FIU Iraq veterans tell of harsh conditions

NAHOBE GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Sergeant Jorge Burgos remembers as a child going to a Veterans’ Day celebration with his father.

“I thought veterans were all old guys that came back from war and retired,” Burgos said.

Now he knows different. Just a few years after that celebration, Burgos made a life-changing decision. At the age of 17, Burgos joined the Army. Four years later he was deployed to Iraq.

“Being young and single, I was very excited,” he said. “I looked forward to going for a new experience.”

When he arrived at Al Ramadi, Iraq, it was not at all what he expected.

“I remember getting to this strange place and hearing bullets flying,” he said. “We had a lot of bullets, but not a lot of food.”

Today, just a few years after their return home, student veterans at FIU reflect on their experiences. For many other soldiers, including Burgos and Specialist Waskar Juarez, the time served abroad posed both danger and hardship.

Juarez joined the army in 1998. Five years later he found out he would be sent to Iraq.

“When I first joined, I wanted to get deployed. It was like being in a football team and practicing everyday but never getting to play,” he said. “After I finally got to do it I didn’t want to be in the game anymore,” he said.

Both Juarez and Burgos had to adjust to living without the usual comforts — and constant, essentials — of home.

Burgos remembers losing 16 pounds in two months. On Burgos’ already slim five-foot-nine frame, the weight he lost showed.

“Food wasn’t that good, and what we did get, we didn’t get regularly,” he said. Because Burgos and Juarez arrived in Iraq during the time of the invasion, supply lines were weak and irregular due to constant attacks. Even water became a luxury.

“We used to go to the Euphrates [River] to bathe, even though we were told not to because of contamination. But we got to the point where we didn’t care about the risk,” Burgos said. “We had nothing.”

But for Burgos and Juarez, their most vivid memories are of the violence they endured.

“We were overworked, and almost all at what he expected. "Being young and single, I was very excited," he said. "I looked forward to going for a new experience." According to the letter, their conversation took place as a result of a meeting Wertheim had with his accountants one week after the College of Medicine’s official naming to discuss tax issues surrounding the multi-million dollar donation. The naming was announced Sept. 29. At that time, it was brought to his attention that if he were to give the University a single lump sum for the $20 million gift, he would lose between $4 - $6 million of tax deductibility. Wertheim then contacted Marcos Perez, vice president of administration, and Christina Mendoza, the University’s general counsel, to explain the problem and propose a new agreement. The new agreement would have allowed the Dr. Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Family Foundation to make a $5 million payment by the end of the year, and subsequent amounts on the first month of every year until January 2009. “Given our past commitment to and relationship with the University, I felt that the request was very reasonable,” Wertheim wrote. According to the letter, the foundation had already given the University $700,000 and the new proposal would also allow the University to receive matching state funds. “I assume [the $700,000] will be sent back to Dr. Wertheim,” said Board of Governors Chairman David Parker. In a Nov. 9 press release issued by the University, Maidique said that he did not want to jeopardize the state’s matching funds. “If payment had been delayed, the matching funds portion of the gift would have been put at risk, and its value significantly reduced,” Maidique said in the press release. As a result, the University would have accepted the new proposal the College of Medicine would have received $10 million by 2007 and that would have been matched by the state for a total of $20 million. The first $20 million with match was for the building fund. The second $20 million was an endowment for scholarships.

DONOR REVOKES $20 MILLION GIFT
College of Medicine donation lost after Maidique, Wertheim dispute

BETSY MARTINEZ
News Director

The man who gave FIU $20 million for its College of Medicine initiative is taking the gift back, as well as asking that the new college not be named after him.

Dr. Herbert Wertheim, a former member of FIU’s Board of Trustees and one of the University’s biggest donors, sent a letter to University President Modesto A. Maidique Nov. 8 noting the withdrawal and citing a “confrontational” conversation that took place between them.

“Most offensive was your comment that I was given the naming multi-million dollar donation. The multi-million dollar donation. The administration then discussed tax issues surrounding the naming.

The background of the dispute is Wertheim’s donation of $20 million to the College of Medicine, which has since been named in his honor.

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WITHDRAWN, page 2

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WITHDRAWN, page 2

Professors monitor elections

A majority of Americans voted to give the Democrats control of Congress after 12 years of a Republican legislative branch. To analyze the new government’s direction, FIU’s chapter of the National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Sigma Alpha, organized an open forum Nov. 8.

Professors and students talked about Nancy Pelosi’s poise to become the first woman Speaker of the House, which would place her third in the presidential line of succession.

“Pelosi will be an example of women exercising leadership and will bring down some stereotype barriers, but we still have a long way to go. I’m doubtful on having a female candidate for 2008,” said Sarah Poggione, an American politics associate professor.

Pelosi’s agenda will follow the Democratic consensus, which includes raising the minimum wage, expanding stem cell research and lowering college loans interest rates. But in a bipartisan leadership, passing some bills could be challenging, according to political science professor Nicol Rae.

“Pelosi has to balance the House. A strategy to follow would be to find issues where there’s maximum unity such as raising the minimum wage. She should also work on issues that Republicans such as immigration,” Rae said.

Another topic of discussion was the Democrats’ victory at the House of Representatives.

“The results of the elections show a discontent with the government. Part of the Democrats’ victory has to do with the large number of scandals over the last 18 months,” Rae said. “Six seats were freebies for them, such as the Florida seat held by Mark Foley, the Texas seat held by Tom DeLay, and the New York seat held by John Sweeney.”

“Democrats now have to remain ethical...”
The Beacon – November 13, 2006

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • NOVEMBER 13

Homecoming Barbeque: 12 p.m., President’s House

Relay for Life Kick-Off: 6 p.m., Gracie’s

Comic Show (Pablo Francisco, Bill Belamy): 8 p.m., Thurfords Arena

TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 14

Homecoming Lip Sync: 8 p.m., Thurfords Arena

WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 15

Homecoming Pep Rally: 12 p.m., GC Pit

GSA Meeting: 1 p.m., GC 140

SFC-UP Meeting: 4 p.m., GC 150

Moonlight Madness: 8 p.m., Thurfords Arena

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 16

Homecoming Court Voting: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., GC Computer Labs

GSA Gradskelser: 6 p.m., Gracie’s Grill

FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 17

SFC Films presents “Cars”: 7 p.m., 10 p.m., GC 140

Homecoming Block Party: 9 p.m., Between Blue and Gold Garages

SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 18

Homecoming Parade: 2 p.m., Engineering Campus to FIU Football Stadium followed by Homecoming Tailgate Party

Compiled by Reuben Pereira

NAIHOBE GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Committing to serve their country abroad is not enough for the soldiers of the ROTC Golden Panthers Battalion, also recently committed to helping local families in need, just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

“The battalion decided to hold a canned food drive and an iPod raffle to raise food and money for local families,” explained Cadet Commander Ser-geant Major Nikol Anderson.

“We’re not asking for money for our programs, but this is our way to give back,” Anderson said.

Food collected will be donated to a local charity organization, while proceeds from the raffle will go to the creation of food baskets for two deserving families. Both efforts culminate Nov. 21.

The battalion is sponsoring two families who are members of a local Baptist church, the New Way Fellowship Praise and Worship at 16800 NW 22nd Ave, Opa Locka.

Anderson approached the minister with the project, and the minister shared the names of two families in his congregation that he believes need assistance.

“We’ll be creating a basket with a turkey and everything else they’ll need so the families can cook the dinner themselves,” Anderson said.

The charity that will be given the food donations is yet to be determined. According to ROTC enrollment officer Major Wally Gallart, who has worked at the FIU department of military science since 2000, there have been several food drive efforts over the years.

Both Anderson and Saunders stated the nature of the ROTC program and the army, in which cadets and instructors often come and go, is an obstacle for the unwavering efforts of folks like this one.

Nonetheless, the battalion is determined to make this event successful and has made it mandatory for its 120 cadets to sell raffle tickets.

High hopes for future donor

WITHDRAWN, page 1

lectures and other professional needs.

“It wouldn’t have jeopardized the state grants,” Dr. Wertheim told The Beacon.

“The state has never said that they were going to do away with this program within the next two years,” Wertheim said.

In an March 2006 presentation to the Florida Board of Governors, one of the major steps the University had to take was persuading the state legislature to spend $250 million over 12 years for the school, and then more than $20 million to build and maintain it.

On Nov. 9, Maidique sent a letter to Wertheim in which he addressed the phone conversation.

“We have set up tables in front of a home in a quiet neighborhood,” Saunders said.

Since returning in 2004, Burgos got married and is now expecting a child. He is also finishing a degree in architectural design.

In the Line of Duty: Veterans, page 1

Veterans more than just retirees

As for the alleged $100 donation, Parker denied having a donor lined up. He pledged that the College of Medicine would make a speedy recovery.

“I have a high degree of confidence that we will be able to raise the amount or more within a short amount of time to get construction started,” Parker said.

Student Government Council at University Park President Alfonso “Alfie” Leon, a BOT member, argued that the matter is giving the college’s and mine for almost 20 years. If I was unclear during our conversation and I unintentionally hurt you, I apologize,” he wrote.

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Conference highlights diplomacy

According to Rae, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld’s resignation a day after the elections is an indication of the new direction the country will take. Mullen also pointed out Iowa’s Democratic Senator Tom Vilsack’s announcement of his candidacy for the presidency as a sign of how contingent Democrats feel. “The Democratic victory is not a surprise. Everyone is upset about the war. Most of the new Democrats are mostly moderate and conservative, moving from the liberal Democrats that lost the House in the ’90s,” said Paul Mullen, political science assistant professor.

Rae: Republican scandals aid win

“Terri Schiavo showed us how much power the government has over our lives,” said Jonathan Margolis, the lead U.S. negotiator at the Middle East peace process. “This was a very important decision, and this was very influential in the elections,” Rae said. “Charlie Crist did well by presenting himself as a moderate Republican. He was also benefited by the fact that Florida’s economy is doing well.”

As the time the forum ended, Virginia was still counting its final votes, but professors predicted that the Senate would go to the Democrats as well.
Dinner teaches proper eating etiquette
ELSA REINOSO Contributing Writer

Kaydianne Fletcher, a student majoring in psychology, wanted to make a good impression on her first formal dinner.
She was worried that she would look ill mannered.
She turned to Career Services at the Biscayne Bay Campus to teach her the how-to's of etiquette.
“Wonder how to use the fork and when am I supposed to use the spoon or even how to drink the water or hold the cup,” Fletcher said.

Career Services and the Student Government Council at BBC are going to host their yearly Business Etiquette Dinner November 14 at 6 p.m.

At dinners at both University Park and BBC allow students an opportunity to network with professionals, majoring in business, to present themselves in a formal interview with a potential employer.
“This event helps the students to learn how to handle a conversation when they are in a dinner or lunch, where to put their name tags, and to build the student’s résumé,” said Donna Lee, assistant director of Career Services.

This event helps students learn how to handle a conversation when they are at a dinner and build their résumés.

*ALEXANDRA MCANARNEY Contributing Writer*

The Luna Star Café is one of the few artistic places in North Miami where there is no sense of post-modernist snobbery, and it’s what’s people who frequent the café like most about it.
“It’s pretty cool that they have a place like this so close to school. It’s a moneysaver and this is preventing her cafés from turning into a corporate business,” Hank Milin, who has per-formed at the café with his band, The 3 Jucks, a Celtic folk band, said Sanfield is doing a good job in thwarting that.
“She wants to remain obscure and it’s succeeding beyond her wildest expectations,” Milin said.

The inside of the café holds 13 worn tables set against mustard yellow walls that are decorated with anti-Bush paraphernalia, two of Andy Warhol’s Marilyn Monroe lithographs, photography displays, a floating chair with a cat and an impressive display of beers chalked out on the board that one can’t help but notice.
About 110 beers, ales and lagers are sold at the Luna Star Café, which Malik recommends, but don’t expect Sanfield to carry your everyday bottle of beer.

“Tasting you don’t have Budweiser, that’s crap. Why would I carry Bud- weiser?” Sanfield said.

She also said that she personally researched all the beers. The Beer Bible preaches ales from the folk, jazz or acoustic.
“I really like this place. I was coming from Ft. Lauderdale in all that traffic, and I decided I’d come in for coffee and a salad, rather than go to Starbucks,” he said.

Every Thursday night is Poetry Night, where a writer comes and reads his material. The contact for these events is Laura McDermott, who is earning her MFA in creative writing at FIU. She was unavailable for comment.

Joe Mailin, a creative writing student, read short excerpts of prose from FIU’s literary magazine, Gulfstream, Nov. 9.

One particular piece was about baseball and the lingering smell of turpentine and mustard it left on the memory.

“It’s a pretty interesting feeling getting up there and reading your stuff,” Mailin said.

“Personally, I don’t get poetry; it’s just a bunch of lines arranged in a fancy way. Reading prose makes a lot more sense.”

As for Open Mic nights, there have not been many of those at the Luna Star Café.

Sanfield hopes to change that.

“Poetry should be open to everyone. It should be happening soon,” Sanfield said.

As far as owning her own business, Sanfield has no complaints.

“It’s a labor of love. I have my own rules, I don’t have to work for anyone,” she said.

Luna Star is situated on 123rd Street, which is also known as North Miami Avenue right in front of the Museum of the Contemporary Art.

The café only accepts cash; credit cards are not accepted.

Luna Star Café events are listed on their website http://www.geocities.com/lunasstarcafe.
It used to be that those who were poor could end up on Skid Row, but today it seems all they were poor could end up on Skid Row.

A sergeant for the Los Angeles Police Department saw an ambulance crew discharge someone in front of the Volunteers of America homeless services facility. Soon after, an LAPD videographer recorded four more ambulances arriving at the same facility and leaving more discharged patients.

The general consensus among the five abandoned patients was that they didn’t want to be left on Skid Row.

One 62-year-old patient expressed that he asked to be dropped off at his son’s house. Police interviews revealed that more requests were denied as ambulance drivers only told patients that they would be taken to Skid Row instead.

So who’s the culprit here? It’s easy to just point the finger at upper management, and most news sources covering this story did just that. As a result, private ambulance companies aren’t depicted as having much accountability for the situation.

James Fraley, an attendant for ProCare, one of the private ambulance companies involved in the dumpings, told police that the hospital hired his company “on a regular basis” to transport discharged patients to Skid Row. That was it – no apology or promise of better service in the future.

Sure, he was just carrying out orders, but the entire situation could have been avoided if Fraley and other employees like him had acted with the patients’ best interests in mind.

William R. Hirsch, 23, is a South Florida paramedic and logistics supervisor for Broward County at American Ambulance Service. Commenting on L.A.’s Skid Row dumpings, he said that discharged patients are the hospital’s responsibility, ambulance company employees should also assess each patient individually.

“If we’re instructed to drop off a 62-year-old in front of a shelter in downtown Miami, but he wants to be taken to his son’s apartment in Kentucky, well then it’s time to analyze the situation and possibly stray from the schedule,” said Hirsch.

This attitude goes beyond following orders and places greater focus on a patient’s best interests.

Yes, the L.A. Metropolitan Medical Center and other such institutions are allegedly to blame here, but pursuing the other involved parties such as the private ambulance companies will compound this problem more efficiently, and from different angles.

When they gave orders that discharged patients to be abandoned on Skid Row, the hospital’s management demonstrated its poor judgment. Faced with this, it was the responsibility of ambulance company employees to question and assess the orders given by those in charge.

These incidents serve as a testament to the growing sense of apathy and dehumanization in America’s medical industry. A patient and the procurement of his or her well-being becomes nothing more than a number and subsequent series of tasks. It’s up to the employees to make a difference so the duty to heal and care is not superseded by the duty to keep the line moving and attend the next person.

While hospital management is at the forefront of this investigation, immediate results won’t occur until ambulance drivers pick up the habit of individually assessing the patients that they’re dropping off.

I read with interest Ramon Alvarez’s article “FIU’s art program is out of film.” When I was hired by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, I wanted to set up a film degree as I did at Miami Dade College. After all, that is what I went to Rome, Italy to learn. I found resistance to the idea, and to this day I can not figure out why we can not set up a first-class film degree at FIU.

At that time, one of the reasons I was given by an administrator was “cost.” I was told that a film sponsor could only cost $300,000. I replied that a film sponsor could only cost that much if it is attached to a fully-equipped sound stage and a fully-equipped post production unit. The sponsor at the time cost $300! I explained the difference, but no action was taken.

The SIJC already has a lot of the equipment needed to teach film in its latest version, known as “electronic cinema” (E-Cinema), where film is replaced by video, but the same techniques in use today with film are also applied. Offering a degree in E-Cinema would put FIU ahead of many other institutions—perhaps in this century.

Bert Delgado
Associate Professor
School of Journalism and Mass Communication

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off in GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. 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. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words.
**LAUGHABLE LAWS**

Outdated legislation unintentionally funny

CHARLIE GRAU
Asst. Sports Editor

Next time you’re visiting Utah, make sure to yield the right of way to all birds while driving on the highway because if not, you could be fined or jailed.

Obsolete laws like this have been in law books across the United States for years. Though most of the general public doesn’t know about such kooky laws, state legislators have been reluctant to take them off the books.

“Someday with a lot of power and an agenda must have passed all these laws,” said FIU law student George Francis. “It’s sure it has to do with religion.”

Though many of these laws are perceived to be silly and useless, they were at one time held in high regard and necessary to maintain the morality and integrity of the community. Some communities still force businesses to close on Sundays in order to honor the Sabbath.

“They’re basically anachronistic. They’re from times when we believed laws were more community based rather than having a national scope,” Smith said. “They generally don’t have to because of prosecutorial discretion. Just because a law is on the books doesn’t mean the district attorney has to enforce it.

“This is especially true in Killeeh, where gambling and strolling is considered a misdemeanor or in Alabama where it is illegal to play dominoes on Sunday.

While some laws seem simply outdated, for others it’s hard to place it in time where the laws would be useful at all.

In Tucson, Ariz., it is illegal for women to wear pants. While in California, it is a misdemeanor to shoot at any kind of game from a moving vehicle, unless the target is a whale. Fire trucks in New Britain, Conn., have a speed limit of 25 m.p.h., even when going to a fire. According to a state law in Illinois, it is illegal to speak English; the officially recognized language is American.

Some of these laws were passed as a result of a story behind [some of those laws].”

Although many students and professors aren’t shocked by the laws, they are disturbed at what type of image they may paint of our society.

“So if an alien came down from outer space and looked at all our law books they would see all those things and say, ‘Hey, that represents you people?’” Smith said.

Dozens of these laws can be seen on websites like crazylaws.com, totaldataTableknowledge.com or ahahokes.com.

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**Book fair celebrates the classics**

**SARAH RODRIGUEZ Staff Writer**

If the imaginary world in a book can be vivid and colorful, the 23rd annual Miami Book Fair, running Nov. 17-19, promises to make it even more sensory experience.

The fair started in 1984, when it was a small event called “Books by the Bay.” Today, it is an endeavor put together by the Florida Center for the Literary Arts, a center that stems from Miami-Dade College.

The festivities at MDC’s Wolfson Campus in Downtown actually begin as early as Nov. 12 with the “Congress of Authors.” More than 300 celebrated authors will offer readings every evening from the 12 to the 17, as well as all day during the weekend. Highlight names among these include Frank McCourt, author of the memoir Angela’s Ashes, and Isabel Allende, considered by many to be one of Latin America’s literary gems.

The fair houses many other programs besides the “Congress of Authors.” The “Write Out Loud Café” is actually one aspect of the fair that continues all year long, when South Florida and visiting writers offer readings at different artistic venues throughout the city. At the fair, this café ambiance is retained, except it is now open even to community writers who have yet to publish any of their work.

In addition, the “Children’s Alley” program makes picture books come to life, as children and even adults have the chance to meet friends like Arthur, Dr. Seuss and Curious George.

The actual street fair contains more than one million books for sale by more than 200 vendors; this year, paintings and wine tasting are to be featured.

**BOOK FAIR, page 8**

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**Musicians join forces for Van Wilder 2 soundtrack**

**SAMANTHA QUINON Staff Writer**

Both Art Alexakis of Everclear and Jonny Dubosky of Jonny Lives! spoke with WRGP about songwriting, staying positive and MySpace when they appeared in the Graham High School in Pensacola.

Residents of Pensacola can’t be caught downtown with less than $10 on them. It is also illegal to roll a barrel on any street; lines go up according to the contents of the barrel.

“I remember, it was like a day long, crazy shoot with scantily clad women,” Dubosky said. "The music supervisor for the film wanted to put some good music in it and came to us and there are a bunch of bands that are on our label that are on the soundtrack."

Alexakis: Who incidentally is putting out the soundtrack so that are on our label that are on the soundtrack.

Dubosky: It’s a funny how that works. It’s a really kind of antiquated law that probably won’t be enforced they way it was originally intended to,” said law student Judith Solomon.

Residents of Pensacola can’t be caught downtown with less than $10 on them. It is also illegal to roll a barrel on any street; lines go up according to the contents of the barrel.

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**MUSICIANS, page 8**
**THEATRE**

**The Dining Room**

**ANGELINA ESPOSITO**

Copy Editor

FIU Theatre’s production of *The Dining Room* by A. R. Gurney explores the dying custom of having family dinners in an actual dining room, while bringing to light issues many families go through with comedic dining room, while bringing to light issues since their inception. The play even manages to add humor to overly controlling parents to adulterous affairs. The play even manages to add humor in the situation of a father planning his funeral leaving the characters to be based solely on the actors’ presentation. She entered the stage each time with an entirely different air about her even for characters who could have easily appeared too similar. Corinne Farkash also stands out in her lollipop lyrics sound innocent rather than facetious and her despondence sound sincere rather than self-pitying. Regardless of whether El Perro’s stylistic debt to mid-20th-century pop art to past heroes, her first full-length albums sounds like a lost recording from the vault of Phil Specter’s girl-group productions. It is a decidedly delectable listen, and by far one of this year’s best albums.

**Animal Collective – Hollindagain**

**JOSE DE WIT**

Opinion Editor

Since their first release in 2001 as the duo Avey Tare and Panda Bear, experimental rock band Animal Collective has become a favorite among discriminating indie fans. The band has since grown to include two more members, Geologist and Deeken, but their sound has remained a consistently intriguing blend of ambient music and chamber pop.

What generally makes their music appealing is the elusiveness of its pop elements: snatches of breezy melody weave in and out of layers of organic, and occasionally creepy, field recordings. The re-release of the Collective’s 2001 live album *Hollindagain* suggest that they have come a long way since their inception. The album is a collage of recordings from their 2001 U.S. performances, originally made available in a limited batch of hand-painted vinyls. The album documents the band’s initial clumsy forays into experimental field recordings — apparently before they discovered useful little things such as melody, structure and restraint. For some reason, they felt the urge to re-release this monstrosity. Call it a momentary lapse of judgment or a spell of self-indulgence, but the band will be sure to alienate a good 90 percent of its fans when they realize they just paid $15 to listen to some guys high out of their minds, yelping senselessly and fiddling with the reverb on their mics and instruments for 40 interminable minutes.

Shame on you, Avey Tare. Shame on you, Panda Bear. Whatever your reason was for inflicting such pain unto your fans, shame on you.

**El Perro del Mar – El Perro del Mar**

**JOSE DE WIT**

Opinion Editor

Imagine a heartbroken woman singing to herself in a broken voice, attempting to cheer herself up by singing happy songs. In her self-titled debut LP, Swedish artist El Perro del Mar combines the tunes, instrumentation and harmonies of 1950s and ’60s girl-group pop with a sincere dejection of which emo bands can only dream. As if this combination weren’t disparate enough, she takes each track to an extreme. On the third track, “Party,” she juxtaposes lyrics like, “c’mon over baby / there’s a party going on,” with a lonely little girl moaning that sounds like Ronnie Specter on Quaaludes.

This contrast would border on the absurd, especially after pulling out nonsensical ‘50s throwback lyrics like “doo-wop-bee-boop-baloo-bop” and “sha-la-la-la-la,” were it not for the candor of El Perro’s delivery.

**MUSIC**

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Rocker attempts to stay positive

MUSCIANS, page 6

was talking to a girl in, like, the south of India the other day. It was like, “Ott my God...”

A: Yeah. I mean, that is just bizarre! You’re talking to someone, you know, on the other side of the world that you don’t know, that you have some things in common with.

It can be great. It can be horrible, too. Because it is addictive.

And if you have a stalking part of you, and everybody has a little bit somewhere in there where you just go on, you can get lost in the different layers.

D: And you, like, follow the path where you look at someone’s page and then you see their friends...

A: And then you go there.

D: And then all of a sudden it’s four in the morning.

A: And yeah, and you’re like looking at a picture of somebody and their dog, you know, their dog drinking beer, just going, “What am I doing? Really?”

Q: I guess the other thing I wanted to ask you before we have to wrap this up is about when you were talking about Everclear’s lyrics earlier having very positive messages.

A: Yeah. “Live and let live!” I think it’s the total epitome of what I’m trying to get at, which is, if you don’t like something, don’t buy it, don’t listen to it. If you don’t like someone, don’t talk to them.

Don’t talk bad, don’t hate, don’t go to the negative side. There’s no point in it. It just makes you unhappy.

But there is the contradiction in the song where the person who’s being hated on is hating back, and that’s the trap we fall into.

D: We can’t fall to that level.

A: Well it’s kind of hard not to. Unless you’re a Jedi Master.

Notable authors will appear at fest

BOOK FAIR, page 6

According to Lissette Mendez, the program coordinator for the Florida Center for the Performing Arts, and graduate of FIU’s Creative Writing program, the fair will focus on modern adaptations of classics, such as Bridget Jones’ Diary, based on Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice, and Prospero’s Daughter, a contemporary twist on Shakespeare’s The Tempest.

She considers this emphasis on the classics a part of a new interdisciplinary flare – this is one way in which this year’s fair is unique from years past.

One of the fair’s noteworthy programs is “Authors in College Classrooms” because of the very tangible way in which it seems to impact the community.

Authors featured at the fair arrive early for the sole purpose of visiting MDC and public school classrooms, giving lectures and handing each student a copy of their book.

MDC students naturally have a stronger connection to the Miami Book Fair because their school spearheads it.

Among FIU students, however, reactions to the fair seem to be mixed.

Junior Kathie Warfel explains that she has heard about the fair only peripherally.

“I hear ‘book fair’ it doesn’t actually appeal to my interests of weekend activities,” said Warfel.

“You knew a little more maybe I’d consider checking it out.”

Senior Nancy Toruno offers a different perspective.

“I don’t know if it’ll be really crowded,” Toruno said, “But I’d be interested in going because I like books and they have different publishers and writers. That’d be awesome. I’ve never been to one before.”

As she looks around our community, Mendez sees what she calls “anecdotal evidence” that we need an increased awareness of the power of words.

“I never see people reading on the bus or in parks,” Mendez said. “They don’t understand the concept of reading for enjoyment.”

As much as the fair encompasses, there is always room for improvement. How it can be achieved is a difficult issue according to Mendez.

“We could make it bigger, better, longer,” she said. “Money plays a part in everything. Funding classroom programs even more would be great.”

Entrance cost at the fair is $5 a day for adults, and free admission for attendees aged 18 or younger.

Students interested in the fair can find more information at www.miamibookfair.com and can also volunteer their time at the fair by calling 305-237-3258.
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College of Engineering & Computing
Golden Panthers have no answer for UM’s front court

BASKETBALL, page 12
side, Lora delivered another 3-pointer to pull the Golden Panthers within six points (28-22) and silence the raucous Hurricane home crowd. However, that silence was short lived as King, along with forwards Jimmy Graham and Dwayne Col- lins, wrapped up the half on a 9-0 run to give the Hurricanes a 18-point lead at the half.

Following the intermis-
sion, the Hurricane front-
court picked up right where they left off. On the other end of the court, Graham dominated the defensive boards and ignited the crowd with a series of passionate rejections. “[Playing UM] was like being a welterweight and going up against a heavy- weight,” coach Rouco said.

As the game progressed, the Hurricanes continued to exploit the Golden Panthers in the paint more and more and the easy baskets made the game easy for them. The explosive 6-9, 242 lb. King had his way with the front line of the Panthers as he finished with a career high 19 points, complemented by 15 rebounds and four blocks.

The Golden Panthers on the other hand launched countless perimeter shots and with the exception of Lora, nobody made them consistently.

With no post presence and a major deficiency in rebounding, the Golden Panthers could only watch as the Hurricanes handed them the first defeat of the season.

The Hurricanes won the points in the paint battle 20-8 and shot near 50 percent from the field for the game (48.4).

The Golden Panthers, who were 9 of 27 from behind the arc, finished the game shooting 32.2 percent. “That’s the evil when you live off the three point shot,” Rouco said. “We’re a small team and were not going to pound the ball inside because we don’t have that type of player.”

After the game, Lora, who shot a scorching 5 of 7 from three point range, talked about playing against a bigger team and his strong shooting performance. “They were just too big so every time we went to the basket there was a block shot or something. They were just too big,” Lora said.

Villegas, the lone returning starter from last year’s team, didn’t have the game he expected as he finished with a mere seven points on 3 of 11 shooting from the field.

“It was pretty hard, but coming into this game we knew it would be tough and we have to get back on the horse. We cannot hang our heads down after one game,” Villegas said.

Galindo and Fuller chipped in with ten points each to join Lora as the lone Golden Panthers in double figures.

The Golden Panthers will look to get their first win of the season Nov. 13 at Robert Morris.

FLYING BY: Senior guard Johwen Villegas attempts a layup over University of Miami forward Anthony King.

JESSICA MARSHALL/THE BEACON

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*Reduced Fare College Bus Pass pilot program ends December 31, 2006.
FIU banking on jump shots

GRAU, page 12

made him look like the next coming of Bill Russell. “We’re not going to face big guys like that in [the Sun Belt] that they keep bringing those types of guys off the bench,” FIU head coach Sergio Rouco said.

Thank goodness because it would be a long season for them.

So what’s the alternative?

Shoot it like Antonie Walker, of course, but 27 times?

Jacking up that many 3-pointers in a game won’t exactly win the Sun-Belt Conference and earn a ticket to the Big Dance come March.

“That’s the way we’re going to play but unfortunately, today was the day they didn’t fall. We had some looks. I thought 27 was a little bit too many, but when you’re down you press and you think that’s the one that’s going to get you back,” Rouco said. “Three’s are going to get you back quicker than easy two’s.”

Three’s would have gotten them back but when they’re not falling, it’s time to try something else. “If your shot doesn’t fall, what are you supposed to do?” Villegas said.

Though the loss doesn’t impact their hunt for the Sun-Belt championship, it does offer them an opportunity to measure up their skills against a formidable opponent that they will never see during division play.

“I want to play good teams. I don’t want to play guys that don’t go to the tournament. I want my kids to play against the best and get ready for conference play. We want to be at their level,” coach Rouco said.

They won’t until they start playing bigger.

NOT AGAIN

FEELING PRESSURE: Senior quarterback Josh Padrick is sacked by Louisiana-Monroe cornerback Chaz Williams in a 35-0 loss to the Warhawks Nov. 11 at the FIU Stadium. ULM sacked Padrick four times in the game. In their last three games, the Golden Panthers offense has only managed to score a total of three points. The loss drops the Golden Panthers’ record to 0-9 on the season. For complete coverage on the game, be sure to pick up Thursday’s issue of The Beacon.

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STORM SURGE
Men’s basketball routed by Hurricanes

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

The one factor that critics often stress in regard to the FIU men’s basketball team, turned out to be the deciding one in their season opener Nov. 11 against cross town rivals, University of Miami Hurricanes.

The team’s lack of size crippled the Golden Panthers, whose display of sporadic shooting led them to a disappointing 73-50 loss at the Bank United Center.

“They were a little bit too strong around the basket for us,” said coach Sergio Rosco.

Early in the contest, the Golden Panthers looked nothing like the team that closed out the game.

After the Hurricanes opened the game on a 5-0 run, junior guard Chris Fuller, senior Johnven Villegas and forward Alex Galindo, did their part to keep the Golden Panthers in the game.

Simultaneously, King and the rest of UM’s frontline were just getting into the swing of things.

With Golden Panthers center Facundo Giorgi confined to the bench thanks to two early fouls, King feasted on freshman forwards.

But Bouie was extremely disappointed with his team’s performance on the court.

“His son is his life,” said Carolyn, Bouie’s mother.

I wanted him to finish school and get his degree. Ain’t nothing round here but sugar fields and packinghouses,” Carolyn said.

Bouie learned that the pain went away,” Bouie said.

“After something like that, you can never be serious about goofy, he laughs at every- thing. You can never be serious about anything to give [KJ] the laugh right back at him.”

But Bouie doesn’t consider fatherhood any laughing matter. He understands that football is only a temporary part of his life.

“Both ends of the court seemed to insert life into the team,” Bouie said.

It was a phone call that changed his entire life. While his dorm on a Sunday afternoon in December, senior linebacker Keyonvis Bouie found out he was going to be a daddy.

Nine months later, Keyonvis Jr. – or KJ as Bouie likes to call him – was born on Aug. 27, 2004. When he initially received the call from his son’s mother, Locrytal Greenwich, he couldn’t believe what was happening.

“Tall ORDER: Sophomore guards Elvis Lora led the Golden Panthers with 15 points in a 73-50 loss to the University of Miami. All of his points came from the 3-point line.

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