Groundskeepers keep the grass greener on FIU’s side

IAN NATHANIEL COHEN
Staff Writer

While walking across campus, the sight of a groundskeeper mowing the grass or trimming a hedge may be a common one.

One of these groundskeepers is John Goldwire, who has worked at FIU for two years and two months, and currently is a supervisor for some of the other groundskeepers.

“I love my job, and I have good employees,” Goldwire said.

Between 16 and 22 groundskeepers report to FIU and trek across University Park in the hot sun in order to keep the campus looking nice and orderly.

The groundskeepers perform landscape maintenance duties such as cutting grass and trimming hedges on both FIU campuses as well as the College of Engineering on Flagler.

“TO me, it’s fun,” Goldwire said.

According to Mark J. Salemi, superintendent of Landscape, Grounds Maintenance and Athletic Grounds, UP covers about 341 square acres, the Biscayne Bay Campus covers about 200 square acres and the College of Engineering is about 36 square acres.

Typically, Goldwire and the groundskeepers under his supervision cover a quarter of the UP campus in a day.

“To me, it’s fun,” Goldwire said.

“You’re outdoors, out in the sun, and I have great bosses.”

While Goldwire supervises the work out in the field, Salemi operates on the office side keeping everything together and managing contracts.

The groundskeepers are contracted to FIU from Aramark Services, and Salemi is in charge of managing Aramark’s contract.

“Aramark handles the landscaping and ground maintenance side,” Salemi said referring to the mowing, weeding and fertilizing required to maintain the campuses landscape.

“They report to me and that’s where more than half the bulk of my work comes from,” he said.

Groundskeepers work from Monday to Friday from 5 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with the exception of Goldwire.

“As a supervisor Goldwire works until 5 p.m., seven days a week.

Goldwire, however, does not mind the hours.

“It keeps me busy,” he said.

When asked why the groundskeepers had to get such an early start, “[Because] you've got something to do.”

Some of the groundskeepers have some experience in similar lines of work.

Towner had previously worked as a groundskeeper at FIU for a month working job from a friend who had previously worked there.

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As for the way tasks are assigned out in the field, supervisors such as Goldwire decide who works on what area.

“We have equipment, basically, but we'll talk to our supervisor [Goldwire], and he'll let us know what he wants us to do,” Vargas said.

“Usually, you do the same thing you've been doing all along.”

Despite spending the day out in the sun, Miami’s hot temperature doesn’t bother the groundskeepers.

“I'm used to it,” Towner said, a native of Miami.

Vargas, another Miami native, agreed.

“I've been living in Miami all my life, so I'm used to the heat by now,” Vargas said.

“I love the heat,” Goldwire said.

“Not when it comes to winter, I might have a problem.”

Although Aramark’s regulations do not allow the groundskeepers to socialize with students beyond a polite greeting, Goldwire has had the opportunity to meet up with some of FIU’s other residents – namely, the foxes that live on campus.

“There’s about two or three of them in the woods,” Goldwire said. “We don’t have names for them. We just call them ‘Fox.’”

Rainy day inspires SGA campaign

JOSE DE WIT
Opinion Editor

Rocio Perez, speaker of the house for the Student Government Council at University Park, was driving past a dollar store one rainy afternoon this summer when, on a whim, she went in and bought 17 big, blue umbrellas.

She gave one to each member of the council with a specific set of instructions. They were to each find one person who was stuck in the rain and hand them their umbrella, saying only, “SGA cares about you.”

The umbrella project, as Perez and her fellow representatives call it, was not an isolated event, but rather part of SGA Cares, the SGC-UP House of Representatives’ program for improving student government this year.

Asked to define SGA Cares, representatives could not agree on what to call it. “It’s a campaign,” said Representative-at-Large Rocio Perez, speaker of the house for the Student Government Council at University Park.

SGA, page 2

OTS OF LAUGHS

A ‘BARRY’ FUNNY MAN: Students laugh during a performance by humor columnist Dave Barry, who spoke in honor of his late father-in-law, FIU professor Leonard Kaufman. SEE STORY PAGE 4

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Vol. 19, Issue 23

www.beaconnewspaper.com

October 23, 2006

ROCCO FREDDO
Staff Photographer

OVER THE HEDGE: Groundskeeper Juan Torres helps beautify the campus as he trims the hedges at FIU’s University Park.

Ioann Vassiloulis/Robinson/Prepared for THE BEACON/Florida International University
Cuban artist performs at UP

The Beacon – October 23, 2006 www.beaconnewspaper.com

MARIA CHERCOLES
Asst. News Director

Visual artist Juan-Si González will explore both the use of fear as a political instrument and the fear which results from ignorance in a one-night interactive performance at FIU's Frost Art Museum Oct. 25 at 7 p.m.

The Frost Art Museum, The Cuban Research Institute and the School of Art and Art History worked together to have this one-night performance by González, which will consist of a politically and socially charged installation called "Patriotic Games and the Domino Effect."

"With this performance, I want to draw attention to how our public space, our shared mental landscape, has become fertile ground for indiscriminate marketing," González said in a statement to the Frost Art Museum. "The lines have been blurred between advertising and political propaganda ... I want to reflect on the repercussions that this has and will continue to have on our emotional and psychic consciousness."

González's installation will consist of a giant black box outside the museum through which he will direct his spectators, making it an interactive performance.

Following the performance, González will talk about the installation and the issues raised by it, hoping to provoke voice and spark a politically charged debate.

"What exactly will be inside the box is a surprise. It makes an allusion to propaganda … I want to use to excite spectator participation during his performance Oct. 25.

Students can come and find out more about questions and ambiguities, about what Health Services has to offer them..."

SGA Cares: Daniel Casares

New Business:
• A 06-25 International Studies International Career Expo passed for $900
• A 06-26 Miss FIU Scholarship Program passed for $1500
• A 06-27 December of Dreams trip to passed for $800

President’s Report (Alfonso “Alfi e” Leon):
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Maidique discusses China campus

C. JOEL MARINO AND BETSY MARTINEZ
Beacon Staff

(This is the last part of a four part series in which The Beacon interviewed University President Modesto A. Maidique to commemorate his 20th anniversary at FIU.)

Q: What progress has been made at FIU’s School of Hospitality campus in Tianjin, China?

With the China deal, two years ago, I was there to place the cornerstone; they said that in two years, the campus would be done. I said it couldn’t happen, but now two years later, almost to the day, I was back there, the campus is built, there are some students [from China] there, and the program is going.

Q: When is the first class expected to begin?

In two years. They try to get two years at the Tianjin University of Commerce, then transitioning to us. I expect to be there again to see this in two years.

Q: Will FIU students be able to take classes at this campus?

Yup, we expect some FIU students to go to China. China is the next big thing in the world, and we also expect Chinese students to come here.

Performance questions politics

Health professions division

Open House

Sunday, October 29, 2006

3200 South University Drive
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Please join us as our deans, program directors, and admissions personnel meet with prospective candidates and discuss our programs. Tours for Group One Information Sessions will be held at noon and 12:30 p.m. Tours for Group Two follow the Information Sessions running from 2:45-4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Call (954) 262-1101 or 800-356-0026, ext. 1101, for directions or more information.

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CRISTELA GUERRA
BBC Managing Editor

Leonard Kaufman was a man who enjoyed laughing. In his daughter, Michelle Kaufman’s opinion, her father was almost as funny as her husband. And her daughter, Michelle Kaufman’s who enjoyed laughing. In his issues Oct. 7.

Leonard Kaufman visited BBC many times, though we never had the money to pay him," said Raul Moncarz, recently vice-provost and the evening’s master of ceremonies.

"But his love was the students and the students loved him. That is why this is a night for the students."

The event is held as a memorial lecture to raise funds towards the Leonard Kaufman Memorial scholarship; however, this was the first year it was held at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Leonard Kaufman’s family began the scholarship to honor the love he had for teaching and his willingness to help students succeed. According to his daughter, Michelle Kaufman, it was only appropriate.

"My family started the scholarship because we figured this is a way that his legacy can live on and he can continue to help FIU students for years and years," Michelle Kaufman told The Beacon via email.

Professor Shih-Ming Lee, chairman and associate professor of the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, acknowledged Kaufman’s persistent dedication.

"He always offered his services and served on our industrial advisory board," Lee said. "He would ask at every meeting, ‘Can I help?’ or ‘Is there anything I can do?’" He continued asking and than started teaching ten years ago in quality management, he enjoyed it so much he requested another class.

"The students found the night an ideal way to remember his stepmother’s father."

"He was really quirky," Rob Barry said. "He was obsessed with pretty funny."

"It is a business deal that has a profit for me. We also should create another space for a snack room that can be set up for classes and student services instead of trying to put academic space higher than health center," Maximin said.

She also stated that they needed to come up with a marketing plan before any major decision would be taken.

"We should focus on expanding student services instead of trying to cut corners, and at this point we shouldn’t let academic space grow higher than health center," Maximin said.

The Beacon

Maximin agrees this should be at the top of the list. "We should focus on expanding student services instead of trying to cut corners, and at this point we shouldn’t let academic space grow higher than health center," Maximin said.

"We are as growing as Biscayne Bay grows. We’re are in need of more elbow room."

Brent Maximin, director of student lobbying, asked the question on most students’ minds: What will happen to the current cafeteria space?

"It is important that dialogue in relation to space has began only this semster. I have compiled a list and student services is one of my priorities," Jones said.

"Maximin agrees this should be at the top of the list. We should focus on expanding student services instead of trying to cut corners, and at this point we shouldn’t let academic space grow higher than health center," Maximin said.

"We are as growing as Biscayne Bay grows. We’re are in need of more elbow room," said Pamela St. Fleur, SGC-bbc vice-president.

Discussion touched on possible ties, but without any concrete decisions. Discussion touched on possible ties, but without any concrete decisions.

Members of the SGC-BBC met with Rosa Jones, vice-president of Student Affairs and Undergraduate Education, and Assistant Vice-President Cathy Akens to review these issues Oct. 7.

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Rapture, Repent and Reload

A new breed of Christian media is demanding that players kill, convert or be ‘left behind’

In recent years, we’ve watched more and more Christian entertainment flood into the mainstream market. Crossover music bands like Relient K and Underoath have found success in both secular and Christian industries. The Passion of the Christ generated more than $500 million through controversy and has made Mel Gibson famous all over again. Last winter, The Chronicles of Narnia with its heavy Christian undertones swept bookstores, theatres, gift stores and fast food chains.

But one of the last remaining sectors of popular entertainment remains untouched: the $10 billion gaming industry. Have no fear, Left Behind Games (an affiliate of the popular Christian book series) is preparing for the launch of the first “high-quality” video game with “inspirational content.”

At what point does ‘fitting in’ cross over lines that contradict the core message of the faith?

Left Behind Games says it expects an “E for Everyone” rating and compares the game’s wholesome fun to chess, but many parents aren’t convinced.

The phase-out of trans fats is a concern, not an attack on personal freedoms. However, this reason is far from the actual public stance of the Department of Nutrition at Harvard, said: “Trans fat from partially hydrogenated vegetable oils is a toxic substance that does not belong in food.” These findings are cause for concern, not an attack on personal freedoms.

Coronary heart disease is a grave health problem in the U.S., whose financial and social costs are beyond imagination. The phase-out of trans fats is a natural response.

De Wit says: “When the FDA suggested in 2002 that it might consider mandatory labeling of trans fat content in foods, restaurants around the country made the switch from trans fats to healthier oils.” This is an inaccurate statement.

First, the FDA suggestion for labeling became mandatory in 2003 because of concerned awareness that followed a Kraft lawsuit. Food companies don’t easily follow FDA initiatives.

Before New York City proposed its trans fat phase-out, it conducted a year-long education campaign and survey of its restaurants. They found that some reduced or stopped using artificial trans fat, but many did not. The results of that survey alarmed city officials and made them decide to begin the phase-out.

I was shocked when reading Jose de Wit’s article “Trans fats sans government” (Oct. 16) because of its peculiar argument that the recent regulation on trans fats is the result of when “local governments feel they must step into their constituents’ private lives and micro-manage their eating habits for them.”

However, this reason is far from the actual public stance of the Department of Nutrition at Harvard and its health commissioner.

Their proposal to phase out artificial trans fat is based on medical findings that hydrogenated oils are toxic. The health commissioner said: “Like lead in paint, artificial trans fat in food is invisible and dangerous, and it can be replaced.”

THINK IT. SAY IT. WRITE IT!

If you have a passion for politics, religion, ethics or school issues, let us know! Pick up and submit your applications to the Beacon office in GC 210 or WUC 124.
Hometown rapper discusses upcoming album, collaborations

MIAMI-BASED rapper Pitbull – who recently performed at FIU – sat down during WRGP’s “Itz All Gravy Show” to discuss his recent collaborations and upcoming album, El Mariel.

Q: You’ve got this El Mariel album dropping soon. I know you’re really excited about it. The anticipation is crazy.

Fa’ sho! El Mariel album, that’s going to be out [Oct. 31] and all the fans out there see that the date keeps getting pushed back got to understand what I’m cooking up for them right now is some left field (pause). You know? What really nobody is doing right now.

Q: What’s behind the title of the album, El Mariel?

Basically, the album is entertaining, of course, with the music. But somehow, some way the title is educating. It’ll educate folks on a little bit of history, on our [Cuban] culture.

And to me, it’s my boatlift. 2006 is my Mariel. They let me in the game and I’m here to take advantage of these opportunities.

Q: I know you went gold with the last album and you’re trying to go platinum with this one.

It’s been 2 years since I dropped the last album M.I.A.M.I. It went gold and that’s a blessing. I got the [M.I. Still A.M.I album] out there – that’s at 300,000 copies. With El Mariel, we’re definitely trying to go platinum, it’s a slow grind, but a fa’ sho’ grind. That’s really the way I look at it.

Q: What’s on the album that’s going to give it that push to platinum?

I got a lot of different types of music, but a lot of energy on the album. You got Jim Johnson producing, you got Diaz Bros., Lil’ Jon, Mr. Collipark. I got Toomp working on there too, so there is a lot of different types of music. You got your street records, your...
You can see them standing on the sidelines at FIU home football games. Some of the members are in groups chatting away. Others members are playing games that they have just made up on the spot.

They call themselves “The Band of the Sun,” named for Florida’s reputation as the Sunshine State.

To show off this influence, the band’s uniforms, flags and music all incorporate Hispanic culture and the art deco history of South Florida.

But designing the uniforms, creating the flags and composing the music were all among the last steps that Mark Gregory Martin, the band’s director, took to assemble the FIU Marching Band in 2001.

Martin spent the first year recruiting at high school football games throughout the Miami-Dade and Broward areas; he set up booths at state marching band competitions and got the University’s name out there by using recruiting materials and visits as a means of finding potential players.

He also did extensive research in finding the best prices for the band’s instrument purchase.

“Many people do not realize how expensive it is to start a collegiate marching band,” Martin said, “but due to the diligent research of [former vice president of student affairs Patricia] Telles-Irvin, she gave me ample funding to purchase everything necessary.”

With 25 years of experience as an assistant director of the Longhorn Band at the University of Texas-Austin and a lecturer at James Madison University (from which he holds a master of musical arts degree in wind conducting), Martin uses the marching band showmanship and wind conducting teaching methods when directing.

“As I tell the students all the time, there is very little that is original with our band ... the tried and true methods that I know work and work well,” Martin said.

The band rehearses three times a week, two hours at a time, and additional practices are squeezed into the band members’ busy schedules.

“Everyone has trouble balancing school and work, but add a huge thing like a marching band, and it takes one phrase to describe: ‘Time Management,’” said Alisa Feliciano, a lead horn player in the band.

“We learn a new show every home game, which can be very difficult if we lose any time due to weather,” said Andres Gonzalez, the band’s field commander.

The band learned a new show for the Sept. 30 home football game against Arkansas State, during which “The Band of the Sun” played Latin-based music in honor of Hispanic Heritage month.

That same day, the group hosted a “band day” at FIU, in which participating bands performed and received taped comments from evaluators, followed by a 30-minute on-field clinic.

Unlike a high school band’s serious involvement in the competition circuit, a college band puts all of its energy into entertainment and bringing school spirit to the university, Gonzalez said.

Despite its small size, the Band of the Sun has already gained both national and international recognition.

During the band’s first year, it performed on the nationally televised Thanksgiving Day parade.

Recently, the band has been invited to perform in Ireland at the St. Patrick’s Day parade and the Fourth of July parade in Washington D.C.

“I’m really looking forward to performing at the band competitions this year,” Gonzalez said.

Those kids really show their appreciation and support like no football crowd can.”
April of 2002, Alice in Chains guitarist Jerry Cantrell faced this impossible task. Staley had the ultimate gift of stretching a note to a surreal length and then changing its tone instantaneously. Just when you thought Staley could carry the note no further, he would let out its tone instantaneously.

In addressing the crowd, William Brush, a very important tool in your quest. Outside of combat, you can journey throughout the land finding all forms of life, human or animal, in need of your help. With this brush, you can manipulate the very environment with mere strokes. Want to turn night into day? Just paint a circle in water coloring, method of cel shading. Okami literally paints a living, mystical world onscreen. And to that, the game allows you to aid in the painting. Early in the game, you gain access to the Celestial Brush, a very important tool in your quest.

The story is steeped in Japanese mythology of the god Amaterasu, awakening as a wolf after a 100-year slumber; then game then follows his fight with the eight-headed beast, Orochi, to restore peace to the world.

Finding the world covered in darkness, Amaterasu sets forth to gain back his godly powers to restore life to the world. While many games that go through translation and other changes suffer, Okami sticks to its Japanese roots with its style and storytelling. Much of the kanji (Japanese script) used throughout the game remained intact, for example. For those interested, the instruction manual does provide a brief explanation on the myths that the story is based on.

The game’s presentation is nothing short of breathtaking. Using a unique method of cel shading and water-coloring, Okami literally paints a living, mystical world onscreen. And to that, the game allows you to aid in the painting. Early in the game, you gain access to the Celestial Brush, a very important tool in your quest.

With this brush, you can manipulate the very environment with mere strokes. Want to turn night into day? Just paint a circle in the sky and watch the sun emerge. Need to cross a bridge that’s down? Just fill in the gap by painting it with the brush.

Controls are simple enough to grasp. Early in the game, your moves are limited; but with progress, you will gain additional weapons and even powers of the Celestial Brush (like slashing through enemies by painting a straight line).

Outside of combat, you can journey throughout the land finding all forms of life, human or animal, in need of your help. The game itself is as vast as its world and, while it is not too hard for the most part, the game is extensive. The amounts of cutscenes used in the game also contribute to the game’s length.

While presenting a unique approach to art and style, Okami delivers solid gameplay that’s unique, captivating and easy to grasp. In the midst of a trend of blase effort, it’s nice to see that there are developers willing to take risks in presenting something unusual that is accessible and captivating to anyone willing to look.
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Pitbull interview reveals artist’s views on Castro, Cuba

If you like attending campus events and would like to make some extra money, then the Beacon’s Life! section is perfect for you.

PITBULL, page 6

club records, your deep records. It’s just a variety of music. It ain’t just one style. You know Pitbull.

First of all, I’m diverse when it comes to that. I try to give people all different types of music.

Q: I’ve seen you grow, Pit; you’ve been in and out of the studio with me over the past few years and I know you’ve learned a lot of things as an artist. What do you think you’ve learned from the last albums to this album that you’ll apply to your marketing strategies this time around?

I’ve been around the country, been around the world, and I see what markets I can basically target and really milk the album. My biggest markets are the biggest states of America. You got Texas, Los Angeles and Florida, New York, Chicago. I make sure my plans in those markets are A+.

Q: You make dance music and club music to appeal to the masses, but what kind of music would you do more of if you could?

I wish I could always do [something like] a song on my album called “Rain Drops.” Once you all hear that, it’s a different side of Pitbull. That’s really what I want to do, but like anything in life you have to cater in order to be catered to. Little by little, dawg, you give them what they want to hear and then you give them what you want them to hear.

Q: Who would you like to work with that you haven’t had a chance to work with yet?

I would like to work with the only person I didn’t get a chance to work with that I wanted to work with was Celia Cruz. Maybe I can make a record with one of her samples.

Q: I know you’re very passionate when you talk about Cuba. What do you think is really going on with this whole Castro situation? What would you like to see happen with Cuba?

For Cuba, the bottom line is, you know I would like it to be free. As far as the Castro thing, I think it’s all smoke and mirrors. I think Castro is dead and they’re just trying to find a way to cover it up and line it up so they can get ready for what’s about to happen. Hopefully, the island will open up with God’s help.

Pitbull’s album, El Mariel, will be released in October. Anyone interested in finding out more about the rapper and his work can visit www.myspace.com/pitbull and pitbullmusic.com.

Life! can be hard sometimes.

Apply in GC 210
Oliveira deflects praise to set up her teammates

Oliveira, page 12

The setter began playing team volleyball in Brazil at the age of nine. She is the most experienced player on the team, which makes her a mentor younger players look to for advice. Her veteran presence is crucial since five of the 12 players are freshmen.

“She is very mature. She gives us younger players advice during the good times and the bad times. She always supports us,” Rosa said.

Oliveira’s willingness to guide people through tough times is not only an attitude she reflects as a player, but also as a person.

“T’m helping other people on the court and outside the court. My major is physical therapy. I like physical therapy because I like to help. I like to find problems to fix,” Oliveira said.

Given her mind-set off the court, it is only fitting that Keila is leading the Sun Belt Conference with an average of 13.52 assists per game in conference play and 12.85 assists per game overall. According to Oliveira, FIU gives her an opportunity to be an athlete and a student simultaneously.

“This is in contrast to Brazil where volleyball is a player’s main focus and profession. She still hopes to leave her mark in both fields before leaving FIU.

“I want to help this team win the conference and improve [the volleyball team] at FIU, give my best, maintain my GPA, enter a physical therapy program and get my degree from FIU,” Oliveira said.

Read The Beacon
Every Monday and Thursday
a high school football player in California had no idea FIU even existed; now he does.

The same principle applies to prospective recruits for all sports. Even though the attention FIU brought is negative, at a subconscious level it doesn’t matter. What matters is that the name is out there.

Local high school prodigies who would have chosen programs like Florida State up in Tallahassee or the University of Florida in Gainesville now might be inclined to stay here because they feel FIU actually matters.

The football program was on a good safe pace to national respectability before this. It was making small and conservative steps in its quest to one day be known nationally.

However, with the constant losing and poor competition in its conference, it was going too slow and progress was halting. The brawl, although unfortunate, accelerated the program’s ascension to be known nationally at least 5 years.

When the dust settles and the whole pandemonium has ceased, all that is going to be left is the exposure this event gave FIU.

Priceless publicity.

Q: What’s the most memorable moment in your career?
A: The most awesome game I’ve ever played is when Thor won the 17 to 19-year-old Icelandic Cup. It was a 4-4 game that we led but the other team always equalized. We won in the penalty shootout and it was so dramatic.

At FIU, the game against [South Methodist University] was incredible, but it was ruined by the referee. It felt great to score on the penalty kick and take the lead, but if we would have held on to that, it would have been amazing.

Q: That loss and the following loss to Tulsa hurt FIU’s chance to win the conference. How can the team rebound?
A: We have to work together and do better than we did against Tulsa. We didn’t go out there to lose and we played bad. I can’t really explain what happened that night. But we basically have to win every game if we’re going to make it to the NCAA tournament, and I want to go.
Transfer midfielder has no problem translating game

ANDREW KAMEKA
Staff Writer

Dadi Kristjánsson has experienced a few Lost in Translation moments since he transferred to FIU from the University of Guadalajara. Kristjánsson speaks English fluently, but Miami’s unofficial second language has occasionally made communication difficult.

“It’s weird when you’re in Public and ask where something is and then people answer in Spanish,” Kristjánsson said.

“But it’s alright. Most people speak English and I can get by.”

Kristjánsson, 22, hasn’t had any problem translating his success on the soccer field. After earning team MVP honors four times as a member of Icelandic club Thor Akureyri, the sophomore midfielder has quickly become a core member of the men’s soccer team. His two goals and one assist have all come at critical moments this season.

Kristjánsson, who is majoring in industrial engineering, took some time to talk to The Beacon.

Q: How did coach Karl Kremer recruit you?

I e-mailed some coaches in America when I was interested in coming here. I had friends who were playing for San Diego State and UNC-Greensboro, so I e-mailed him my soccer history and made some videos.

He came to Iceland to watch me play and I scored the winning goal in the last minute of the game, which was good, obviously.

Q: Did knowing teammate Öli Birgisson affect your decision to come to FIU?

Oh, definitely. We wanted to transfer to the same school if we could and we liked FIU as a school and the area. We’re taking 15 credits in the engineering program so there’s a lot of work and not that much free time, but we’re doing good.

Q: So how do classmates respond when you say you’re Icelandic?

The most common response is, “Isn’t Iceland

Brawl gives FIU just the publicity it’s looking for

The first ever meeting between cross-town rivals Miami Hurricanes and the Golden Panthers turned out to be much more than anyone ever anticipated, and unfortunately, it wasn’t pretty.

However, the brawl at the Orange Bowl, believe it or not, was a complete and monumental blessing in disguise for FIU and quite possibly it’s one of the best things that could have occurred to FIU athletics.

The thug-like brawl that occurred Oct. 14 was without a doubt unfortunate, disgusting and grotesque, not only for the players and coaches involved but for fans, administrators and anyone else involved with either of the universities.

So far, 31 players from both teams have been suspended and more punishment is possible as Larry Coker and Don Strock have acknowledged embarrassment and total discontent after this incident.

But in all honesty, who were the Golden Panthers before their match with the Hurricanes? They were a young football program that became Division I-A after only a couple of years and were still in awe of the whole thing like a child when he or she is first taken to Disney World. The team was barely mentioned in the local media and if it was, it was very insignificant while the national media ignored them altogether.

After the incident, though, everything has changed. ESPN 2’s and ESPN Radio’s morning show “Mike and Mike in the Morning” calls this brawl the most entertaining story of the weekend. ABC’s “Good Morning America” is showing clips of the brawl.

As the old adage says, “There is no such thing as bad publicity.”

On an athletic level, that exposure has the most benefits. Before the game, FIU?

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