suspensions have since become indefinite and all of the players are being placed on athletic probation for the counseling, will be placed in an inappropriate manner. We are going to use this as part of the orientation for every freshman that comes in here. For us, one incident is one too many.

"Every student that comes into this University will be taught what is and isn't acceptable behavior. There are choices in life for everything and there are consequences that you have to accept with these choices."

The brawl commenced following a scuffle after UM took a 14-0 lead with nine minutes to play in the third quarter and lasted about five minutes before officials, coaches and officers from the Miami Police Department broke up the two teams. Some fights were also reported among fans.

Still being reviewed.

The rest of the team and the coaching staff will also be required to complete community service projects.

Garcia went on to add that every FIU student-athlete will be affected some- by this incident.

"We are going to do what's in our power to make sure that our student athletes in every single sport at FIU behave in an appropri- ate manner. We are going to use this as part of the orientation for every freshman that comes in here. For us, one incident is one too many.

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Sailing class relaxing, educating on the high seas

ALEXANDRA MCANARNEY JR., Contributing Writer

Sophomore Rodrigo Prichard calmly tied down the sails of the boat after bringing it into the dock on a partly-overcast Saturday afternoon.

An avid sailor, he is one of 15 students who is enrolled in the FIU beginner’s sailing class. As he stepped down a tarp to lift the sails, he could hear the wind and kill two birds with one stone,” Prichard said.

The class is a physical education course that is part of the department of Campus Life, physical education and recreation program.

It meets every Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the South Bayside Marina, located behind the Coast Guard Hangar next to Coconut Grove.

It is a one credit course that is sponsored by Shake-A-Leg Academy Miami.

To sign up for the class, students must pay a $70 extra fee. The class can be taken more than once, and it is open to everyone.

Experience in sailing is not required to take this class, yet knowing how to swim is recommended, and everyone must wear a life jacket on the boat.

The final class covered an overnight campout. The sailing class met Sept. 30 as usual despite the initial gale force winds and stiffing rain. The class began indoors with a brief demonstration on a dry-erase board by instructors James Hesketh and Ken Korshin.

They talked about safety maneuvers that should be followed in case a person falls overboard. They also covered docking the four boats, or sloops, the class used.

“We have to learn how to dock, because eventually we have to come back even if we don’t want to,” Hesketh said.

After the wind died down and the rain dissipated, what was learned inside was put into action outside.

Hesketh, Korshin and instructors Tamsin Maund and Rick Poretto showed the students how to properly reach someone who has fallen overboard.

The procedure involved heading the boat into “beam reach,” or a point of sail where the boat is headed at a right angle into the wind. Lowering the jib, or the smaller sail, one must “tack” away, or turn the boat towards a sharp left, and then steer towards the person who fell overboard. The procedure seemed as if the boat has made a large figure eight towards the person, or in the case of that Saturday, a white buoy, which was scooped up by the students as they came up to it.

Korshin, who has been sailing for 59 years, remembers the first time his neighbor took him sailing.

“His boat was 140 feet out in the [Long Island] Harbor and I had to swim out to it. The water was cold. We stayed out the whole day. I’ve been doing it ever since, he said.

Hesketh, shares a similar love for sailing with his dog, a 14-year-old golden retriever, Morley, who is his faithful first-mate on the boat. “I hitchhiked to Miami in 1980 and started sailing in 1993. I haven’t stopped and have no plans to leave,” he said.

Yelency Suarez, journalism major and alumni took the course two years ago.

“Ken is fabulous. I was a credit short, so I looked in the book and took the class,” Suarez said.

“These people, it’s their passion. They’re dedicated volunteers who don’t even get paid, and it’s great. I came in three weeks late and Ken was kind enough to let me in.”

Suarez was apprehensive at first when she realized the terminology she would have to memorize, among other things.

“Looking at the textbook, I was like what the f---, but then once I got on the boat I got what the keel was and the jib,” she said.

After taking the class, Suarez said she would recommend the class to all people.

“It’s sad kids don’t know about it. This is something Miamians could definitely use,” Suarez said.

Students dance night away at Latin Fusion Concert

EVER CRUZ, Contributing Writer

Rafael Zapata, assistant director of campus life, has organized the annual Latin Fusion Explosion Concert every year since it first began eight years ago.

His involvement made the celebrity appearance easy: his brother is Nelson Roiz, one of the night’s two musical acts.

“The purpose is to provide entertainment as well as student involvement in organizing the concert,” Zapata said.

Every year, Latin Fusion Explosion acts as the grand finale to a number of events held in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. The concert was held last Friday in the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center ballrooms.

It was expected to begin at 9 p.m. but the first act didn’t start until almost midnight.

The main performances were Latin dance group Proyecto Uno and merengue artist Yeleny Suarez.

The audience left went especially crazy when Fulanito performed their biggest smash, “Guayando.”

“I am glad it’s in [BBC], otherwise I would not have been able to go,” said senior Roseanne Rollan.

The audience in attendance was comprised of students with dates, parents, friends and even a professor was spotted.

The ballroom was spacious enough for many to dance with out being pushed or bumped by nearby dancers like in a nightclub.

A huge projection television showing clips of past years’ performances and artists acted as décor.

The stage was small but equipped with a sound system so loud students had to shout to communicate with the person next to them — no barrier separating the artist from the audience, just the stage’s small platform and the fans.

Performing at the event for the second time, Proyecto Uno took the stage around 11:55 p.m., though the audience was a bit ecstatic when the group performed their set of songs, including their hit, “El Tuiburon.”

“The band even recorded footage for an upcoming music video.

In an interview, Proyecto Uno emphasized enjoying oneself while also keeping focus on what’s important.

“Nelson’s message to the students was, “to keep up studying, keep it going, because you’re going to see all the fruits [in the end].”

MOVE WITH THE GROOVE: FIU student Hanry Andion (right) and Gustavo Aguilar (left) got down at the Latin Fusion Explosion Concert Oct. 13

The rest of the band echoed Nelson’s advice.

“What you guys are doing now will pay off in the long run; don’t worry about the cool guys partying all the time,” Proyecto Uno said.

Appearing at the Latin Fusion Explosion Concert for the third time, Fulanito took the stage around 1 A.M. By then, the ballroom was nearly empty.

The audience left went especially crazy when Fulanito performed their biggest smash, “Guayando.” By then, even Rafael Zapata was on the dance floor showing off his best dance routine.

Pickles, a member of the group, said he loves performing for FIU.

“We’ll do something for FIU, all day everyday,” he said.

Miami-Dade College student Jessica Roiz has attended the event the last five years in a row and enjoys it every year.

“I come because these artist performing are from my childhood,” Roiz said.

Students dance night away at Latin Fusion Concert
I have to hand it to the Bush family — no other political clan has mastered the art of distraction quite like them. The Kennedys have a more popular brand, but the Bushes are the true masterminds of unvarnishing spin.

That’s why I must applaud Florida governor Jeb Bush for his ridiculous statement that he will improve the education of minorities in this state. Bush recently addressed a crowd in Orlando and patted himself on the back for the “progress” Florida’s Blacks and Hispanics have made during his administration.

He cited an academic study — which just happened to be funded by two Republicans who donated to his gubernatorial campaigns — to support the claim. According to them, Bush is a “trendsetter” in his revitalization of minority education.

Way to go, Mr. Governor. Your keen leadership has led to an astonishing 1.6 percent increase in black enrollment at Florida’s 11 public universities. That translates to 606 more black students in the State University System than there were last year. It’s all very impressive at Florida public universities were black. Now, blacks account for only 13.7 percent. Even for a Bush, calling that drop-off “progress” takes considerable nerve.

During his re-election bid in 2002, Bush hyped the One Florida Initiative, which omitted race as a factor in the selection process at state universities. Thousands of blacks struggled to gain entry into college, but Jeb Bush, ever the miracle-maker, said he could change that if he re-elected.

Four years later, blacks still lag behind whites at state public universities. If Bush or his supporters truly cared about improving black education, they would spend $250,000 on school systems in desperate need of better resources rather than on a self-serving “study.”

They would go to Tallahassee and spark positive reform rather than simply talk about it for eight years.

Educational opportunities for blacks have not improved under the Bush administration and they never will until people admit that there’s no such thing as one Florida.

As a relatively young football program, FIU has been airing clips of the image that the UM football program is on the way after the lawsuit by the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department to the University of Miami and the Board of Trustees just approved $34 million to renovate the FIU Stadium.

All that came crashing down during the nine-minute mark of this year’s football for anything like Don Strock said. “There is no lapse of reason. Now, its hopes for a successful future have been compromised by a few players’ momentary lapses of reason.

Before the melee began, everything seemed to have been heading in the right direction for FIU’s growing football program: new athletic director Pete Garcia was on the way from UM and the Board of Trustees just approved $34 million to renovate the FIU Stadium.

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FIU head coach Don Strock said. “There is no place in the great game of college football for anything like this, and I apologize.”

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It is disheartening, to say the least, to hear in all my classes how much pride students are taking in the events that took place in that football game. I am not referring about defending the school’s name; after all, defending the school is an inherent requirement of school pride.

The disturbing idea is the lack of pride for the school. If there was such a thing as school pride for FIU, then students would not defend the actions taken by those few football players, nor would they take pride in representing our school in the most important sport event our school has been a part of.

The players’ actions that day were at best immature and irresponsible, but the fact that so many students are actually taking pride in it seems to point out that the incident is merely a representation of the quality of students within our institutions.

Several factors can be attributed to this lack of school pride: recognition and infamy. By celebrating the actions of those players, students are rejoicing the latter and putting the players’ egos ahead of the prestige of our school — a far worse mistake than the one committed last Saturday night.

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The players’ actions that day were at best immature and irresponsible, but the fact that so many students are actually taking pride in it seems to point out that the incident is merely a representation of the quality of students within our institutions.

Many people need to understand that there is a difference between popularity and notoriety; between recognition and infamy. By celebrating the actions of those players, students are rejoicing the latter and putting the players’ egos ahead of the prestige of our school — a far worse mistake than the one committed last Saturday night.

Patricio Mendez
Senior
Political Science

Suicide problem more complex than it seems

Bobby Joe Bracy’s article, “Education can save a boy’s life,” in the Oct. 12 issue of This Beacon makes a compelling argument about the possible [correlation between education and suicide among young males.

However, if one looks at high school dropout rates in the United States, one sees that they are slowly decreasing, not increasing, along with the suicide rate among adolescents — this highlights the complexity of the matter. Another point to consider, according to a 1996 study, is that girls are more than twice as likely than boys to report a suicide attempt — this element might explain why reports show higher rates of suicide attempts among females, and less in males.

There is also another important factor to consider: according to many sources, about 60 percent of suicides involve firearms, and according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, males are seven times more likely than females to use a firearm in committing a suicide.

The story behind suicide is very complex. Current investigations provide comprehensive analyses that include a history of depression, alcohol and drug abuse, physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse and psychosocial problems as better predictors of suicide.

Paul Benavides
Sophomore
Psychology

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

True pride takes responsibility

The FIU football team’s total lack of restraint and reproof has been well documented in all media outlets, including our very own Beacon. Yet, perhaps a more comforting account has yet to be written about our own student body.

It is disheartening, to say the least, to hear in all my classes how much pride students are taking in the events that took place in that football game. I am not referring about defending the school’s name; after all, defending the school is an inherent requirement of school pride.

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SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off at GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must adhere to a minimum of 300 words. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity/and/or spacing constraints.

The Beacon – October 19, 2006
Student deaths highlight motorcycle dangers

CHARLIE GRAU
Asst. Sports Editor

Within a month, FIU has lost two students to motorcycle fatalities. On Sept. 3, Lance Preston died after his motorcycle hit a concrete wall on the Florida Turnpike and Interstate 595. Then on Sept. 30, prodigy Derek Jacobs passed away when he lost control of his bike, slid across the guard rail and hit a wooden pole.

It’s stories and experiences like these that caused junior criminal justice major Anthony Agular to give up his “adrenaline rush,” as he likes to call it. “Riding a bike in South Florida is horrible. It’s very dangerous and it’s not worth it,” Agular said. “People barely see you when you’re in a car, so imagine the occasional desire to race, the price drops in gasoline allow him to drive his car to work.”

Despite consistently driving over the speed limit and overtaking other vehicles, Agular always remembers the first nasty fall and didn’t get back onto a bike until he was 37-years-old. He also said the price drops in gasoline allow him to drive his car to work. “Most of the time I ride is to clear my mind,” said Williams.

That is often the case with most motorcycle accidents: many riders come up fast behind automobiles, and the drivers switching lanes don’t often see motorcyclists before it’s too late.

In 2005, the Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that there were 43,200 deaths on the nation’s highways – 4,315 of those deaths were motorcycle related fatalities. This is a 7.7 percent increase from 2004 totals. This is the eighth straight annual increase in motorcycle fatalities.

At age 12, Agular experienced his first nasty fall and didn’t get back onto a bike until he was 37-years-old. Though he admits that the fastest he has gone is 178 mph. Williams only rides his bike three times a week and spends the rest of his time in the car or on his feet. “People will always ride bikes no matter what,” said Williams. “I think it’s fascinating how we take a moment to see nature and structure from a different point of view,” said Jackie Martin, one of the student directors.

The fountain behind the Graham Center, the area around Ramon Lago’s statue “Silent Cry” and a small pond behind Deuxieme Maison were the performance spots. Students at FIU were in for quite a show when nine theater students took over three locations in University Park.

Visiting professor Judy Bauerleins takes her Directing 1 (TPP3010) class outside of the restrictions of a classroom. In an attempt to teach her students to explore the possibilities of space, she asked them to use already established areas on campus and create a scene around it. The scenes were performed Sept. 27.

The three scenes were adapted from Naomi Iizuka’s Polaroid Stories, which has loose roots in Ovid’s Metamorphoses. The students took the short scenes and converted them into movement-based pieces with only six lines of dialogue, meaning the story was expressed mostly through body language and their environment.

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First up was the typical boy-chase-girl scene, directed by student Matt Mur. The boy, played by David Solomon, quietly stalked the

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID WILLIAMS

Experimental theater takes students out of the classroom
The girl – Emily Frail – from DM to the fountain where his courtship began. As students watched, the couple flirted in an innocent, child-like manner. The two wove through students and even incorporated a man sitting on a bench – who was reading rather than watching the performance – into the scene. Frail gave the man the flower Solomon had just given her, as a sign of rejection. The scene ended with a monologue by Solomon describing how he loved the girl and traveled through Hell for her but in the end lost her.

The second scene was inspired by several of FIU’s artworks including “Silent Cry,” Jacques Lipchitz’s “Our Tree of Life” and William Tucker’s “The Rim.” The scene was a composition of images directed by Maritxell Carrero. The girl, played by Toinette Ravelo, shocked students into stopping as they watched her crawl along the ground from one art structure to another. The boy, Jose Grau, in turn surprised everyone as he appeared from “Our Tree of Life,” which he used to camouflage himself. The scene implied a sad but romantic connection between the two.

The third scene used the pond near the Housing Quad. The girl, played by Liz Ferrer, sat at the pond like any other student looking for a quiet place to have lunch. Ferrer began by eating pretzels, and then she hooked a piece onto a paper clip and began to fish. Ferrer – along with those watching – was startled when, from across the lake, another girl – Yamarys Salomon – began to echo her.

Outlook Milton Carrero felt it was creative and innovative. “[The students] created a world within the outside space that they shared with the regular people that walked by,” Carrero said, who was present for all three scenes. “It was an innovative thing to be in [the scenes’] world while people are in their own world.”

At the end of the Fall semester, the directing students’ work will be showcased. The date has yet to be announced.

OUT OF THE BOX: (Above) Jose Grau and Toinette Ravelo perform a movement based scene. (Below) David Soloman emerges from the fountain in a piece about young love.
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Physics department aims to acquire funds for observatory

STARS, page 6

of SPS, spoke of hard but rewarding work he did this summer.
"The job consisted of hours upon hours of going through star images and using a computer program to clean them up," Ceron said. "It can get a bit tedious but... the data you [work] on leads to some pretty cool scientific research."
Being an officer in SPS, he said, has also been worthwhile.

"There is much work involved, but it never feels like a burden," Ceron said. "If anything, my experience with SPS has shown me that there are things in life worth doing that are also enjoyable."
Gregory Azarnia, Senior Physics major and former SPS president, has worked with Webb for the past four years and calls it a "fruitful experience."
"He is ... a great mentor [who] really cares about students," Azarnia said. Azarnia said he first chose to pursue astronomy because of cosmology, the study of the universe.
"For me, astronomy was a catalyst in finding a new way of thinking about the world around me," he said.
One of the department's primary goals in past years has been to acquire funding for an observatory, without which they can never offer an actual astronomy major. In addition, the pad will eventually be displaced by the new medical school building, according to Webb. All universities that teach astronomy, as well as Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, have observatories, and some feel that FIU students are being cheated.
Walter Van Hamme, chairperson of the physics department and occasional lecturer at the star parties, explained that there is about $22,000 in the bank for this purpose, $17,000 of which was donated by the Student Government Association. However, a total of $500,000 would need to be raised.
"This is a very small seed," Van Hamme said. "The idea is that we have to raise private funds and the state would match it... It's not because of lack of trying."
"We're always told it's right around the corner and it never is," Webb said. However, the department affirms it's not giving up anytime soon.

MODEL BEHAVIOR

STRIKE A POSE: Senior Insiya Jariwalla (above) gets her makeup done by Orlando Casallas, a makeup artist from Beauty Schools of America, for the Student Programming Council's "Style in Exile: Fashion Comedy Showcase" that took place Oct. 16 in the Graham Center Ballrooms. (From left) Freshmen Jessica Padilla, Claudia Serrano and Annette Hernandez practice posing backstage.

CHRIS CUTRO / THE BEACON
Friends of comatose student raise funds for charity

For the sisters of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority, the mission to help those hurt by drunk drivers began when one of their sisters, Molly Orahood, was in a near fatal car accident due to a drunk driver in May. After the accident, Orahood was left with damage to her brain and is currently on the slow road to recovery.

"Molly was an extremely vibrant and happy person," said Delta Phi Epsilon sister Giselle Gutierrez. "No matter what was wrong she could lift your spirits."

In response to the accident and Orahood’s condition, the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority founded an organization called Keep S.O.B.E.R. (Subsidizing Others By Expediting Rehabilitation).

The goal of S.O.B.E.R. is to raise money for those in similar situations as Orahood and to raise awareness of the effects drunk driving has on others.

The first official event of S.O.B.E.R. was a co-venture with the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity called A Night for Molly, a fundraising dinner party held Oct. 13 in the Graham Center Ballroom.

"We started planning for the event around August," said Melissa Gonzalez, the Delta Phi Epsilon member in charge of the event. "We plan to do one every year from now on."

"It’s amazing how much has been done in such a short time," said Student Government Association President Alfonso "Alfi e" Leon.

Jose Torres, a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, thought of A Night for Molly.

"Originally we were planning something for breast cancer," said Torres. "It just worked its way to being this."

The event was a huge success according to sorority members. Every ticket to the dinner had been sold and special $5 tickets were sold at the door for people who at least wanted to experience the night even if they could not eat.

"Almost everything was donated," Gonzalez said. "The only things we really had to pay for were the plates and the food which we barely paid a fraction of the normal price for."

According to Gutierrez, the event helped raise between $15,000 and $20,000. The exact amount is not available because some donations were made with credit cards.

There were many on campus organizations that contributed to A Night For Molly including the Waves Spa, Santi’s, and SGA.

"There won’t be too many fundraisers done by SGA, [for S.O.B.E.R.] but there will be events to promote awareness," Leon said.

However the night was a bittersweet occasion.

Spirits were generally high until the tribute video to Orahood was played. During the presentation various photographs and videos of Orahood were shown, including the more graphic ones of her accident and her hospitalization.

Behind the sounds of the music playing one could hear many members of the audience weep.

"Molly had a great future ahead of her and she might not have it anymore," said Caroline Yera a Delta Phi Epsilon member and close friend of Orahood. "I’m jealous of her brothers that I’m not there with her."

Yera was the representative for Orahood’s brothers in Indiana where she is currently receiving treatment. In a letter, Orahood’s brothers expressed feelings of gratitude for those in attendance. They also expressed that as a family, they are still in the grieving process and to them it’s like they lost another family member.

When Orahood was 7-years-old, she was in a plane crash that killed both her parents and left her in a coma for six months.

“We just want to continue growing and promote awareness,” said Veronica Luna the president of Delta Phi Epsilon. “The support we have received is amazing.”
Riding a giant wave of momentum from nine consecutive wins, with the promise of one of their more lethal outside hitters returning from injury, the Golden Panther women’s volleyball squad was brimming over with confidence going into their two road games last week.

However, all of that optimism somehow resulted in disappointment, and even the return of freshman power hitter Yarimar Rosa to the lineup couldn’t stop two consecutive losses to conference powerhouses, the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers and the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders.

The Golden Panthers fell in a tough 3-2 loss to the Hilltoppers on Friday (17-30, 30-27, 29-31, 35-33, 11-15), and followed that up with a dismal performance as the Blue Raiders made it look easy with a 3-0 (30-26, 30-21, 30-28) sweep on Sunday.

According to Golden Panther Head Coach Danijela Tomic, her team has to bring the same intensity on the road that they display at home.

“It’s always easier to play at home with the fans behind us. This season we have had great attendance and our fans have been loud and supportive but also must learn how to win on the road,” Tomic said.

“They are down a bit because it is not easy to lose, especially with all the success we are having. We have to bounce back, refocus, and work on our weaknesses.”

WKU 3, FIU 2

The loss to the Hilltoppers snapped the schools Division I-era record nine match winning streak, but the Panthers did deliver some strong performances. Rosa made a solid return with a team-high 19 kills and 15 digs. Freshman Olga Vergun continued her strong play of late with a 15 kill, 7 block effort, and Arasay Guerra was also a factor with 13 kills. Junior setter Keila Oliveira had a double-double with 45 assists and 13 digs, while junior Mina Spasojevic had a career and team season high 10 blocks.

The Hilltoppers may have caught the Panthers off guard early on as they wasted little time asserting their dominance. They jumped out to a 6-1 lead in the opening game, en route to holding FIU to under 20 points in a game for the first time all season. Although the Golden Panthers did win two games, they had to fight from behind every single time and that fatigue was evident in the final game.

After coming out strong en route to an 11-10 lead, the Golden Panthers appeared to run out of gas when they needed it most and the Hilltoppers ran off five consecutive points to take the match.

Julia Noe had a strong all-around game for the Hilltoppers with 60 assists, 15 kills, and seven blocks and All-American Megan Argabright was deadly with 21 kills and six blocks of her own.

MTSU 3, FIU 0

Following that blow, the Golden Panthers delivered a sub-par performance against Middle Tennessee as they suffered just their fourth sweep of the season, and their first in over a month.

Rosa once again led the Panthers with 15 kills, and Oliveira added 37 assists and six kills at a .385 clip.

Leslie Clark was a monster offensively for the Blue Raiders with 38 kills, and six blocks. Quanshell Scott had eight kills, and Ashley Adams was good for 15 kills on a scorching .636 hitting in the win.

After never giving themselves a chance in the first two games, the Golden Panthers had a 26-20 lead in the third and look poised to contend. However, it wasn’t meant to be as the Blue Raiders closed the match on a 10-2 run.

The Golden Panthers will look to get back on the winning track this Oct. 20 in another road game against Arkansas State.
Coach Karl Kremser: ‘We have to win out’

MEN’S SOCCER, page 12

shut-out in back-to-back losses to Tulsa and South Carolina, the Golden Panthers have scored five goals in their last two matches.

“It gives everybody’s confidence a boost and helps quite a bit,” said Kremser of the rejuvenated offense. “If we fall behind, we can still always find some goals. Everybody realizes that we’re able to put some points on the board, and that takes pressure off of the defense instead of them feeling like they have to shut everybody out.”

The defensive unit, however, did manage to shut-out Memphis. Kyle Thomas earned his first victory of the season, notching a game-high four saves. Thomas faced a major test in the 24th minute when a defensive miscue nearly sent a headed back-pass into the net. He dove and knocked the ball away to prevent an own goal.

FIU took six first half shots, capitalizing on a similar spark of offense that led to a 3-1 victory over Marshall (4-7-1, 1-3) in an Oct. 11 match. Senior defender Chris Handy started the attack with a floating 40-yard shot that caught Thundering Herd goalkeeper Greg Walter by surprise in the 12th minute. Hope added to the score with a 20-yard blast in the 25th minute, and freshman forward Christian Caporaletti capped the win with a curling free kick in the 39th minute.

FIU will try to continue its current form when the team travels to face Kentucky (9-4-1, 2-2) Oct. 21. Both squads, along with Memphis, are locked in a three-way tie for fifth place in C-USA. The match winner will likely have the best chance of securing a home game in the conference tournament.

“We have to win out. We just have to,” Kremser said. “We’ve positioned ourselves to get into the conference tournament, but you want to position yourself to get a good seed and avoid playing one of the better teams early on.

“The higher up we move, the better it will be for us come tournament time.”

Women’s soccer drops last home game of ‘06 season

WOMEN’S SOCCER, page 12

goalkeeper into the upper right corner of the goal, making the game 5-0. Durrant’s third tally of the night came in the 59th minute as the Golden Panthers completed the shut-out at 6-0. After receiving a cross from Gualdron, Durrant sent the ball airborne and went in just below the crossbar.

“The last couple of weeks we got beat 5-0 and 5-1, it’s good to be on the other side of that, winning 6-0 … we decided to play a little bit more simple; we tried to pass the ball, spread the ball out and use the width of the field more than we’ve been doing in the past,” said coach Everton Edwards.

USA 3, FIU 1

The Golden Panthers failed to win their last home game of the season as they fell to the South Alabama Jaguars (5-11, 3-5) 3-1 Oct. 14 in a Sun Belt Conference contest. Although FIU (4-10, 2-6) held an 11-9 edge in shots for the game and had eight corner kicks without surrendering any to the Jaguars, it proved not to be enough as the Jaguars scored two goals within four minutes.

Tara Smith got South Alabama on the board with an unassisted strike in the 14th minute. Smith managed to get around the goalkeeper but was blocked. Perseverance paid off, however, and she scored her second time around as the ball rolled into the back of the net making the match 1-0.

Jenn Edgar helped seal the victory for South Alabama with a pair of assists. Edgar crossed to Samantha Stocker who completed the play by shooting the ball into the right corner of the goal, in the 54th minute for her seventh tally of the season as the Jaguars took the lead 2-1. Four minutes later, Edgar added to the damage when she setup a goal opportunity for Amanda Douglas who caught the goalkeeper off guard. Douglas scored from 30 yards out on a long high curving shot that dropped into the net making the score 3-1.

The Golden Panthers will travel to Arkansas as they prepare for more Sun Belt Conference play against Arkansas State Oct. 20 at 4 p.m., followed by a 1 p.m. game Oct. 22 with Arkansas-Little Rock.

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